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# CDC runs to S/S/Court

**P11**

**-As eviction enforcers prepare to move on party Hq.**

# China celebrates 80th anniversary of War of Resistance.





**P11**





**-Remembers Lisbon Maru victims**





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# Continental News

## Sudan's Khartoum airport gets a new runway as it inches closer to reopening

Members of Sudan's Transitional Sovereignty Council visited Khartoum's International Airport on Thursday. They were there to inspect progress in rebuilding the facility which has been closed since the start of the country's civil war over two years ago. The army recaptured the airport in March, and with a new runway completed, it is now a step closer to reopening. Council member, Ibrahim Jaber, said "significant progress" has

been made, but terminals, arrival halls, and basic services such as electricity and water remain in need of repair. He said he hope planes would return to the capital's airport soon and that the Sudanese people will return "after a long absence from their homeland". "This will be a lifeline, connecting those who were displaced or forced to migrate with those who remained in Sudan. At the very least, a person will be able to see their home and workplace again," he said. There have been reports that the

federal government could return to Khartoum at the same time as the airport is expected to reopen in October. The government and federal institutions have been operating from the eastern city of Port Sudan amid the ongoing war between the army and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Over 40,000 people have died in fighting between the Sudanese military, its allies, and the rival RSF, which captured swathes of the country after fighting erupted in April 2023. The army has maintained control of Sudan's northern and eastern states. Earlier this year, it also regained its central states and Khartoum, but the RSF still controls parts of the vast western Darfur region. Military control of the airport, along with calm in the capital, could allow aid groups to fly more desperately needed supplies into the country. The United Nations says the fighting has forcibly displaced some 12 million Sudanese and created a severe crisis, with over half the population acutely food insecure.



Repairs at Khartoum Airport

## Debate over asset declarations: Senegal's controversial draft law

In Senegal, a significant draft law concerning asset declarations is set for debate in the National Assembly on August 18, 2025. However, the proposal has come under fire from opposition parties, primarily due to a controversial provision that exempts the president from declaring his assets at the end of his term. The political party Pastef has raised concerns that this exemption infringes on constitutional rights. This new legislation broadens the scope of asset declarations, requiring public prosecutors, investigating judges, local authorities, auditors, and executives of public companies to disclose their assets. Historically, the 2014 law was limited to senior officials such as the president of the Assembly, the prime minister, and other high-ranking officials managing over 1 billion CFA francs, which is roughly \$1.5 million. The current proposal, however, lowers that threshold to 500

million CFA francs, or about \$760,000, for public budget managers. Critics like Doudou Wade from the Senegalese Democratic Party argue that the legislation is insufficient, stressing that outgoing presidents should also be held accountable for declaring their assets. Wade stated that the president has exempted himself from the declaration. Transparency demands that the wealth evolution of elected officials be made public. In contrast, Amadou Ba, the vice-president of the Pastef

parliamentary group, defends the bill and accuses the opposition of disingenuousness. He highlights that the Constitution only mandates asset declarations at the beginning of a president's term, asserting that the Constitution holds more weight than the new law. As the debate looms, the conversation around transparency and accountability in Senegalese politics intensifies. We'll continue to follow this story closely. Stay tuned for updates."

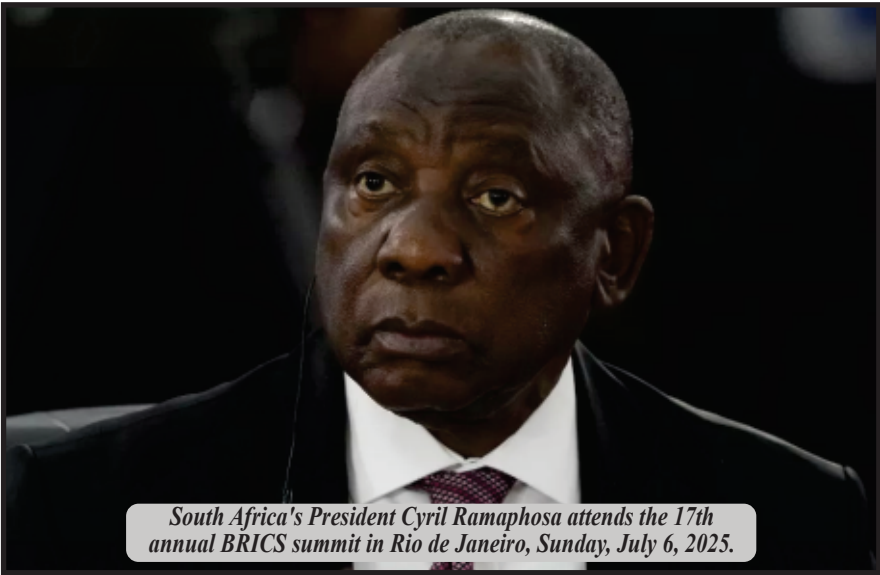


Senegal's President Basirou Diomaye Faye prior to the start of the ECOWAS meeting, in Abuja, Nigeria, Sunday, July 7, 2024.

## South Africa starts 'national dialogue' about poverty, inequality

South African is starting a "national dialogue" Friday that is meant to bring all sectors of society together to discuss the country's most pressing issues and find solutions. The talks, initiated by President Cyril Ramaphosa after calls from civil society, are expected to include most political parties, civic groups and members of the public. Concerns have been raised over a possible \$40 million cost, while there are also questions about whether the dialogue will result in significant changes. South Africa faces many problems more than 30 years after the end of the apartheid

to reflect on the state of our country in order for us to reimagine our future," he said. The participants South Africans from all walks of life are expected to voice their views at the dialogue, with talks expected to be held in person and virtually. Ramaphosa has appointed an Eminent Persons Group, which is made up of religious, sports, labor and civic figures who he says reflect the great diversity of South Africa. They include South African rugby captain Siya Kolisi, award-winning "Black Panther" actor John Kani and former Constitutional Court Judge Edwin Cameron. Not everyone believes the talks will have a real impact. The Democratic Alliance, or DA, the second-biggest party in the coalition government,



South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa attends the 17th annual BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Sunday, July 6, 2025.

system of white minority rule, including high levels of poverty and inequality, crime, corruption and an unemployment rate of more than 30% — one of the world's worst. The country is no stranger to national talks, including the multiparty negotiations for a peaceful end to apartheid in the early 1990s. Here's what to know about the national dialogue, which begins with a two-day convention in the capital, Pretoria. Why South Africa is holding the talks Since its first democratic election in 1994, when Nelson Mandela was elected as the country's first Black president, South Africa made progress in de-escalating racial tensions, improving the economy and providing access to millions of its poor Black majority. However, there are concerns that the country has digressed over the last decade and calls for a soul-searching exercise grew louder after the long-governing African National Congress, or ANC, party lost its majority in the 2024 election, forcing South Africa to form a coalition government. Ramaphosa announced the dialogue in June. "The national dialogue must be a place where everyone has a voice. The dialogue will be a people-led, society-wide process

withdrew in a dispute with the ANC over the firing of one of its deputy ministers by Ramaphosa. It has also said that the talks are a waste of public money. The MK Party, the official opposition, has said that it won't participate. The dialogue will happen in phases and take the form of public discussions in all of South Africa's nine provinces. It's unclear how long the dialogue will last, but a second convention could happen early next year. Criticism of the national dialogue Some high-profile foundations have pulled out of this week's opening convention, citing rushed timelines and logistical issues, but they have said they will participate in the rest of the program. The estimated cost of the dialogue has drawn criticism, although Ramaphosa's office has said that it's not as high as the numbers being put forward. "If you want to have a real nationwide process, then it is going to cost a lot of money. It's not something that can be avoided," University of Pretoria political analyst Dirk Kotze said. The DA party and others have accused the ANC of trying to control the conversation and use it as a platform to campaign before local elections next year. "I think the message that comes through specifically for the ANC is that they should stand a little bit back and not try to control the process," Kotze said.



EDITORIAL

We must fight drugs with sincerity

President Joseph Boakai unveiled a comprehensive multi-prong National Anti-Drug Action Plan last Thursday to address alarming surge in drug abuse and trafficking across Liberia. The launch coincided with street parade by anti-drug campaigners, predominantly women and mothers, calling government's attention to the proliferation of trafficking, sale and abuse of dangerous substances in the country.

The Executive Mansion in Monrovia said President Boakai described the proliferation of drugs as “an attack on our future” and reaffirmed his unwavering commitment to safeguard Liberia's youth, communities, and future generations from the scourge of substance abuse.

While we laud the launch of the National Anti-Drug Action Plan by the President, we sense a serious lip-service by the government to the entire drug war in Liberia that is being fought with more talking and less tangible actions. Drugs continue to come into the country thru various borders, including our international airport.

When President Boakai took office, he declared illicit drugs a National Health Emergency, and personally went for drug test. Not only that, he mandated all public officials to similarly report for test, but this instruction fell on deaf ears.

Nearly two years into the administration, the government has changed leadership at the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency almost thrice, without curbing widespread trafficking of illicit drugs that are killing the youths.

If the President's declaration of drugs as a National Health Emergency has been mere words, we wonder whether the so-called National Anti-Drug Action Plan would yield anything fruitful in our fight against drugs.

It is not enough to rally the population against drugs, but the law should be applied to serve as deterrence. However, we have observed over the last two years that culprits arrested are released subsequently without having their day in court, which is quite disappointing!

President Boakai emphasized that the fight against drugs will be “non-selective and relentless,” stressing that “no status, no title, no uniform, and no connection will protect anyone involved in drugs”, and that under his watch, Liberia will not lose another generation to drugs.

We call on the government to move from talk to stern practical actions to demonstrate its professed commitment to the fight against illicit drugs. We believe that doing so would demonstrate its pledge to rescue the country.

Two years after, it is time to address the National Health Emergency, with all resources at our disposal in saving not only the current youths, but generations to come. 'Action' must be the catch word in this fight.

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COMMENTARY

The True Meaning of Trump's Tariffs

By Carla Norrlöf

GENEVA – This summer, US President Donald Trump dropped a tariff hammer on nearly 100 countries, jolting markets, provoking protests in allied capitals, and sending trade lawyers scrambling. While the White House says it is using tariff leverage to fix trade deficits (among other rationales), the numbers tell a different story.

If the tariffs truly were aimed at cutting trade deficits, the logic would be straightforward. The highest rates would be imposed on countries where the value of US imports most exceeds the value of US exports, relative to the size of the US economy. By that measure, the biggest bilateral merchandise-trade gaps, excluding China, are with the European Union (-0.85% of US GDP), Mexico (-0.62%), Vietnam (-0.45%), and Japan (-0.25%).

Under a deficit-driven policy, these economies would be at the top of the chart. Instead, the EU is facing a tariff of just 15%, Mexico 25%, Vietnam 20%, and Japan 15%. Meanwhile, countries where the US runs a surplus or only a modest deficit have been hit with some of the steepest tariff rates. Imports from Brazil, with which the US has a small +0.03% surplus, face a 50% rate – the highest of any country. The rate for Laos, with which the bilateral deficit is just -0.003% of US GDP, is 40%.

[Chart]

In the figure above, the darkest green bubbles are the countries with which the US runs its largest trade deficits. If tariffs were really about closing these deficits, the bottom left corner (with the darkest shades) would be packed with the largest bubbles, indicating steep penalties on the biggest offenders. Instead, it's almost empty, with just one small bubble and a few mid-size ones. The largest bubbles are pale, clustered around the zero line and even spilling into surplus territory. These data confirm that the US is imposing its highest tariffs on countries where it barely runs a deficit, or even has a trade surplus.

If the tariffs were about leverage, the logic would be different. Here the question isn't whom the US owes most, but rather who most relies on the US market. A country that sells a large share of its GDP to the US and buys very little from America in relative terms, is in a weak bargaining position. By this measure, those with the widest dependence gaps (high above the diagonal line in the right-hand graph) would be charged the highest rates. That would put Vietnam (which generates 32% of its GDP from exports to the US), Guyana (31%), Cambodia (30%), Mexico (28%), and Nicaragua (26%) squarely in the crosshairs. Yet, except for Mexico, which faces a 25% tariff, these countries all face rates of 20% or less. Instead, the top rates have been assigned to less dependent countries: Brazil (2% of GDP from US sales) and India (2.5%). In this figure, the biggest bubbles should sit in the upper left above the diagonal, where partners are heavily reliant on US buyers and the US has low dependence. Instead, this zone has small and mid-size bubbles, while the largest bubbles hover further down, with some drifting right. Neither deficits nor leverage explain these figures. Instead, they make more sense when viewed through the lens of politics. The Trump White House is rewarding alignment, punishing independence, and targeting sectors linked to strategic rivals. Consider Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a negligible US deficit partner with minimal dependence on the US, but its courting of Chinese infrastructure investment (including hydropower projects and highways under China's Belt and Road Initiative) positions it as politically misaligned. Similarly, Myanmar, which faces a 40% tariff, is a negligible US deficit partner with very low US reliance, yet it remains deeply dependent on Chinese military and economic support, and has strengthened defense ties with Russia since the 2021 coup. Serbia, facing a 35% tariff, has a small US deficit and similarly low leverage, but stands out for its strategic energy and security alignment with Russia (it relies on Russian gas and has repeatedly received US sanctions waivers for its Russian-linked oil company). Brazil is one of the few targeted partners where the US runs a small trade surplus; but as a key supplier of iron ore, it enjoys rising strategic mining clout amid shifting global supply chains, and it has refused to bend to Trump's political demands.

Others have been far more pliant. The EU avoided a steeper hike after agreeing to cooperate on export controls and data-sharing. Australia secured the base 10% rate after deepening its defense ties with the US. Japan's rate rose but stayed below the maximum after it aligned semiconductor policy with US objectives.

Using tariff rates to reward compliance with US goals and penalize autonomy is a sharp break from the rules-based system that prevailed under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs and the GATT's successor, the World Trade Organization. While US Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama also linked trade to security aims, they did so through formal agreements and multilateral deals that preserved goodwill. Trump's approach is blunt, rapid, and highly public – from the “Liberation Day” announcement of reciprocal tariffs (invoking emergency powers) on April 2, to the July 31 rewrite, the August copper-tariff hike, and the decision to eliminate the \$800 duty-free threshold. US market access has become a political privilege that is conditional, revocable, and used to police alignment. This approach may yield short-term wins. But it risks weakening the alliances and institutions that have magnified US economic power for decades. The tariff schedule is no economic blueprint. It is a scorecard, and a ledger of this administration's strategic priorities.

Carla Norrlöf is Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto.

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Dear Father:

They say everybody just on my man back ooh. Can you imagine since ley man went and put him mouth on ley people at ley Palava Hut, him life has not been easy. They say da whatin him do?

Father, ley man say why ley elder them at ley Palava Hut mon say, ley thin ley chief them from ley Traditional Council doing ay wrong. Him say da bad example there so. Him say, how they will talk da kina thin, when ley Rebel them pass ley ingredients for ley Village cake, da ley elder them are eating their own-no noise.

Him say, if they say it leh da, den they mon bring their owner cake back, since ley Rebel them who fixed it na have ley right to fix it.

Hmm, my son, ley thing your friend talky small sense inside oo.

Yes, oo Father, my learned friend say da bad example ley people from ley Palava Hut na set so. Him say why they mon say all ley thing them ley rebel chief them doing at tey Traditional Council bad, den they mon bring their share of ley cake back. Da ley fire ley man put in ley hole so oo. Um, my son, you sure nathin behind this whole thin here.

Aah, Father my name ooh. Bor I hear say small money bisnay inside oo. You say whatin!

Aah, Father, da ley reason iI na wan talk for ooh. You know dis whole wahala here da so, so money bisnay inside. Ehn you remember da chief from ley borough –“You eat, I eat” and ley other one I will see what to do.” Hmm, ley people them.

Yes, oo Father, ehn da them there they just chopping our village money leh da. All ley noise on da Hill, particularly to da Traditional Council there da so, so money bisnay.

Father, ley people money bisnay too strong leh goat peppe. And all da thing den they doing so ley suffering da inside dis village here ay na easy. Da small thin!

Yes, ooh Father, ay na easy in dis village here ooh, da only God manning us here oo. Imagine, people work no money to take pay.

Hmm, den you can just imainge ley people den who na doing nathin, just sitting down home. So, da whatin ley Oldman doing na?

Father, da small fuel ley Papay putting inside ley fire. Ay na small fuel oo. All ley thing den ley Oldman used to be talking against, da ley thin dem him doin. In fact, even worse things. Bor da who dem advising him so?

Father, who know to him? Him gat so, so him children around him, no good advice. They just want for their pockets and their girlfriend dem.

Bor we inside, ehn we say, we na wan short man, we side good, good. We just pray for God to continue manning us oo-ay na easy.

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OP-ED

By Jayati Ghosh

# A Faustian Bargain for the Global South

NEW DELHI – US President Donald Trump's tariff policies have unleashed global economic turmoil and a wave of protectionist measures. While many of his frequently changing tariffs may prove short-lived, their use as geopolitical weapons is poised to reshape international trade for years to come. But the current fixation on Trump's tariffs diverts attention from the larger goal: the United States is leveraging its economic power to push for market liberalization and preferential access for American firms, often at the expense of lower-income countries' development prospects. Today's US-China standoff is a prime example. America's hostile posture toward China – maintained under both Trump and former President [Joe Biden](#) – has never been just about trade. Rather, it reflects a strategic ambition to preserve US technological dominance by preventing China from catching up in key sectors. That effort has since become part of a broader campaign to restrict access to advanced technologies across the developing world. The primary tool for achieving this goal has been the imposition of increasingly restrictive intellectual-property (IP) rules that aim to privatize knowledge through patents, copyrights, and industrial designs. This helps explain why the trade agreement with Indonesia includes [several provisions](#) designed to limit the country's ability to move up the value chain into knowledge-intensive industries. Tellingly, Indonesia will eliminate 99% of its tariffs on American industrial, food, and agricultural imports, while Indonesian exports to the US will face an [average tariff rate of 19%](#). The immediate impact will be felt most acutely by Indonesian farmers, who must now compete against subsidized US agricultural products. But the longer-term risks lie in the dismantling of non-tariff barriers, which could severely constrain Indonesia's ability to diversify its economy and curtail its access to critical technologies. According to the [joint statement announcing the deal](#), American firms will receive sweeping privileges. Indonesia will remove all content requirements for US-made goods and accept American vehicle-safety and emissions standards, which are far more lenient than its own. It must also recognize Food and Drug Administration approvals for medical devices and pharmaceuticals, exempt US food and agricultural imports from local licensing regimes, and accept US certifications for meat, dairy, and poultry products. Indonesia has also agreed to eliminate tariffs on intangible goods and support a global moratorium on digital customs duties – issues that remain highly contested within the World Trade Organization. Even more troublesome are the IP provisions: the deal compels Indonesia to resolve key disputes over traditional knowledge, genetic resources, and compulsory licenses. In effect, this will make it easier for US companies to exploit traditional knowledge without consent or compensation and avoid compulsory licensing measures aimed at curbing monopolistic and abusive practices. The US is not alone in pursuing this agenda. While Indonesia's concessions are baffling, India's recent trade agreement with the United Kingdom raises even more questions. Despite being years in the making, the deal has little commercial significance, as bilateral trade accounts for [less than 2.5%](#) of either country's exports. Nevertheless, both governments have hailed the agreement as transformative. Once again, media coverage of the UK-India deal has focused on tariff reductions: [92% of UK exports to India](#) will receive full or partial tariff relief, while up to 99% of Indian exports to the UK will be tariff-free. Optimistic forecasts suggest the agreement could [double export volumes in certain sectors](#): textiles, clothing, and jewelry for India; alcoholic beverages and automobiles for the UK. But as with the US-Indonesia deal, the most consequential element of this agreement is its [IP provisions](#), which tilt the regulatory balance in favor of Western patent holders. By prioritizing the interests of Big Pharma over those of Indian citizens and domestic producers, it poses a serious threat to India's pharmaceutical industry and public health. For example, the deal promotes the use of “voluntary licenses” over compulsory ones, potentially discouraging future price reductions. Another clause endorses the harmonization of patent standards, opening the door to “evergreening” – the extension of patents through minor tweaks to existing drugs. A particularly damaging provision extends the deadline for disclosing how a patented product is being used in India from one year to three. This change will make it significantly harder – if not impossible – for applicants to prove unmet demand, a necessary step for invoking compulsory licensing protections. It is deeply disturbing that the Indian government has accepted these terms, which jeopardize not only the future of its pharmaceutical industry but also the global supply of affordable drugs. India may also have limited its access to green technologies, impeding the transition to a low-carbon economy. India's willingness to make such concessions to a weakened former colonial power – one that is no longer a major trading partner – makes the potential outcome of its trade talks with the European Union and the US all the more alarming. To ensure India's economic future, Prime Minister Narendra Modi must stop cracking down on domestic dissent and start defending India's interests on the global stage.

*Jayati Ghosh, Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, is a member of the Club of Rome's Transformational Economics Commission and Co-Chair of the Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation.*

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### Policy dialogue sparks hope for Monrovia's transformation

Stakeholders here have ended a two-day policy dialogue aimed at reshaping the future of Monrovia, the Liberian capital.

Monrovia, Liberia; foresight.” August 15, 2025 - In an effort toward reshaping the future of Liberia's capital, Monrovia, a two-day policy dialogue has been held under the theme, “Improving Monrovia City Administration through Effective Leadership, Proper Coordination, and Resource Mobilization.” The event, convened by the Governance Commission, brought together government officials,

reform, bridging the gap between aspiration and implementation.

He said the minister's leadership is seen as pivotal in executing Liberia's national development agenda. “History now summons us to gather together all our understandings, deep feelings, and emotional responses in the national interest,” Prof. Togba noted, underscoring the urgency of the moment.

He said the Commission reaffirms its commitment to inclusive dialogue and evidence-based policy formulation. This goal is to position Monrovia within Liberia's decentralizing governance system, whether through reaffirming its traditional city status or redefining it to meet new realities.

Noting that the dialogue is also a tribute to the visionary leadership of President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, Sr., whose call for national growth and development continues to inspire institutional cooperation and civic engagement.

He emphasized that as participants engage in a robust discussion over the next two days, the emphasis remains on actionable outcomes, a renewed compact between institutions and citizens, one that honors constitutional mandates and embraces the promise of decentralization.

“The future of Monrovia is being written not just in policy papers, but in the collaborative spirit of those gathered. And if this dialogue succeeds, it may well become a blueprint for urban transformation across Liberia”, he concluded.



civil society leaders, and private sector stakeholders to chart a new course for Monrovia's urban governance.

The acting Chairman of the Governance Commission, Professor Alaric Togba, emphasized that this gathering is not a ceremonial exercise but a strategic intervention. “Effective city administration is not a luxury; it is a necessity,” he declared. “It determines how services are delivered, how citizens are represented, and how opportunities are distributed. In a city as dynamic and diverse as Monrovia, that trust must be earned daily through transparency, responsiveness, and strategic

these realities head-on, discussing not only the need for change, but how it should be shaped to reflect the values of inclusion, accountability, and sustainability.

The dialogue delves into Monrovia's legal and institutional frameworks, its capacity to manage urban growth and climate risks, and the potential for innovative financing and interagency coordination.

The Acting GC Boss calls on participants to engage as the keynote address by Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, Minister of Finance & Development Planning, is expected to anchor the discussions in the realities of public finance and institutional

### Stepfather on the run

)RU DOOHJHGOI LPSUHJQD

A stepfather is reportedly on the run for allegedly impregnating his foster-daughter in Chocolate City, Gardnerville.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia, August 15, 2025 - A 46-year-old man identified as December Tutu is reportedly on the run after being accused of raping and impregnating his 18-year-old foster-daughter.

Tension sparked in Chocolate City, along Japan Freeway Drive in the Monrovia outskirt of Gardnerville early this week when angry community women and youth groups desecrated the home of Suspect Tutu, demanding immediate intervention of the Liberia National Police (LNP). This is after residents discovered that Mr. Tutu had allegedly been having sexual affairs with his stepdaughter. The incident

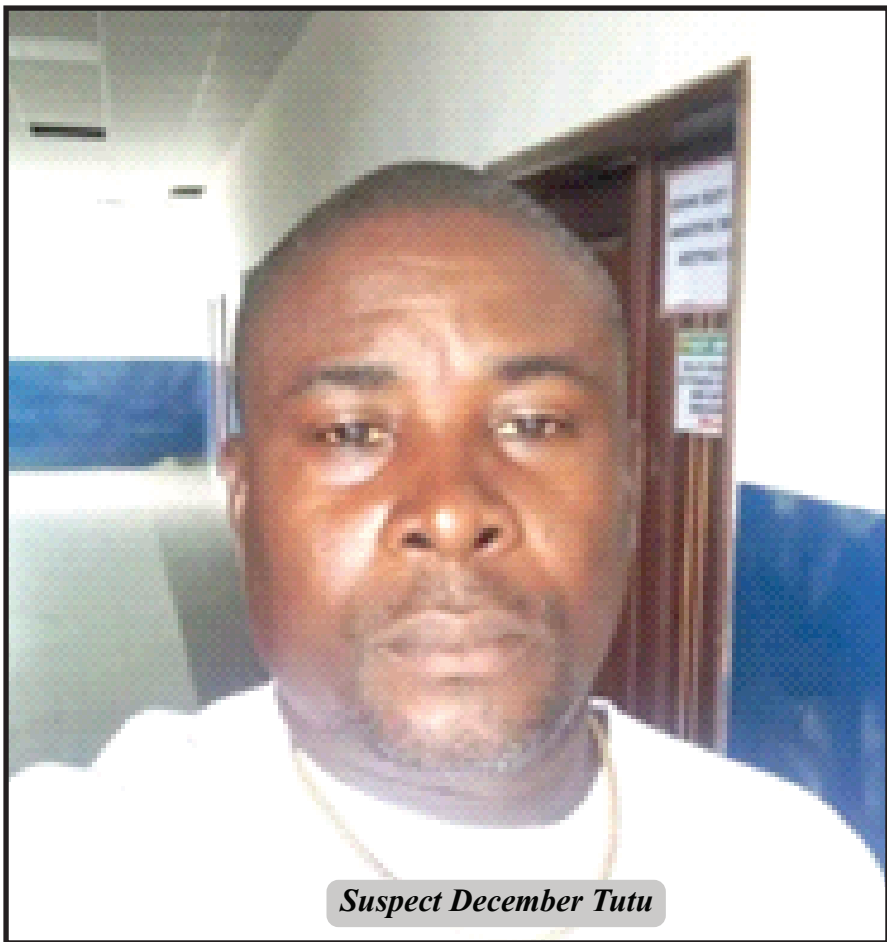
Further reports confirmed that she was carrying a three (3) months pregnancy with her stepfather and had informed a close neighbor what was happening to her, as she was confronting severe stomach pain.

Other sources indicated that Suspect Tutu is not biological father of the victim.

“I do not believe this man is the real father of the [girl]; if he is, he is very wicked and needs to go to jail for life.”

“This man must not go free,” a neighbor shouted. “We will sit here until the Police take him away.”

However, on Monday, August 11, a community dweller



Suspect December Tutu

occurred around Jobo Football Field, Central Chocolate City. Observers told The NEW DAWN that Suspect Tutu, a contractor of the Freeport of Monrovia, has been sleeping with his daughter since she was 13, and allegedly threatening to take her life if she told anyone about their affairs.

“Tutu is very wicked; he is an evil man and has been having sex with this girl since she was small,” a female resident, Musu Peter, said. “Every day, I can see this man and his daughter pass in front of my house to buy pepper soup rice, and I have been wondering, where is this girl's mother, and why is it always her father who passes?” Another resident of the community, Roosevelt Tolbert, noted.

The victim was recently promoted to 9<sup>th</sup> Grade at Bob-Bite Academy School in Chocolate City Community.

informed this paper the suspect escaped the community overnight and is currently on the run.

Meanwhile, the Liberia National Police (LNP) has launched a manhunt for him to be brought before the full weight of the law, if guilty.

Residents frowned on the incident and expressed frustration, recalling that many similar incidents are swept under the rug in Liberia, often under condition of “family matters” or “shame management.”

Too often, victims remain silent out of fear, while perpetrators hide behind family ties. Rape in Liberia is a felony punishable by 10 years imprisonment or life sentence. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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# Bong County: Finance & Internal Affairs Ministries launch nationwide county officials training

The usually quiet corridors of Gbarnga's conference hall buzzed with energy this week as superintendents, county development officers, finance officers, and council representatives from across Liberia gathered for the opening of a four-day training program aimed at strengthening local governance and accelerating county-level development.

By Edwin N Khakie  
Gbarnga, August 15, 2025: The workshop, jointly organized by the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning (MFDP) and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, runs from August 13 to 16 in both Gbarnga, Bong County,



and Buchanan, Grand Bassa level. County, covering all 15 counties of Liberia. According to D. Emmanuel Williams II, Director for the

Public Investment Unit at the MFDP, the initiative is designed to equip county leaders with the technical expertise and leadership skills needed to successfully implement their County Development Agendas (CDAs) blueprints that guide socio-economic growth at the local

end of this program, participants will be able to design bankable projects that can attract funding and deliver real results for their communities." The first half of the program focuses on strengthening county leadership clarifying roles, fostering accountability, and drawing lessons from past development experiences, including insights from the "Rwanda model" of coordinated planning and stakeholder engagement. The final two days will shift to intensive technical training in project development, covering problem identification, stakeholder analysis, risk assessment, budgeting, and results measurement. Participants will also learn how to create actionable project frameworks ready for implementation.

While Williams praised the enthusiasm of participants, he acknowledged challenges in bringing officials together from Libe ria's

# China trains Liberian journalists to shape global media narratives.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah  
Changsha, China; August 15, 2025 – In a strategic effort to strengthen global media cooperation and build cross-cultural communication capacity, the People's Republic of China has successfully concluded a two-week Seminar on Media Communication Capacity for 30 Liberian journalists and media professionals. The training, held from August 1 to 14, 2025, in Changsha, Hunan Province, brought together experts from China's media landscape and Liberian participants for a dynamic blend of professional development, institutional visits, and cultural exchange. The seminar, sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce of China and organized by the Hunan International Business Vocational College, focused on equipping journalists with the tools and knowledge to navigate today's evolving media environment. Training sessions covered a wide array of topics, including localized storytelling and cross-cultural program planning in international communication, empowering short videos with new technologies, creative production and interactive dissemination, branding strategies for international communication by local media, and practical approaches to building a strong new media talent pool. These sessions were led by

professionals from China's media sector, offering valuable insights into both technological innovation and storytelling techniques. As part of the program, the participants toured leading Chinese media organizations such as Changsha Online, Hunan Daily, Changsha Evening News, and Xiamen Straits Herald, gaining firsthand exposure to China's media structures and digital transformation. Beyond the training, the group took part in cultural experiences that offered deeper understanding of China's regional identities. Visits to Orange Isle and Jinggang Ancient Town in Changsha, as well as Gulangyu Island and Laoyuanzi Folk Culture Park in Xiamen, gave participants a chance to experience the field

country's rich cultural heritage. The closing ceremony was held on August 14, 2025, at the Meyes International Hotel in Changsha City, where Chinese officials highlighted the program's role in fostering media diplomacy and people-to-people exchange. Ms. Fu Yunhui, Deputy Dean of the China-Aid Training Faculty at Hunan International Business Vocational College, speaking on behalf of the organizers, expressed her hope for enduring ties. "These wonderful memories will build a bridge of communication between us and lay a solid foundation for future cooperation and development between China and Liberia in the



# Community Chairman calls for more rehabilitation centers

-To save drug-addicted youths

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

In the aftermath of increased deaths of disadvantaged youths or Zogos across the country, the chairperson of New Kemah Town Community, Mr. Nanmagai Paye, is calling on the government to construct more rehabilitation centers across the country as a means of fighting drugs and illicit substance abuse here. Speaking to The NEW DAWN on Thursday, at the backdrop of at least seven deaths and four recoveries of less-advantaged youths in Paynesville from a new substance known as "Sparking Android," Paye stressed that the government has a serious role to play in the fight against drugs. Already, there are skyrocketing deaths caused by illicit substances and widespread use of narcotics across the country. Addressing this paper in a

rather than just breaking down ghettos. "This is not just about breaking down ghettos, because if you break down ghettos and you do not have a place for them to be rehabilitated, you cause the same situation, because they will go back to those same drug dealers, and it becomes terrible," Paye laments. He urges the government to invest more in drug treatment and rehabilitation rather than just focusing on combating users. President Joseph Nyumah Boakai has already taken swift action against drug abuse. The President described proliferation of drugs as "an attack on our future" while establishing a Multisectoral Steering Committee on Drugs and Substance Abuse. The Steering Committee is to tackle drugs and demolish makeshift structures and drug users' hubs through the group,



disclaimer of the community's name circulating in the untimely death of several drug users, Chairman Paye called on the Government of Liberia to build rehabilitation centers in all 15 counties, or in every region of Liberia, as the best remedy to tackle the widespread use of illicit drugs. He says the government should place more emphasis on drug treatment and rehabilitation,

"Citizens Movement to Destroy Ghetto in Liberia", as part of efforts to eradicate or reduce the substance abuse here. But Paye thinks mere "Breaking down ghettos will not help the situation; instead, deteriorate it, so there is need for more rehabilitation centers, if not in all 15 counties, to rehabilitate users and train them to become better citizens. **Editing by Jonathan Browne**

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Bong County: Finance & Internal Affairs Ministries

most remote regions. "Limited funding and logistical difficulties remain real obstacles," he noted. "But the determination of these leaders to improve their countries far outweighs the challenges."

One key outcome of the workshop will be the development of County Action Plans, practical, time-bound roadmaps to translate CDAs from policy documents into on-the-ground development.

The County Development Agenda is a cornerstone of Liberia's national strategy, requiring collaboration between local authorities, the legislature, civil society, and citizens. By targeting both decision-makers and technical teams, the Finance and Internal Affairs Ministries aim to close gaps in planning, communication, and execution.

"As we empower local governance structures," Williams said, "we are laying the foundation for sustained and inclusive development across Liberia."

The training continues throughout the week with peer-to-peer exchanges, networking, and best practice sharing, a step forward in ensuring that county development is not just promised but delivered. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

6WDUWV IUR

China trains Liberian journalists to shape global

of media", she noted.

She added, "China and Liberia deepen cooperation in the political, economic, and cultural fields, expanding the space for mutual benefit. May the friendship between the peoples of China and Liberia endure through the years and be passed on from generation to generation."

Addressing the ceremony, Mr. Zhang Gang, Deputy Director of the Service Trade Division at the Department of Commerce of Hunan Province, emphasized the shared responsibility of the media in a rapidly changing world.

"In this era of surging information, the media serves not only as a watchtower for social progress but also as a bridge connecting hearts and minds." He continued, "Today, we gather here not only to discuss technological innovation and communication strategies, but also to jointly safeguard the authenticity of news and the public interest. This is the very foundation upon which the media stands, and a shared mission for media professionals from both China and Liberia alike."

Looking for the future, Mr. Gang expressed hope that participants will share what they have seen, heard, and experienced during this visit to China and Hunan with their family, friends, and colleagues, and become friendly ambassadors for deepening cooperation between China and Liberia in the field of news and media, so that the fruits of collaboration may benefit even more people.

Speaking on behalf of the Liberian delegation, fellow Journalist Varney Shakeh Kamara, expressed sincere appreciation to the Government of the People's Republic of China, the Chinese Embassy in Liberia, and the Hunan International Business & Vocational College for designing and delivering what he called a "transformative training."

In a passionate message to his colleagues, Kamara emphasized, "Remember, the credibility of a journalist is like glass, once shattered, it's hard to restore. Guard it with your life. Be accurate, be ethical, creative, be bold. Carry Liberia's image like a banner, one you will not let fall. Our country needs voices that can tell its story with dignity and skill. Be that voice." *Editing by Jonathan Browne*

ArcelorMittal Training Academy, ABC University collaborates to train teachers

- for Job Applicants from Fenceline Communities

ArcelorMittal Liberia Training Academy (AMLTA) in partnership with the African Bible College University has completed a three-week teacher training session for 20 teachers.

Teachers from various institutions were chosen for the training. Their role is to teach Mathematics and English to job seekers and vocational trainees from nearby fence-line communities.

In a remark at a brief certification program on the campus of ABU, Dawie Loots, Manager of AMLTA, stated that the collaboration between his institution and ABU is meant to build the capacity of qualified and competent teachers who will help mentor job and training applicants to be prepared for the opportunities ahead of them.

In the past, there have been concerns that during ArcelorMittal Liberia's recruitment for jobs or vocational training, people from fence-line communities were being overlooked in favor of candidates from other areas. However, a key challenge identified is that many local applicants struggle to pass the required English and Mathematics tests, which are used to assess communities to get jobs and training opportunities, but too often, they fall short in English training, Mr. Loots explained and Math. That's why we are that in response to these asking you to help strengthen concerns, AMLTA last year their skills in these subjects, so administered its aptitude test they are better prepared," he exclusively within the fence-

line communities. Based on the He praised the participants for results, candidates were placed dedicating three weeks to this into three categories: P1, P2, training and encouraged them to and P3. P3 represents the give their best, work toward highest score, leading directly their professional goals, and to entry into the training center; excel in the important roles they P2 indicates a strong pass; and are being prepared to perform. P1 reflects a pass but at a lower Neah G. Malue, Acting Vice Chancellor of African Bible College University, Mr. Loots noted that English College University, and Mathematics remain the commended AMLTA for the subjects where many applicants collaboration and urged face the most difficulty. "We participants to showcase their



Participants and staff of AMLTA and ABCU

LNBA urges urgent action on persistent human rights violations

The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) has raised urgent concerns following the recent release of the United States Government's 2024 Country Report on Human Rights Practices for Liberia.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, August 15, 2025: The report, as in previous years, documents credible accounts of serious human rights violations, including arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings, torture, and other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment, and harsh and life-threatening prison conditions.

The report further laid bare serious concerns regarding judicial independence, severe restrictions on freedom of expression and the press, including harassment of journalists, Widespread corruption within all branches of government, Gender-based violence, including domestic and sexual violence, and harmful traditional practices such as female genital said. The LNBA, however, reaffirms its commitment to working with all stakeholders, including civil society, international partners, and government institutions, to ensure that Liberia becomes a state where human rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled for all.

"Liberia's democratic progress cannot be sustained if serious human rights violations are ignored year after year. We must break the cycle of impunity and build a justice system that commands the trust of every Liberian," the statement concluded. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.



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achievements to reflect the goal of the company.

Mr. Malue further asserted: "If you want money or anything, please contact us at ABCU and not the company. We are responsible for financial matters and not the company. We don't want you to go and take the airwaves to castigate the company because you are not getting paid or whatever. It's not the company but ABCU, and when you want anything, please ask us."

Sharon Blignaut, facilitator of the training, also commended the participants for their patience and interest expressed during the training. She also expressed her gratitude to AMLTA Management for allowing her to facilitate the training, noting that she sees it as a great opportunity to have a learning and facilitating session with Liberians.-Press release.





# Les habitants de Saye Town passent à l'action contre la drogue

Lasés de l'inaction face à la prolifération des stupéfiants dans leur quartier, les habitants de Saye Town, dans la zone de Sinkor, ont mené, le mercredi 13 août, une opération coup de poing visant à éradiquer les foyers de consommation et de trafic de drogue.

En réponse à un problème qu'ils jugent devenu

personnes soupçonnées de consommer ou de vendre des substances illicites. Cette action survient quelques jours après la campagne nationale antidrogue lancée le 7 août 2025.

« Nous agissons parce que nous voulons un quartier sûr. Nos enfants meurent et nous ne dormons plus la nuit », a déclaré Patricia Menson, résidente de Saye Town.

Parmi les cibles de cette opération



insoutenable, plusieurs dizaines de riverains se sont mobilisés pour démanteler des « ghettos », détruire des abris de fortune et chasser les

figurait un repaire notoire de toxicomanes, qui a été incendié et rasé. Les organisateurs assurent qu'il ne s'agissait pas d'un acte de violence gratuite, mais d'une mesure jugée indispensable pour

enrayer la propagation de la drogue.

« Il ne s'agit pas de violence, mais de protéger nos enfants et de redonner à notre communauté la sécurité qu'elle mérite », a affirmé un autre participant.

Le chef communautaire Papa Morris a souligné que l'objectif était de restaurer l'ordre et la tranquillité dans un secteur durement touché par les effets dévastateurs des stupéfiants. « Ce geste envoie un message clair : Saye Town ne sera plus un refuge pour les activités liées à la drogue », a-t-il déclaré au New Dawn.

Si de nombreux habitants ont exprimé leur soulagement – « C'est mieux pour nous, nous pouvons maintenant dormir en paix », a confié l'un d'eux – certains ont rappelé les dangers liés à la présence des « Zogos », terme populaire désignant les toxicomanes. Philomena Pennoh, une résidente, a raconté avoir été agressée par l'un d'eux en rentrant chez elle tard le soir.

Cependant, cette initiative citoyenne soulève aussi des inquiétudes. Samuel Mbuock, président

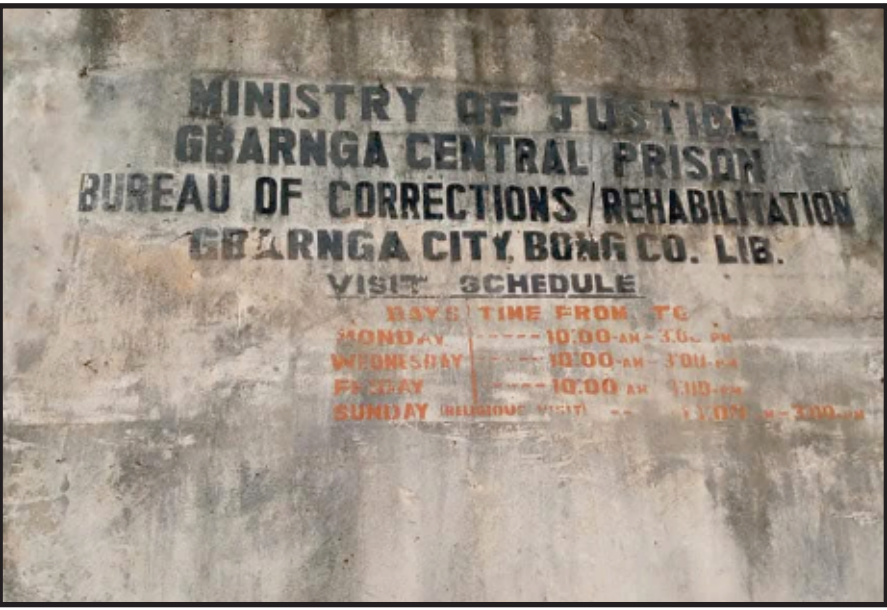
# Justice en suspens : la prison centrale de Gbarnga saturée par les détenus en attente de procès

La prison centrale de Gbarnga fait face à une crise croissante, alors que le nombre de détenus en attente de jugement ne cesse d'augmenter. Une situation que plusieurs attribuent à l'incapacité du gouvernement à rendre une justice rapide et équitable aux citoyens les plus vulnérables du Liberia.

Lors de l'ouverture de la session judiciaire d'août du 9<sup>e</sup> circuit judiciaire à Gbarnga, le directeur régional du Justice and Security Hub, Celeh Kesselly, a dressé un constat sévère sur l'état du système judiciaire dans le comté de Bong. Il a dénoncé l'incapacité du ministère de la Justice à résorber l'important arriéré de dossiers, laissant des dizaines de prévenus croupir en prison pendant des mois, voire des années, sans jugement.

Décrivant des cellules surpeuplées et des ressources insuffisantes, M. Kesselly a souligné que les détenus en attente de procès représentent désormais une part importante de la population carcérale. « Ce n'est pas seulement une question de chiffres, c'est une question de droits humains », a-t-il martelé devant une salle d'audience comble. « Lorsque la justice est retardée, elle est tout simplement refusée, et ce sont les pauvres et les sans-voix qui en paient le prix. »

Selon plusieurs citoyens, cette



# Éditorial

## Lutter contre la drogue avec sincérité

Le président Joseph Boakai a présenté jeudi dernier un Plan national de lutte contre la drogue, ambitieux et multidimensionnel, destiné à répondre à la montée inquiétante de la consommation et du trafic de stupéfiants au Liberia. Le lancement a coïncidé avec un défilé dans les rues de Monrovia, organisé par des militantes anti-drogue — principalement des femmes et des mères — pour attirer l'attention des autorités sur la prolifération du trafic, de la vente et de l'usage de substances dangereuses dans le pays.

Dans un communiqué de l'Executive Mansion, le chef de l'État a qualifié cette prolifération de drogues d'« attaque contre notre avenir » et réaffirmé son engagement à protéger la jeunesse, les communautés et les générations futures du fléau de la toxicomanie.

Si nous saluons l'initiative présidentielle, force est de constater que la lutte antidrogue au Liberia semble souffrir d'un excès de discours et d'un manque d'actions concrètes. Les stupéfiants continuent de franchir nos frontières, y compris via l'aéroport international, sans réelle entrave.

Dès son arrivée au pouvoir, M. Boakai avait déclaré la drogue « Urgence nationale de santé publique » et s'était soumis personnellement à un test de dépistage, enjoignant tous les responsables publics à en faire de même. Mais cette directive est restée largement lettre morte.

Près de deux ans après, l'Agence nationale de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA) a déjà changé de direction à trois reprises, sans pour autant endiguer le trafic qui ravage notre jeunesse. Les arrestations annoncées se soldent souvent par la remise en liberté rapide des suspects, sans procès, ce qui alimente le sentiment d'impunité.

Le président Boakai a promis une lutte « implacable et sans distinction », affirmant qu'« aucun statut, aucun titre, aucun uniforme, ni aucune connexion » ne protégera les personnes impliquées dans le trafic de drogue. Mais pour que cette promesse inspire confiance, il faut passer des paroles aux actes fermes et visibles.

Nous appelons le gouvernement à mobiliser toutes les ressources disponibles pour traiter cette urgence nationale, protéger la jeunesse actuelle et préserver l'avenir du pays. La véritable clé de cette bataille se résume en un mot : Action.

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# U D Q C D

## Les habitants de Saye Town passent à l'action contre la drogue

du Citizens Movement to Destroy Ghetto in Liberia, a mis en garde contre les démolitions non coordonnées, estimant qu'elles risquaient de provoquer un chaos accru.

« Nous ne voulons pas que ces actions se traduisent par des pertes humaines. Ce genre d'opération doit être conduit de manière structurée, et une annonce officielle sera faite dans les prochains jours par le bureau de l'Inspecteur général de la police », a-t-il précisé, appelant à la suspension immédiate de toute action unilatérale et à une collaboration avec les autorités et la société civile.

La lutte antidrogue à Sinkor et dans tout le Liberia continue de mobiliser les communautés, les institutions publiques et les organisations locales. Si l'opération de Saye Town a ravivé l'espoir et le sentiment de sécurité chez certains habitants, elle relance aussi le débat sur les risques du vigilantisme et sur la nécessité de stratégies légales et concertées pour éradiquer le fléau des stupéfiants.

## États-Unis : exécutions extrajudiciaires, brutalités policières et atteintes à la liberté d'expression signalées au Liberia

Le rapport 2024 sur les droits humains au Liberia, publié par le Département d'État américain et rendu public mercredi par l'Ambassade des États-Unis à Monrovia, documente de multiples abus, notamment des exécutions extrajudiciaires, des brutalités commises par les forces de sécurité et des restrictions à la liberté d'expression.

Le document relève plusieurs cas de meurtres arbitraires ou illégaux, tout en notant que le gouvernement libérien a pris certaines mesures pour identifier et sanctionner les responsables, y compris pour des crimes remontant à la guerre civile.

En mai 2024, le Bureau des établissements pénitentiaires a inculpé six agents soupçonnés d'être impliqués dans la mort d'un détenu survenue en avril à la prison centrale de Fish Town, dans le comté de River Gee. L'incident avait déclenché des violences communautaires, entraînant le saccage de la prison et l'évasion de plusieurs détenus. Selon l'administration pénitentiaire, certains agents auraient facilité cette évasion. Quatre agents ont été blanchis, un a été renvoyé pour non-coopération, et un autre reste sous enquête.

Brutalités des forces de sécurité

Le rapport rappelle que la Constitution libérienne interdit les traitements cruels, mais fait état de violations persistantes, en particulier de la part de la police nationale (LNP), de l'Agence antidrogue et, dans une moindre mesure, des Forces armées du Liberia (AFL), jugées globalement plus professionnelles.

En mai, l'agent de police Jerome Tokpah a été radié de la LNP pour brutalités présumées, accusé de tentative de meurtre et d'agression aggravée après avoir blessé un civil à la machette. L'affaire était toujours pendante en fin d'année.

Liberté d'expression et de la presse

Si les citoyens peuvent généralement critiquer le gouvernement, le rapport note que certains fonctionnaires limitent la liberté d'expression,

notamment en sanctionnant des employés publics. En août, la mairie de Monrovia a licencié neuf agents accusés d'avoir critiqué des responsables et le président Joseph Boakai sur les réseaux sociaux.

Les associations de presse signalent aussi des cas de harcèlement envers des journalistes ou des médias jugés critiques. Le 26 juin, l'Association des radios communautaires a exigé la réintégration du directeur de Radio Kakata, suspendu par la surintendante du comté de Margibi pour présumée malversation financière.

Le rapport souligne que certains journalistes pratiquent l'autocensure pour éviter représailles et que certains médias s'abstiennent de critiquer le gouvernement par crainte de sanctions légales ou de la perte de recettes publicitaires publiques. Des tensions ont éclaté le 20 juin lors d'une réunion entre la porte-parole de la présidence et des responsables de médias, au sujet de nouvelles conditions d'accréditation jugées contraignantes, qui ont entraîné le départ de plusieurs rédacteurs.

Détention prolongée et violations de procédure

Le Département d'État constate que des arrestations sont parfois effectuées sans mandat, et que des mandats sont délivrés sans preuves suffisantes. La loi impose pourtant la présentation d'un détenu devant un juge dans les 48 heures suivant son arrestation, mais ce délai n'est pas toujours respecté.

Environ 60 % des détenus en attente de procès, surtout pour des crimes graves, restent emprisonnés plus de six mois sans audience. Dans certaines zones rurales, l'absence de tribunal opérationnel ou de moyens de transport empêche les audiences.

Des magistrats ont été accusés d'exiger de l'argent pour transférer des accusés et, dans certains cas, d'agir sans procureur ni avocat de la défense. Le rapport souligne que le système de cautionnement est inefficace et sujet à la corruption, certains juges l'utilisant de manière punitive ou pour extorquer des pots-de-vin. Les problèmes d'accès à un avocat, le manque de défenseurs publics et les faibles moyens des procureurs contribuent à la prolongation des détentions préventives.

Cas du ressortissant guinéen

En novembre, un juge de Monrovia a critiqué le ministère de la Justice pour sa gestion de l'affaire d'Ibrahim Kalil Cherif, un Guinéen accusé de préparer un coup d'État contre les autorités de son pays depuis le Liberia. Selon ses avocats et la Commission nationale des droits humains (INCHRL), il aurait été détenu plusieurs jours sans inculpation, puis transféré en Guinée sans décision judiciaire. Le juge avait menacé le ministère de poursuites pour outrage, mais l'affaire a été classée après l'abandon des charges.

En conclusion, le rapport avertit que la détention préventive prolongée reste un problème majeur au Liberia, alimenté par l'insuffisance des ressources judiciaires, le non-respect des délais légaux, la faiblesse du système de caution et l'inefficacité de l'assistance juridique, ce qui soulève de graves préoccupations en matière de droits humains.



## CDC : « Le parti est dans le cœur des masses » – Réaction de l'ex-président de la Chambre face à l'avis d'expulsion

Alors que le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), ancien parti au pouvoir, fait face à une décision de justice ordonnant son expulsion de son siège, l'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants, Me J. Fonati Koffa, a réagi en affirmant que le CDC « n'est pas un bâtiment, mais les cœurs et les esprits des masses ».

Actuel représentant du district n°1 du comté de Grand Kru, Me Koffa a publié mercredi un message sur sa page Facebook pour encourager les militants et répondre aux critiques visant le parti. « Le CDC n'est pas le bâtiment. Il est dans le cœur et l'esprit des masses. Bonne chance avec



votre bâtiment », a-t-il écrit.

La réaction de l'élu intervient après qu'un juge du tribunal civil du sixième circuit judiciaire de Montserrado, siégeant au Temple de la Justice, a ordonné le 13 août 2025 l'exécution d'un writ of possession en faveur de la succession intestat de Martha Stubblefield Bernard, représentée par son administrateur, M. Ebrima Varney Dempster.

La décision, rendue le 4 août 2025 par le juge George W. Smith, ordonne au shérif et aux autorités compétentes de déloger le CDC du bâtiment et de remettre la pleine possession du bien à la succession, conformément aux limites foncières établies. Le greffier du tribunal, Victor G. Gallor, a signé l'ordre, précisant que le magistrat devait exécuter l'expulsion et consigner officiellement le déroulement de l'opération.

Le CDC occupe ces locaux depuis 2005, en versant un loyer à l'administrateur de la succession. Mais depuis sa défaite à l'élection présidentielle de 2023 — qui a mis fin au mandat unique de l'ex-star du football mondial George Weah —, le parti est confronté à une série de batailles juridiques, don't cette expulsion est le dernier épisode.

## Incendie meurtrier à Paynesville : trois membres d'une même famille périssent, seul le chien survit

Un violent incendie survenu sauvé.

dans la nuit de mardi à Le chien de la famille a été extrait mercredi à Paynesville, en par les voisins après avoir réussi à périphérie de Monrovia, a coûté la s'échapper par une fenêtre don't les vie à trois membres d'une même barreaux avaient été forcés. famille. Seul un chien, grièvement Couvert de contusions, l'animal est blessé, a survécu au sinistre. le seul rescapé de la maison en Les victimes ont été identifiées briques de terre.

comme Emmanuel Bartee, 43 ans, D'après les habitants, plus d'une son épouse Helena Bartee, 38 ans, douzaine de personnes vivaient et leur fils Abraham, âgé de 5 ans. habituellement dans cette maison, Le drame s'est produit aux abords majoritairement des enfants. Ce de « Help Yourself Entertainment soir-là, seules trois personnes y and Guest House », dans la avaient passé la nuit.

communauté de la 72e rue. « C'est un choc pour toute la Selon des témoins, le feu s'est communauté », témoigne Jamima déclaré vers 3 h 30 du matin, le 13 Flomo, voisine immédiate de la août 2025. Les habitants ont été famille. « Je dormais quand j'ai réveillés par de d'épais nuages de entendu des cris : « Au feu ! » Mais il fumée et des cris alertant du était déjà trop tard. » danger. Malgré l'intervention Bob Jacob, un autre voisin, décrit rapide des services de secours — une scène d'impuissance : « Il n'y les pompiers du Liberia National avait aucun moyen d'entrer. Fire Service (LNFS), l'équipe des L'incendie était trop violent. Les services médicaux d'urgence du portes en fer ont bloqué toute issue, ministère de la Santé (EMS) et la et nous n'avons pu forcer qu'une police nationale (LNP) —, aucun fenêtre, par laquelle le chien s'est des trois occupants n'a pu être échappé. »



# FEATURE ARTICLE

## Takes from the US Human Rights Report on Liberia

By Seltue Robert Karweaye Sr.

On August 12, 2025, the State Department published its detailed report on human rights in Liberia, which meticulously covered events and issues from the year 2024. The report highlights a troubling pattern of disregard for the rule of law in Liberia, specifically emphasizing the alarming number of detainees who remain incarcerated for extended periods without being brought to trial. This situation stems from systemic failures within the judicial and law enforcement systems. According to the U.S. government's comprehensive annual report, approximately 60 percent of pretrial detainees, with a significant focus on those facing felony charges, are held for over 180 days—far surpassing the legal limit of two court terms without a hearing. The report underscores that while Liberian law mandates the dismissal of cases that are not prosecuted within this timeframe, such case dismissals are "rarely" enacted, making this a prevalent and concerning abuse of legal rights.

To further illustrate the systemic failures endemic to the justice system, the report highlights a specific high-profile case that gained considerable attention. In November, a judge from a Monrovia criminal court publicly reprimanded prosecutors from the Ministry of Justice for their inadequate handling of the case involving Ibrahim Kalil Cherif, a Guinean national accused of conspiring to orchestrate a coup. Cherif was initially detained by officials from the National Security Agency without formal charges for several days, during which time he was subjected to uncertain conditions and a lack of legal representation. Following this period of unlawful detention,

Cherif was subsequently transferred to prison. However, in a surprising turn of events, he was later removed from prison without any court order and handed over to Guinean authorities at their request. The Liberian government defended this controversial action as a necessary measure for national security, disregarding legal protocols. In response to these actions, the judge threatened to hold the Justice Ministry in contempt of court, openly criticizing the government's handling of the case before it was ultimately closed, further highlighting the ongoing issues within the country's judicial process. The U.S. Country Reports on Human Rights Practices provide a deeply unsettling overview of the human rights situation in Liberia. The

restricted freedom of expression and media rights, exposing journalists to violence and threats, as well as censorship that curtails public discourse. This environment of fear extends to other areas, as the report indicates widespread trafficking in persons, which reflects a failure to protect vulnerable populations. Moreover, there are systematic limitations on workers' freedom of association, undermining labor rights and the ability of individuals to organize for better working conditions. This comprehensive report critically evaluates the status of Liberia under President Boakai, effectively debunking many of the administration's claimed accomplishments, particularly in the domains of anti-corruption efforts and public safety. It casts a spotlight on

the ongoing abuses, persistent impunity, and entrenched corruption that diminish the rights and freedoms of Liberians. As mandated by Congress since the 1970s, the annual human rights report serves not only as a reflection of the current state of human rights in various nations but also as a crucial tool for shaping U.S. foreign policy. The findings will significantly influence the nature and extent of the foreign aid, security assistance, and trade agreements the U.S. is willing to extend to Liberia.

Although the US Department of State may have framed discussions around these issues in diplomatic language, it is clear that the U.S. harbors significant concerns regarding the escalating security challenges within Liberia. The urgency of the situation necessitates accountability and reform to restore trust in governance and uphold the human rights of all Liberians. I rest my pen.



latest report identifies several serious human rights violations occurring in the country during the review period, including credible reports of arbitrary or unlawful killings, which raise grave concerns about the rule of law and the protection of life. Additionally, it documents instances of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment, alongside reports of arbitrary arrests or detention, highlighting a pattern of abuse by authorities. The government's actions have severely

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# CDC runs to S/S/Court

MONROVIA, LIBERIA – The opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) has taken its long-running property dispute to the Supreme Court of Liberia, challenging two recent court decisions it says threaten judicial fairness and undermine the rule of law.

The case centers on the party's national headquarters in Congo Town, a property it has occupied for more than 20 years and claims to have significantly invested in. According to the CDC, negotiations to purchase the building began in 2024 with the Intestate Estate of Martha Stubblefield Bernard, represented by Mr. Ebrima Varney Dempster, culminating in a Right of First Refusal offer that the party says it accepted.

The CDC alleges that when it attempted to conduct routine due diligence on the property, the landlord reacted with hostility,



## China celebrates 80th anniversary of War of Resistance.

The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Monrovia marked a solemn and meaningful occasion on Thursday, August 14, the 80th anniversary of the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese aggression and the broader World Anti-Fascist War.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, August 15, 2025: The event, held at TM Mall in Monrovia, brought together high-profile government officials, international development partners, representatives from Chinese organizations in Liberia, and other distinguished guests.

The gathering underscored the deep ties forged between China and Liberia during one of history's darkest chapters.

H. E Yin Chengwu, Chinese Ambassador to Liberia, opened the program with remarks that resonated with history. He emphasized that the purpose of such remembrance is not to continue hatred, but to honor those who laid down their lives, to cherish peace.

"The experience of war makes people value peace all the more," Ambassador Yin reflected, urging all present to remember the past, honor the fallen, and open their hearts to the possibilities of reconciliation and hope.

Ambassador Yin's speech also

Motion to Dismiss and a Writ of Certiorari filed with Chamber Justice Cianeh Clinton Johnson. "These decisions without due consideration of legal merits constitute an abuse of judicial discretion, undermining the rule of law and threatening Liberia's democratic stability," the party said in a statement.

The CDC also expressed concern over a directive in Judge Smith's ruling that tasked the Liberian National Police rather than the Court Sheriff with enforcing the eviction, calling it "unprecedented" in a civil property matter and raising questions of judicial impartiality.

The party has filed Bills of Exceptions in both the Specific Performance and Summary Proceedings cases, which have been approved by Judge Smith. The CDC says its legal team is now finalizing appeals to the Supreme Court.

While reaffirming its commitment to the rule of law, the CDC condemned what it called "arbitrary judicial actions". It warned that such practices risk eroding public trust in Liberia's justice system.

In preparation for any eventual outcome, the party confirmed it is making arrangements to relocate to a new national headquarters if necessary.

Calling for calm, the CDC urged its members and supporters to "remain patient" as the appeals process unfolds.

chose justice and stuck to conscience deserves to be remembered and honored for all time. Today, transformations of the world unseen in a century are unfolding at a faster pace. Changes in the world, of our times, and the historical trajectory are taking place in ways like never before," he added.

Speaking on behalf of the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of National Defense, and proxy for his boss, General Geraldine Janet George, Dr. Augustine T. Larmin, Deputy Minister for Administration, China, the Chinese people marched forward fearlessly. They fought as one, making tremendous sacrifices to defeat the Japanese militarists, and writing a glorious chapter in the victory of the War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression." He stated.

The Chinese envoy stated that Liberia, for its part, provided the Allies with a steady supply of rubber and crucial logistical support through its airports and seaports. Some of its citizens volunteered to join the Allied military, making important contributions to the common victory.

"Looking back on that epic history, from the soldiers who fought bravely to the unknown ordinary people, every action that

6 WDUWV IURP %**"I saw Satan."**

disadvantaged youths, believed to be addicted to drugs, died on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, as a result of consuming the new substance (Sparking Android). The dead include Crenshaw (not his real name), Cradle (his street name), Jerih Doe, and Archie Korpue. Five identified survivors are: Otis Walker, Shatta Boy, Adolphus, Doctor James, and Crappie (nicknamed).

According to community residents, the dangerous substance struck 10 persons, with two dying instantly, while others were rushed to the hospital, where an additional three were pronounced dead upon arrival.

Survivors allege their friends may have bought the drugs from Du-Port Road and consumed them in Kemah Town.

"As for us in Kemah Town, we do not sell Sparking Android here; they bought it from Du-Port Road. The other Guinea-Kpelle guy came, parked his motorbike, and went to the cemetery. Because of all of that, we can be witnesses. The drug is bad; as soon as you take it, you spark and die", a survivor reveals.

Esau explains that the drugs are being sold for 100 Liberian dollars, but are being manipulated, causing harm to people.

"There is wickedness going on; when you go and buy your dripping, they will give you a sparking android, and they will not tell you that as soon as you take it, you die," another user, Christopher, adds.

Meanwhile, the Chairlady of Kemah Town Community, Soul Clinic, Garmai N. Massaquo, describes the incident as heartbreaking for the community, while calling on the government to provide rehabilitation for At-risk or drug-addicted youths, a.k.a "Zogos."

"This is heartbreaking for us as a community, and we are calling on the government to do the needful. Our people are dying, and there must be a remedy", Chairlady Massaquo pleads.

Community Chairman, Nanmagai Paye, denies that the incident took place in his community. Paye claims there is a serious demarcation between Old Kemah,

of the Lisbon Maru," produced and directed by Fang Li, and co-directed by Ming Fan and Lily Gong. The film recounts the harrowing events surrounding the Lisbon Maru, a Japanese cargo ship carrying 1,800 British prisoners of war in 1942.

Three days into its journey from Hong Kong to Japan, the Lisbon Maru was torpedoed near China's Dongji Island. As the ship began to sink, British POWs tried to escape, only to be met with violence from the Japanese guards. It was at this desperate moment that more than a hundred Chinese fishermen, braving treacherous waters and risking their lives, rescued many of the drowning POWs.

They demonstrated extraordinary moral responsibility and international

Soul Clinic, which gave birth to New Kemah Town, outside.

He expresses sympathy for the situation, while calling for stronger policy from the government towards addressing the issue of drugs.

He appeals for the construction of rehabilitation centers to rehabilitate and reintegrate drug-addicted youths into society.

Meanwhile, in a dramatic response to the persistent challenge posed by illicit drugs, locals banded together recently to break down ghettos, destroy makeshift homes, and chase away individuals suspected of drug abuse.

This grassroots action came on the heels of a nationwide anti-drugs campaign that occurred on August 7, 2025. Community members, incensed by what they describe as daily threats to their safety, cited the urgent need to protect their children and restore peace to their neighborhood.

"We are taking this action because we need a safe community. Our children are dying, and we do not sleep every day," said Patricia Menson, a Saye Town resident.

The operation saw several known ghettos, including a notorious hideout for suspected drug users, burned and dismantled.

According to the residents, this was not an act of wanton violence but a necessary measure to curtail the spread of illicit drugs in Saye Town.

"This is not about violence; it's about protecting our children and ensuring our neighborhood is safe again," said another participant in the cleanup.

Papa Morris, a local community leader, emphasized that the initiative aimed to restore safety, peace, and order in an area long troubled by the negative effects of narcotics.

"The action is a clear message that Saye Town will no longer be a haven for drug-related activities," he told the New Dawn.

But while many in Saye Town feel a renewed sense of hope and safety, the events of August 13 have also sparked a broader conversation about the dangers of vigilantism and the need for structured, legal approaches to fight drug abuse.

**Editing by Jonathan Browne**

humanitarianism. It is a heavy but true piece of history, which denounces the crimes of Japanese fascism and reflects the courage and dignity of the Chinese people and British soldiers. - Edited by Othello B. Garblah.






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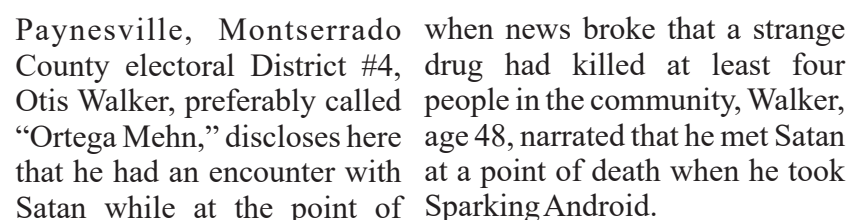
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## ***-Kemah Town drugs survivor testifies***

*By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh*

death after he and others consumed a substance named “Sparking Android,” a new drug described by users as stronger than the popular 'KUSH'. Speaking to The NEW DAWN late Wednesday, August 13, 2025,

At least four (4) persons out of nine (9)  &217.' 2\$\*3



when news broke that a strange drug had killed at least four people in the community, Walker, age 48, narrated that he met Satan at a point of death when he took Sparking Android.