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# Continental News

## Zimbabwe top cop under fire

**P**olice Commissioner-General Godwin Matanga has come under fire from his subordinates after he allegedly ordered the closure of a Zimbabwe Republic Police-run college on January 2 this year without prior notice, leaving about 140 pupils stranded.

Matanga is alleged to have initially recommended regularisation of Support Unit Independent College at Chikurubi, Harare, before he ordered its closure last week without giving prior notice to both the pupils and their parents.

The parents have since roped in Alex F and Associates Attorneys to challenge the decision in court. The institution, which was registered with the Primary and Secondary Education ministry, but was yet to be formally regularised since its launch over a decade ago, mainly served children of junior police officers.

"The central planning committee recommended and the commissioner-general



photo: Zimbabwean police officers sit in the back of a police vehicle on August 2, 2018 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

approved that the proposal for regularisation of the Support Unit Independent College be held in abeyance for want of skilled and adequate teaching staff, sufficient ablution facilities and a qualified principal," a circular by one Assistant Commissioner RM Basera (acting director for legal services to the Commissioner-General), read. "The Support Unit Independent College is to cease operations at the end of

this current term to enable parents to find other alternatives for children enrolled thereat."

The circular added: "Teaching and non-teaching staff members at the Support Unit Independent College to be re-deployed."

Through their lawyers, the parents claim they were only told of the decision on January 2 when they were called for a meeting.

"The decision to close the

said college was made without any consultations with the parents or advising the pupils," part of the letter dated January 3 read. "Practically, no notice was given to enable pupils or parents to find alternative schools, thus making the directive spurious, arbitrary, unlawful and in violation of our clients' constitutional rights."

The lawyers added: "For a greater reason, the decision to shut down the school was effectively made without affording them an opportunity to make any representations. This is despite the fact that, the closure of the college brings unbearable consequences to the future

educational development of the children enrolled at the school, and borders on violating their constitutional right to education in that some may not even afford to change schools on such a sketchy notice."

The lawyers said the decision to close the college was reached on December 30, 2019 and "our clients were only informed on January 2, 2020. By that time it was not possible for parents to reasonably find alternative places for their children in terms of time and financial resources". The college was opened more than a decade ago as an initiative of Kuyedza Club, targeting wives of police officers. APF

## Bridge bomb kills 30 in Nigeria

**A**t least 30 people were killed in the northeastern Nigerian state of Borno after an improvised explosive device detonated on a bridge, sources told Reuters on Monday.

The bomb detonated at roughly 5 p.m. local time (1600 GMT) on a crowded bridge in the market town of Gamboru

Reuters.

"I just heard a loud sound of explosions, before I realized I saw many of our friends and colleagues were killed," Said added.

A military spokesman said he would provide comment later in the evening.

Two sources with the

## Nigeria-Cameroon border grenade blast kills nine

**A**grenade that a child picked up from a bin on the Nigeria-Cameroon border has exploded, killing him and eight others.

Twenty-six people were also wounded in the blast on the Nigerian side of the border, a Cameroon official said.

The child, believed to be

under 10, mistook the grenade for scrap metal which he intended to sell, witnesses said.

It is unclear who left the grenade in the bin, but the area has been hit by an Islamist insurgency. Boko Haram and its splinter faction, the Islamic State West Africa Province, operate in the region.

Nigerian and Cameroon

troops form part of a regional force fighting the militants. The governor of Cameroon's Far North Region, Midjinyawa Bakary, told the BBC that the grenade exploded late on Monday on a busy bridge linking the Nigerian town of Gamboru to the Cameroonian town of Fotokol.

All the dead were Nigerians, while the wounded included nationals from both countries, he said. The injured were taken to a local hospital - some had their limbs blown off, residents in Gamboru told the BBC.

Many poor children in Nigeria often go through bins, looking for scrap metal which they sell to metal dealers to recycle, says the BBC Nigeria reporter Ishaq Khalid.

Boko Haram's decade-long insurgency began in northeastern Nigeria but has spilled over into neighbouring states. Tens of thousands of civilians have been killed and more than two million have been displaced in the conflict. BBC



that leads into neighboring Cameroon.

Witnesses in the market town said more than 35 injured people were taken to the local hospital following the attack. "It is an unfortunate day for us to witness this frustrating and devastating incident in our community," eyewitness Modu Ali Said told

Civilian Joint Task Force, a group of citizens formed to fight Boko Haram, confirmed the attack and the early death toll estimates.

No group immediately took responsibility. Both Boko Haram and the regional offshoot of Islamic State, known as ISWAP, are active in the area. AFP



The injured were rushed to hospital

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# EDITORIAL

## Liberia Is Slipping into Total Dependency

Guest Editorial By Abdoulaye W. Dukulé

Liberia has never been so close to being in total receivership and well-deserving the moniker “Banana Republic” since the 1990s, when the country’s survival depended on the goodwill of ECOWAS and the international community. Back then, Liberians were engaged in a warfare, killing and destroying at random and ECOWAS came in, stopped the bleeding, sacrificing the blood of their youth and spending billions of dollars as the late President Conde put it, to “baby sit warlords and criminals.” From 2006, and slowly, it was expected that the nation would recover and become an “adult,” being able to take care of the welfare of its people. Now, in 2019, the country is returning to the status of dependence and is on its way to lose the last square of sovereignty upon which it governs itself.

As it happened before the June 7 demonstration, the international community, composed of ECOWAS, the UN and embassies of donor countries in Liberia went on marathon negotiations with organizers and the government to avert the December 30 demonstration. The international community bought into the argument by the government that demonstrations would spark violence and may lead to war. Rather than address the issues affecting the people and which lead them to take the streets, the negotiations played along that false narrative. People go to war when given no space to express their grievances. Protests turn violent when demonstrators are pushed against the wall.

Since the advent of multi-party democracy in the 1990s, political demonstrations are a common occurrence in the region. People in Guinea, Nigeria, Cote d’Ivoire, Mali and other places hold pro-or anti-government demonstrations almost daily but unlike in Liberia, there is no such thing as international mediators. But for the past two years, the international community is everywhere whenever a group wants to vent its frustration.

In a press statement released after “negotiations” over the Christmas weekend, the UN-ECOWAS mission summarizes its findings and conclusions in 4 points: 1. President Weah was elected with a mandate for 6 years; 2. Liberians have the right to demonstrate in accordance with the Constitution and the Government has the obligation to protect its citizens. And most importantly, 4. the communiqué suggests that the UN and ECOWAS will work with the government to establish a platform for national dialogue. A platform for national dialogue is one of the major pillars of governance. Liberian national politics will therefore now be (again) directed by ECOWAS and the UN.

The second thing that happened was an announcement by the American Embassy in Monrovia that USAID will help the Central Bank on financial issues to lay the basis for “inclusive economic growth.” This is another major pillar of governance, taken away. And finally, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will come in once it starts to disburse its new loan to Liberia.

Liberians can’t blame the ‘international community’ in the days to come for taking away their sovereignty, their government gave it away. What ECOWAS, UN and a certain number of diplomatic missions are doing is not what diplomats do traditionally. They are not to get involved in local affairs and their interlocutors is the state, not non-state-actors. Foreign diplomats are now turning into colonial governors.

With IMF-USAID running the economy and finances, ECOWAS-UN handling national political dialogue, what role is left to the government? This is where a nation becomes a “banana republic.” Like most of Africa, Liberia is a resource colony, now political and economic layers will complete the process of take-over. One cannot blame those who intervened and are taking the country under their wings. The failure is all the government’s, for its incapacity to address national issues in a frank and constructive manner with citizens.

As economic difficulties will mount, so will frustration and protest, until the government finds a way out. Will the international community continue to baby sit and protect failing policies or will it set aside and allow Liberians to solve their problems? Falling for the narrative of “protest leads to war” is self-serving for the international community... what greater honor for an ambassador than to be able to lecture a president and give him/her instructions on how to run their country. Will Liberia mature to run itself one day? By 2023, if things continue this way, the Government of Liberia will be nothing more than a paper entity.

# COMMENTARY

By Kenneth Rogoff

## The Inequality Debate We Need

*The scientific evidence increasingly indicates that the world may soon reach a point of no return regarding climate change. So, rather than worrying almost exclusively about economic and political inequality, rich-country citizens need to start thinking about how to deal with global energy inequality before it’s too late.*

**C**AMBRIDGE - While denizens of the world’s wealthiest economies debate the fate and fortune of the middle class, over 800 million people worldwide have no access to electricity. And more than two billion have no clean cooking facilities, forcing them to use toxic alternatives such as animal waste as their main cooking fuel. Furthermore, per capita carbon dioxide emissions in Europe and the United States are still vastly higher than in China and India. What right do Americans, in particular, have to complain as China increases production in smokestack industries to counter the economic slowdown caused by its trade war with the US? To many in Asia, the inward-looking debate in the West often seems both tone deaf and beside the point.

Even if Europe and the US deliberately stall their capitalist growth engines - as some of the more radical policy proposals might do if implemented - it would not be nearly enough to contain global warming if emerging economies stay on their current consumption growth trajectory.

The most recent United Nations data suggest that the world has already reached a tipping point where there is little chance of limiting the increase in global temperature to what climate scientists consider the safe threshold of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. In fact, a significantly larger rise is likely. According to a recent International Monetary Fund report, limiting global warming even to 2°C would require a global carbon price of at least \$75-100 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub> - more than double its current level - by 2030.

Any solution to the problem requires two interconnected parts. The first and more important is a global tax on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which would discourage activities that exacerbate global warming and encourage innovation. Equating the price of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions globally would eliminate distortions whereby, say, a US-based firm might choose to relocate its most carbon-intensive production to China. Moreover, a worldwide carbon tax would achieve in one fell swoop what myriad command-and-control measures cannot easily replicate.

The second critical component is a mechanism that impels emerging and less-developed economies to buy in to emissions reduction, which can be very costly in terms of foregone growth. In recent years, the biggest contributor to the global increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions has been fast-growing Asia, where roughly one new coal plant is being built every week. For advanced economies, where the average coal plant is 45 years old, phasing out such facilities is low-hanging fruit in terms of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. But in Asia, where the average age of coal plants is only 12 years, the cost of taxing plants into oblivion makes doing so virtually impossible without outside aid.

Yes, Europe and the US can impose carbon

border taxes on developing countries that do not comply with their standards. But, beyond the associated technical challenges, this would raise issues of fairness, given profound global energy inequality. One promising idea, which I have suggested previously, would be to establish a World Carbon Bank that would specialize in energy-transition issues and provide technical and financial assistance to poor and middle-income countries.

In principle, either a carbon tax or a quota system, such as the one Europe has instituted, can work. But, as the late economist Martin Weitzman showed in pathbreaking work in the early 1970s, there are important subtleties depending on the nature of uncertainty. For example (and greatly oversimplifying), if scientists have a fairly precise idea of the amount of cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that the planet can handle between now and 2100, and if economists are not so sure what price trajectory would induce countries and firms to adhere to those limits, then the case for (tradable) quotas is strong. Under other assumptions about the nature of cost and benefit uncertainties, a carbon tax is preferable.

One issue Weitzman did not consider is that carbon tax agreements are likely to be more transparent and easier to monitor than quotas; this is particularly important in international trade. There are good reasons why a succession of multi-country tariff-reduction agreements after World War II sought to strip away regulatory and quantity constraints, and replace them with relatively simple tariff schedules. In addition, carbon taxes could generate significant revenues to support green research, compensate low-income households within countries for transition costs (for example, by giving car owners incentives to trade in old “clunkers” and buy more fuel-efficient vehicles), and fund transfers from rich to poor countries through a mechanism like the World Carbon Bank. Quotas could, in principle, be auctioned to achieve the same goal; but they are often given away.

In practice, almost all of the 40 countries that have established national carbon prices have done so indirectly, via quotas. European policymakers are particularly enthusiastic about this approach, arguing that it is much more politically palatable than introducing a carbon tax. But it is not at all clear that the same is true for a global system, where transparency carries a premium. As the cost of distorting taxes and quotas increases, it makes sense to align across the most efficient possible system.

The scientific evidence increasingly indicates that the world may soon reach a point of no return regarding climate change. So, rather than worrying almost exclusively about economic and political inequality, rich-country citizens need to start thinking about how to deal with global energy inequality before it’s too late.

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## O-PED

By Miao Yanliang

## The Dilemma of Central Banking

**B**EIJING - Low interest rates - both nominal and real - have been a persistent feature of advanced economies since the 1980s. How long, many now wonder, can the trend last?

In 2015, the “Geneva Report” on the topic by the International Center for Monetary and Banking Studies and the Center for Economic Policy Research argued that interest rates would stay low for long, but most likely not indefinitely. But with more than \$13 trillion worth of negative-yielding bonds outstanding in the world economy, many more scholars and investors have started to think that rates could stay low forever. If so, central bankers will face a critical dilemma: in the event of a growth slowdown, should they keep their limited powder dry, or use it preemptively?

The answer lies outside monetary policy and beyond national borders. To see why, it is useful to revisit the basic concept of interest, which has always been a source of controversy in economic theory. As the Austrian economist Eugen von Böhm-Bawerk pointed out in his 1890 book, *Capital and Interest*, “the theory [of interest] exhibits a motley collection of the most conflicting opinions, no one of them strong enough to conquer, and no one of them willing to admit defeat.” The situation today is not much different. Explanations for the current era of low interest rates come from either of two seemingly contradictory schools of thoughts: neoclassical theory and Keynesian theory.

Neoclassical thinkers in the tradition of Alfred Marshall, Knut Wicksell, and Irving Fisher believe that real interest rates are determined by real economic forces. Money (or monetary policy) is neutral, and the rate of interest is that which equilibrates saving and investment, as determined by time preference and returns, respectively. (Hence, the title of Fisher’s 1930 book on the topic is: *The Theory of Interest, as Determined by Impatience to Spend Income and Opportunity to Invest It.*) Using the neoclassical framework, one can identify a range of structural factors - from demographic changes driving up savings to slower technological progress reducing demand - to explain the secular decline in interest rates.

By contrast, according to John Maynard Keynes’s “Liquidity Preference Theory,” interest is best understood as a reward for parting with liquidity for a specified period of time. As such, it is not about saving in general, but about the saving of money in particular. The interest rate, then, is determined jointly by the supply of liquidity and economic agents’ preference for money.

In normal times, these two schools of thought run in parallel and can coexist. Keynes focused on the nominal rate, while Fisher focused on the real rate; Keynes emphasized the short term, and Fisher the long run. Keynes’s principle of monetary non-neutrality in the short run does not directly conflict with Fisher’s principle of neutrality in the long run. Usually, when central banks act in a Keynesian manner by cutting nominal rates, real rates will fall, owing to the sticky-price effect.

Yet, with interest rates now stuck near or at the zero-lower bound (ZLB), these two views might collide: a nominal-rate cut will elicit an immediate one-for-one reduction in inflation expectations, leaving the real rate unchanged. Some economists refer to this change in expectations as the “neo-Fisherian effect,” because the traditional Fisher effect - whereby inflation tracks the nominal rate by a factor of one to one - is supposed to happen only in the long run. A Fisherian effect will not happen if inflation expectations remain well anchored. But once rates are trapped at or near the ZLB, inflation expectations begin to fall; the usual Keynesian effect comes to be dominated by the neo-Fisherian effect.

Hence, a distinct feature of the ZLB is that it is where Fisher crowds out Keynes. Central banks can cut nominal rates to zero or into negative territory all they want, but real rates will remain unchanged. The more Keynesian a central bank acts (by trying to stimulate demand through rate cuts), the more Fisherian the economy becomes, at least in terms of inflation expectations. And when this happens, monetary policy becomes not just impotent but potentially harmful.

To be sure, the neo-Fisherian perspective is controversial in academic circles. But even if there is no perverse Fisherian effect, interest-rate pegging or a situation in which rates are involuntary trapped at the ZLB could still amplify shocks. For central banks, avoiding these conditions can pose a dilemma. Should they cut rates when necessary, even if doing so might bring on a Fisherian trap?

An overdose of monetary policy may create conditions of monetary “non-neutrality” by pushing down the equilibrium real rate. This can happen through at least two channels. The first is the financial boom-bust cycle. Persistently low interest rates encourage risk-seeking, and can result in financial imbalances and debt build-ups. When the music stops, central banks must reduce rates even further to counter the inevitable bust. The second channel is resource misallocation, which can happen when too much liquidity inhibits Schumpeterian “creative destruction” by offering a lifeline to uncompetitive firms.

Resolving the dilemma will require a fundamental change in the design and implementation of economic policy. We need far better policy coordination at the national and international levels. At the country level, monetary policy cannot be the “only game in town.” Not only should fiscal policy and structural reforms play a larger role, but macroprudential policy should be made a top priority, in order to contain financial boom-bust cycles.

At the international level, a well-integrated financial safety net would help reduce the need for self-insurance through safe assets. One good way to pool resources would be to enhance the International Monetary Fund’s firepower through quota reforms. A new and improved international monetary system won’t be built in a day, but we have to start somewhere

## OPINION

By Shashi Tharoor

## What Happened to India?

**N**EW DELHI - It’s a question I hear increasingly these days. International news media report on repression in Kashmir, mounting Hindu chauvinism, widespread protests against new laws, assaults on women, and more. The India the world once celebrated - the world’s fastest-growing free-market liberal democracy - seems to be giving way to a violent, intolerant, illiberal autocracy.

The reports are true, and the picture they paint is not a pretty one. But India’s well-wishers should not give up on the country. The democratic opposition is fighting back, buoyed by the support of young people protesting spontaneously, and not at the behest of any political party, against the excesses of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government. Democracy has deep roots in India, and it will not collapse without a fight from the country’s many independent institutions and politically aware citizens.

India’s current predicament is the culmination of three decades of evolving trends in Indian politics. Eight stand out.

First, there have been the social consequences of deepening democracy. Viewed by many observers as a fragile transplant at independence in 1947, democracy has become deeply entrenched, empowering previously marginalized castes and communities. Thanks to the implementation of the Mandal Commission proposal in 1989 to provide “reservations,” or quotas, in government jobs, universities, and the like to the “Other Backward Classes” (such set-asides already existed for Dalits, once outcastes, and tribals, India’s aboriginal people), the former underclass has become a potent political force. Three generations of political empowerment, including of people with modest educational attainment, Hindi mother tongue, and small-town backgrounds, ended the dominance of the urban, anglophone elite that had established liberal secularism as India’s ruling ethos. A different mentality now prevails in power.

Second, there has been a backlash against cultural globalization. India, like Turkey and the United States, has witnessed growing resentment of cosmopolitan secular elites, with their Westernized lifestyles and perception of themselves as global citizens. Indian social conservatism shuddered at the breakdown of social and sexual mores, depicted in films and television shows. Traditionalists recoiled at women going to work, dressed in jeans and other non-Indian clothing, returning home late at night after shifts in call centers attuned to Western business hours, freed from the bonds and the bounds of local social custom.

Third, there has been a revolt against the political insider class. The denizens of “Lutyens’ Delhi,” shorthand for the government enclave in the heart of the capital where the high and mighty lived, were seen by their challengers as corrupt, complacent, inefficient, and resistant to change. The first decade of the twenty-first century was marked by a growing rejection of all they stood for, including liberalism, secularism, political “insider trading,” and sub-optimal governance. This sentiment was captured in the 2011 protests of the Gandhian leader Anna Hazare. The protesters’ demand that the country be cleansed of its corrupted ruling class contributed significantly to Modi’s victory in 2014.

Fourth, the liberalization of the statist Indian economy from 1991 onwards, in response to global market realities, led to the empowerment of an increasingly wealthy business community that was anxious to see more obstacles removed and rent-seekers eliminated, and willing to finance political change to make it happen. Modi and the BJP benefited from this, too, not least in generous funding from the capitalist nouveaux riches.

Fifth, the worldwide phenomenon of increasing religiosity over the last quarter-century found its counterpart in Hindutva revivalism. Partly this was in reaction to the propagation of Wahhabi/Salafi theology in shiny new Saudi-financed mosques. As Indian Muslims, too, began more consciously to identify with the global Muslim umma, they began to redefine their Islam in ways that alienated them more visibly from Hindus.

In parallel, a greater Hindu consciousness was abetted by the popularity of television serializations of the Ramayana and Mahabharata epics; concerns about “Muslim appeasement” following such steps as a law overturning a Supreme Court ruling that would have awarded alimony to a divorced Muslim woman; and the popularity of a BJP-led initiative to replace a sixteenth-century mosque, the Babri Masjid, which most Hindus believed stood on one of their holiest sites, the Ram Janmabhoomi, or birthplace of the Hindu god Rama. All this helped the spread of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh or RSS, the khaki-shorts-wearing stormtroopers of Hindu chauvinism, who brought ideological clarity and organizational heft to inchoate Hindu resentment. The BJP’s growth from the mid-1980s followed on the coattails of the RSS.

Sixth, this rise in Hindu consciousness occurred at a time when Muslim Pakistan stepped up its campaign of inciting, financing, and carrying out terrorism in India. Support for militancy in Kashmir gave way to outright military aggression, such as the attempt to seize the heights of Kargil, from which Pakistani troops were repulsed after a short but bloody war in 1999. Growing hostility to Pakistan, and the repeated failure of attempts to make peace with it, intensified Hindus’ belief that they were being targeted.

Seventh, India is the world’s youngest major country, with 65% of the population under 35. Young Indians are impatient for change and progress, tired of the old politics (especially the messy coalitions that reigned from 1989 to 2014 and the political oscillations they embodied), and want India to be self-confident, assertive, and ready to take on the world. Modi’s strutting confidence spoke to these desires.

Finally, social media have become ubiquitous, with platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and WhatsApp serving as major influencers and recyclers of prejudice. Social media reinforce people’s worst beliefs by exposing them to prejudices they might not have dared to express in the past, but that now no longer seem rare and disreputable. Suddenly, bigotry became respectable, and animosity toward Muslims, previously concealed under a veneer of civility, became an electoral asset.

All of this came to a head when the moment found its messenger: Modi, charismatic orator of unchallengeable Hindutva credentials, tough and efficient Chief Minister of Gujarat, marketed by a skilled campaign manager and Svengali, Amit Shah, as a no-nonsense administrator who would preside over economic growth. India was primed to receive Modi’s message and elected the BJP in 2014 and 2019. We are living with the consequences now, but these eight factors explain how we got there.

## FEATURE

## FEATURE

# Russia's Diplomacy of Education, Contribution to Human Resource Development and the Third World: 60 Years of RUDN

By KesterKennKlomegah

Professor Vladimir Filippov, Rector of the Russian University of Peoples' Friendship (RUDN) and Minister for Higher Education (1998-2004) has given an exclusive long-ranging interview in which he speaks about his university as it marks its 60th year of establishment and the plans for the future. During his meeting with this correspondent, KesterKennKlomegah, he also discusses the importance of reforms, challenges and achievements in his university in the Russian Federation.

The Russian University of Peoples' Friendship (RUDN) is an educational and research institution located in Moscow. It was established in 1960 primarily to provide higher education to Third World students. It became an integral part of the Soviet cultural offensive in nonaligned countries. Many students especially from developing countries still attend this university. It is Russia's most multidisciplinary university, which boasts the largest number of foreign students. The university offers various academic programmes, has research infrastructure that comprises laboratories and interdisciplinary centers. Here are the interview excerpts:

**Q:** First of all, the Russian University of Peoples' Friendship (RUDN) has a long history since its establishment in 1960. What is unique about this educational institution compared to others in the Russian Federation?

**VF:** The full name of RUDN is Russian University of Peoples' Friendship. The university is based on the ideas of diverse institutes and faculties, and international students and staff. From the very first days of its foundation, students and researchers were free to study and do research outside politics in conditions of equality. RUDN has given knowledge to professionals from Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Near and Middle East. During the first historic graduation in 1965, diplomas were received by representatives from 47 countries. Now, we are teaching nationals from 157 countries.

**Q:** Of course, 60 years of existence, in itself, can be considered as the greatest achievement. But, could you tell us about its latest marked achievements during the past ten years, after the golden jubilee?

**VF:** Of course, the biggest success of recent years is a breakthrough in international rankings. Now RUDN is among the top 400 best universities in the QS World University Rankings - we have risen by 258 positions in 4 years. Only a few universities around the world have achieved this result

RUDN began to purposefully develop along the path of a research university. Specialties such as mathematics, physics, chemistry, medicine and modern languages have become priority scientific areas. We changed the structure of faculties and created separate scientific institutes. There are chemists who now have a separate laboratory complex for molecular design, creation of useful substances and the study of new reactions. Our mathematicians are involved in 5G technology, the internet of things and of skills. RUDN has a supercomputer with 205 teraflops.

We are a university with the biggest number of international students in the Russian Federation, so international cooperation is also our priority. RUDN has proposed a new export model for Russian education through an industrial-educational and research partnership. This project referred to as "Cluster Approach" - it covers 70 countries. The university has opened six Russian language centers in the Dominican Republic, Zambia, Jordan, China, Namibia and Ecuador, as well as more than 30 specialized classes in 22 countries for talented applicants who want to study in Russian universities.

The university received a new international name - RUDN - an abbreviation of the Russian name "Russian University of Peoples' Friendship." It was formerly and popularly referred to as Patrice Lumumba University of Peoples' Friendship. In the process, "Russian" replaces "Patrice Lumumba" in the rewording of the name of the university after the Soviet era.

**Q:** Without doubt, RUDN has prepared lot of specialists for the local labour market, especially from the former Soviet republics. How do you value this role and its impact today?

**VF:** About 200,000 of our graduates work worldwide. These are professionals and leaders in medicine and politics, civil engineering and economics, agronomy and diplomacy ... RUDN graduates unite in associations maintaining relations with the university. There are dozens of such associations, and our delegations regularly attend alumni meetings. Early February 2020, when the Peoples' Friendship University celebrates its 60th anniversary, thousands of guests - our graduates and friends will come to Moscow.

**Q:** Now, much emphasis has been placed on other regions: Latin American, Asian and African countries. What is the situation currently with the foreign students from these regions?

**VF:** There are 9.5 thousand foreign students at the university. We have 1,200 students from sub-Saharan Africa alone. If in the Soviet years the university did not have citizens from Western Europe, North America, now the number of students from Europe and from Latin America would be the same. The top 10 foreign countries by the number of students include China, Iran, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Namibia, South Africa, Syria, Mongolia, Nigeria and Ecuador. Indeed, the geography is expanding - during the past year, for the first time, citizens of Niger, the Netherlands, Suriname and Croatia came to RUDN.

**Q:** As a former Education Minister and now Rector, how do you view Russian education as an export product? And, as an export product, it must have high value especially in the current burgeoning competitive market?

**VF:** Mathematics, physics, chemistry, medicine, engineering - scientific schools of Russia are already well-known all over the world. The high quality of Russian higher education is guaranteed by the state standard. Each program clearly defines the requirements that all universities have to fulfill: the names of disciplines, the number of hours, professional competences ... research projects - term papers and dissertations must necessarily be guided by highly qualified scientific supervisors.

Education quality requirements are very high, while the state also provides an opportunity for free education. Each year, Russia allocates 15,000 quotas for the training of foreigners. In addition, a contract for tuition in Russian universities costs much less than the average prices for higher education in other top universities in the world.

**Q:** What are the challenges and hindrances to offering quality education these years? Do you have any suggestions here on how to overcome and improve the situation?

**VF:** Only a few Russian universities have started to move away from quantitative principles when recruiting foreign students. Before, it was important how many foreigners you have at the university, what percentage they make of the total number of students. Some universities recruited applicants from two to three Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), that is the former Soviet republics, - and that was enough for them. There was no particular need to look for talented applicants. Because of this, foreigners often chose Russia according to the "residual principle" - they came to us after failing to enter universities in England, the



United States, France and so forth.

For RUDN, geography and the level of knowledge of applicants have always been a priority. Over the past 10 years, we have been teaching students from more than 150 countries. Interestingly, we are the first to conduct Olympiads abroad, to look for talented applicants, to offer them special scholarship programs. Now Russia has adopted the national project "Education", thus the number of international students should increase twice (double) by 2024. At the same time, every fifth student who entered on the quota of the Russian Federation must be the winner of international Olympiads. Therefore, the university's experience is now relevant - we share it with leading Russian universities.

**Q:** Aware of the importance of international recognition of the Russian education system, it still seems that Russian universities have to inculcate diversified cultural tolerance, take advantage of multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism, aspects of modern life, which are necessary pre-requisites for any success in the now globalized world. Do you have any objections to these, as a former Education Minister?

**VF:** Most ethnic-related problems are absolutely due to ignorance, misunderstanding, or disrespect for another culture. At RUDN, the principle of peoples' friendship lies in the very name of the university. For us, the culture of interethnic communication is the norm, this is what we get used to from the very first day at the university when it was established. In our university, there is even among students a popular slogan - "We Are Different - We Are Equal!" In a globalized world, friendship with representatives of several states is an undoubted advantage, because an international university has to project itself as global community and that really makes the world a better place grow up, and our university is all about cultivating friendship.

**Q:** Finally, the future vision for the Russian University of Peoples' Friendship? How would you like it transformed, or diversify its activities for example into research, hubs of technology and other directions of human development, in the coming years?

**VF:** Among plans for the near future - to celebrate the 60th birthday of Russian University of Peoples' Friendship in the Kremlin on February 8. This year, we are planning to start building two new skyscraper hostels. I would like the number of foreign countries in RUDN to increase to 160. This is also our target.

Long-term goals are more ambitious. We will continue the transformation towards a research university. There is a lot to do about international activities - we have identified six levels of internationalization of education and science at the university. It is necessary to continue work in the field of digitalization of the educational process and Life Long Learning - restoring the system of advanced training for foreign graduates of Russian universities. However difficult our plans and goals may be, our principles will not change - we will continue uniting people of different culture by knowledge, train future leaders and elites who make the world a better place.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# 2 weeks old baby mother appeals to Pres. Weah

**-Following fire disaster on 5th Street**  
By Emmanuel Mondaye

The mother of a two-week old baby Ms. MaronBodyman is appealing to President George Manneh Weah and humanitarian organizations operating in the country to

Supermarket whose homes were gutted by fire last Sunday, 5 January.

Explaining the situation to the NewDawn on Monday, 6 January at the scene of the fire disaster, the woman

other victims with cement and zinc, among others to reconstruct their homes.

Victim Bodyman laments that the fire left everything they had totally destroyed including mattresses, electrical appliances, clothing, and cooking utensils, among others.

According to her, they have been sheltered temporarily by one of their goodwill neighbors, but expresses worry that they do not have anything to start with following the fire disaster.

"No one has come to the scene of the incident from government, business community, churches, and mosques, among others to ascertain from victims of the disaster what we are going through," Ms. Bodyman says.

She indicates that life is very unbearable for them as the fire also consumed their monies.

A private security officer only identified as D. Tweh whose entire home was gutted by the fire, also explains that he is confused and wondering as to how he and other victims of the disaster are going to manage with life and their families.

He attributes the fire

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10



come to her aid by providing needy assistance.

Ms. Bodyman is one of several residents of the Gboka Estate located on 5th Street, Sinkor, behind the Greenland

disclosed that she and other victims are living at the mercy of God since their homes were gutted by fire this week.

She calls on President Weah to assist she and the

# EFF condemns police's action on protesters

The Economic Freedom Fighters of Liberia (EFFL) has in a strong term condemned the orchestrated attack by the Liberia National Police (LNP) against peaceful protesters, using teargas and Water Cannons on citizens exercising their constitutional rights on Monday 6 January.

In a statement issued Tuesday 7 January, EFFL expresses regret over the situation and calls on the Government of Liberia through the Ministry of Justice to speedily investigate what led the police to use teargas and water cannons on peaceful protesters and make report public in the soonest possible time.

The EFFL adds that under the law of the Republic, government must provide security at all times when citizens intend to peacefully gather to express their dissatisfactions over the governance of the state.

The EFFL says it is sending this as a caveat to President



George Manneh Weah and his rookies in government to desist from the continuous provocations towards other citizens who disagree with the manner and style in which the state is being handled.

At the same time, the EFFL cautions Police Inspector General Col. Patrick Sudue and his men to at all times exercise professionalism in

the discharge of their duties.

"In a live Facebook podcast, we witnessed the unauthorized search by the Liberia National Police (LNP) of a vehicle believed to be [owned] by Honorable YekehKolubah of District #10 in which they found weapons allegedly belonging to

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

# Peaceful protest

Starts from back page

"We want to state categorically at no time did Honorable YekehKolubah had any weapons in any of those two vehicles," Costa argues.

Earlier during the protest on Monday, Montserrado County Sen. and COP member Mr. Abraham Darius Dillon claimed that President Weah doesn't understand leadership and he is not a good leader.

During an interview at the protest scene, Dillon expressed frustration that there is no check and balance from the Legislature in which he works, allegedly making President Weah the head and the god who cannot be questioned by anybody.

According to Mr. Dillon, the protesters have shown to the securities here that they are not violent people, saying "we are orderly, we are peaceful, we chanting regular songs, we dancing along the way..."

Further, Dillon argues that their assembly shows to the government and the rest of the world that a good segment of Liberians are aggrieved.

He trashes breakaway COP supporter Mr. Rufus Neufville's claim ahead of the protest that the Council of Patriots received bribes from government agents to call off the protest.

In an interview with this paper during the protest, 84 year-old Mrs. Genevieve Badio, carrying two kids along, says shame is coming upon "us" and she can't make it here again, citing the bad state of the economy here.

"Shame coming on us, I can't make it here again," she tells this medium during the interview held in the midst of many protesters on the street between the Executive Mansion and the Capitol.

She notes that a cup of rice is now sold at LD\$50, making it

difficult to feed the children.

"I want George Weah to hear and to know that it's hell now that's why I come here. You know I will not leave my house and come on the road," she explains.

"Tell this president that we put him there. My children and all voted for him. Me, I UP (Unity Party supporter), but my whole children, even one of my grandsons guarding him. I love him more than I love even the food I eat because he just like my child. But he must see reason and respect us because we respect him," she says.

She warns that if President Weah doesn't listen and any trouble comes, he will be blamed for it.

Also being interviewed by this paper at the protest scene, 66 years old Mr. David J.R. Moore says he is protesting because of the treatment he gets in his own country.

"I suffered in war for 14 years, I slept in the bush during war and I'm still sleeping in the bush. I'm still sleeping in the bush. I cannot be like a slave in my own country," he tells this paper.

Mr. Moore believes that his government can make him live happily, but he blames government for his poor living conditions over the years.

"I'm a man having properties, but I'm living in poverty, and nobody can, you can't do anything without money," he adds.

Mr. Moore urges President Weah to pay attention to his people, warning the president that he has lots of Brutus around him that could cause his government to fail.

"If not, he will say and thou too Brutus? Especially with McGill, because when things go out of hand, they'll go astray," he concludes.

# Caldwell residents

Starts from back page

unknown, the ongoing development on the ground indicates the area is very close to having power restored.

The township has been without electricity since the destruction of the country's only dam of 64 kilowatts during the civil war in the 1990s.

The residents of Caldwell

thru their commissioner, Francis F. Wood are expressing thanks and appreciation to the Government of Liberia for efforts being made in restoring power to the township with an estimated population of several hundred thousand human being. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

**The New Dawn**  
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# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## NPP Expresses Concern over

### “Morlu’s Revelations”

The National Patriotic Party NPP Bong Chapter has expressed concerns over an audios in the public, believed to be the voice of the National chairman of the Coalition for Democratic Change Mulubah Molu.

In the audios, according to the NPP Bong chapter Chairman James Dorbor Nakulah Sao there is a planned removal of Vice President Chief Dr. Jewell Howard Taylor by some senior members of the Coalition, who are also members of the inner circle of President George Weah.

Chairman Sao in the NPP’s latest press briefing in Gbarnga Saturday said the revelations in the recordings have serious implication to the peace and unity of the Coalition and the Nation.

Mr. James Dorbor Sao also reminded President Weah that VP Taylor comes from the third largest county in Liberia in terms of votes, where the congress for Democratic Change couldn’t win the previous two presidential elections, until she was selected running mate to Ambassador George Weah.

It can be recalled that last year, similar revelation was made by a senior member of the Coalition, currently Bong County Superintendent Esther Walker, who heads the women wing of the coalition.

our standard bearer in February of last year” Sao added.

He explained that VP Taylor has been deprived of her amenities and most times she finds it difficult (get) allotments.

Chairman Sao told

leadership of the CDC.

“We are asking that our concerns be addressed by the leadership of the coalition, including the governing council and the president of the Republic of Liberia Dr. George Manneh Weah, since his name was also mentioned in the recordings regarding his

consent for the action against the VP” chairman Sao adds.

“These kinds of threats against our Party’s Standard Bearer are altogether unacceptable and we need an explanation about the audios from the very people who are believed to be at the center of the audios” he concludes.



Superintendent Walker was suspended for several months “In the audio that went across the country like wild fire, the same individuals were planning the strangulation and removal of

Journalists that the NPP Bong Chapter is seriously concern about the constant revelations over threats on the standard bearer of the party with no statement or action from the

## 2 weeks old

Cont’d from page 6

incidence to what he calls ‘electrical problem’ which he believes is as a result of power outage in the community.

Mr. Tweh narrates that since the incident, the victims have not received any humanitarian assistance from the government, the Liberia National Red Cross Society (LNRCS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the district representative’s office and other philanthropists to restore their broken lives.

He laments that it is very unfortunate that some of the fire disaster victims have to sleep outdoors because they have no one to provide shelters for them.

Victim Tweh adds that 30 families were affected by the fire disaster, nothing that if concrete steps are not taken to

resolve the problem, the victims could suffer from diseases because they are exposed to cold.

According to him, among the victims are dozens of underage children who need to be protected so as to avoid them getting sick from cold.

The private officer discloses that about twenty structures were completely destroyed by the fire.

The local estate is owned by the late James Gboka, a prominent elder of the 5th Street community established several years ago for poor Liberians who cannot afford to live in concrete buildings.

There was no report of any of the occupants of the estate being killed or injured from the fire disaster.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

## 9th Judicial Circuit Court adjudicates 44 cases

By Joseph Titus Yekeryan in Bong

The 9th Judicial Circuit Court in Gbarnga, Bong County has adjudicated 44 cases in 2019, Bong County Attorney Jonathan Flomo says.

Providing a brief synopsis of the judiciary’s activities in

the County over the past ten months, Mr. Flomo told the press that from February to November 2019, the court disposed of 44 cases by means of various disposition methods.

Among cases disposed of, Attorney Flomo names full trial, confessed judgment, prosecution dismissal and

plea bargaining.

The Bong County Chief prosecutor says out of the 44 cases, there were seven murder cases, four statutory rape cases, two armed robbery cases, ten aggravated assault cases, three manslaughter cases, and one illegal trafficking in drug, among others.

He reveals that prosecution lost three cases. Further, he details that over the same period, prosecution secured indictment for 62 cases.

Attorney Flomo continues that the criminal docket has increased from 45 in February 2019 to 63 as of November 2019.

“We want to use this special occasion to once again thank the American Government, specifically the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for assisting us in the SataBinda murder case, which was a landmark case for the prosecutorial team of Bong County and Liberia at large,” he continues.

“The history we made and the record we set in this case has raised the standard and set the bar very high in our resolve to administer justice in terms

## EFF condemns police’s

Cont’d from page 6

Representative YekehKolubah,” the EFFL says.

It notes that as an institution, EFFL is not clothed with the authority to render judgment, but it is constrained to ask certain questions such as where was the vehicle parked before it was taken to the LNP headquarters?

“Was the vehicle locked up? If yes, how did the Police get access to the vehicle? If no, how did the police drive the vehicle from the alleged crime scene? Who exactly drove the

vehicle from the alleged crime scene?” the EFFL wonders.

The group says the answers provided by the appropriate authorities will lead to a clearer understanding of how the weapons got into the vehicle.

The EFFL is encourages all parties that are involved to exercise restraints as they engage “this incompetent regime under the leadership of Ex-Soccer legend President George M. Weah.” --*Press release*



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of getting to the truth in a scientific fashion,” he stresses further.

Additionally, the Bong County Attorney says prosecution will continue to do its best to serve the people of the County by being robust in prosecuting all criminal cases.

He however appeals to citizens and residents to remain law abiding.

Attorney Flomoapplaus all

city solicitors assigned in various magisterial courts around the county for working tirelessly in the pursuit of justice.

“I, also like to thank the judges, magistrates and the public defenders for their unflinching support and cooperation during the year under review,” he concludes.--*Edited by Winston W. Parley*

# Français

## Des milliers de personnes manifestent contre George Weah à Monrovia

**A**utorisée in extremis par le gouvernement, la manifestation contre l'aggravation de la crise économique a réuni environ 3 000 Libériens lundi dans la capitale, à l'approche du deuxième anniversaire de la présidence de George Weah.

Le gouvernement avait indiqué fin décembre qu'il n'autoriserait pas de manifestation avant fin janvier. Le collectif instigateur de la protestation, soutenu par l'opposition, s'était dit résolu à braver l'interdiction.

Soumis aux pressions internationales, le gouvernement libérien a fini par autoriser la manifestation dimanche soir, selon la porte-parole du ministère de la Justice Maude Somah.

Des magasins ont fermé par crainte de violences et les policiers ont dévié la circulation du centre ville. Mais c'est dans le calme que les manifestants se sont rassemblés auprès du siège du parlement, déployant des banderoles proclamant « Marchons pour la justice ».

Manifestation pacifique



Henry Costa, populaire animateur de radio et farouche détracteur de George Weah, a insisté sur le caractère pacifique de la protestation, alors que le gouvernement avait invoqué le risque de dérapage pour justifier de ne pas autoriser la manifestation.

« Je suis dans la rue en ce moment même. Il n'y a pas d'armes, aucun policier ne court après personne », a écrit sur les réseaux sociaux Henry Costa, leader du Conseil des

patriotes, qui appelait à manifester.

Ce collectif d'associations de la société civile, réunissant une partie de la jeunesse qui a porté George Weah au pouvoir en janvier 2018, avait déjà fait descendre pacifiquement dans la rue en juin 2019 des milliers de déçus du footballeur devenu président.

Une nouvelle manifestation fin juillet 2019 avait donné lieu

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9

## George Weah a-t-il déjà échoué

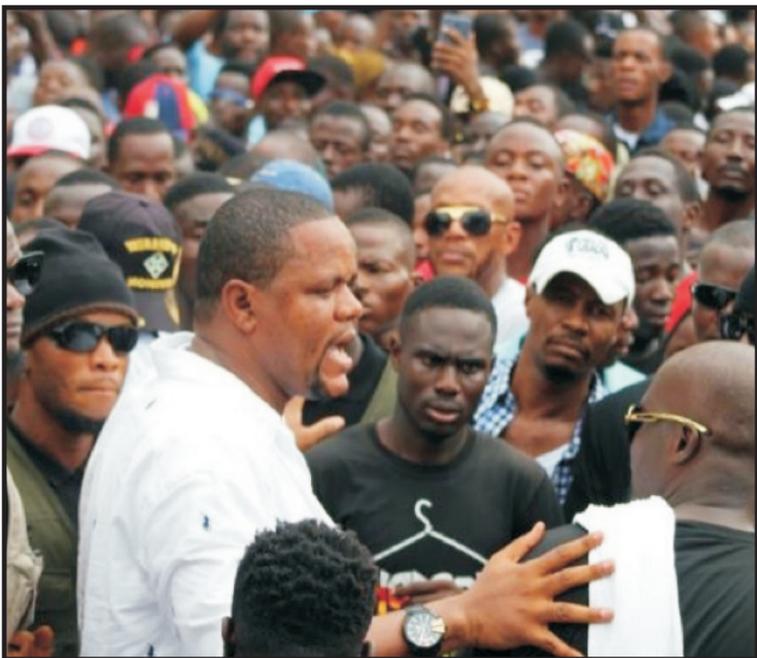
**L**e président libérien Georges Weah, ancien footballeur arrivait au pouvoir en janvier 2018. A son avènement, le footballeur de 52 ans avait promis de rompre avec le passé et d'amorcer une reprise économique salvatrice. Mais après deux années de présidence et de président, l'ancien athlète avait dû faire face à de graves scandales financiers et une autre récession économique

persistante. Pour des associations de la société civile, le président aurait fait montre d'incapacité et réclamait sa démission. Une gouvernance contestée

En août 2018, de nombreux scandales éclaboussaient la nouvelle administration Weah dont celui plus important de la Banque Centrale libérienne, où cinq dirigeants de l'institution avaient été arrêtés et jugés pour « Blanchiment d'argent »

et « détournement de fonds ». Des problèmes qui ajoutés à une crise économique profonde, aurait induit un contexte de frustration populaire croissante. Les nombreux espoirs suscités par l'arrivée d'un politique atypique au pouvoir, s'étant rapidement transformés en déceptions.

Cela aurait conduit à des manifestations de masse contre le président dès juin 2019. Alors qu'en Juillet, le parti du président Weah perdait les élections partielles locales dans son fief à Montserrado. Début décembre, le Conseil Indépendant des patriotes, une « coalition d'organisations de la société civile » dans un communiqué déclarait que trois mois de vaines attentes tout en étant témoin d'une économie qui allait se détériorant, avaient achevé de les convaincre que « le président Weah ne se souciait pas du bien-être du peuple libérien » et que sa politique gouvernementale n'avait aucun effet. Et La coalition d'appeler encore ce lundi, à une manifestation pacifique nationale « non-stop » pour « exiger la démission inconditionnelle du président George M. Weah en tant que



## BURKINA FASO : TERRORISME : PLUS DE 250 CIVILS TUÉS PAR LES DJIHADISTES DEPUIS AVRIL 2019

C'est ce qui ressort d'un rapport publié sur le site internet de l'ONG internationale Human Right Watch. Les civils tués ont été victimes d'attaques ciblées et d'exécutions extrajudiciaires. Ces criminels djihadistes qui endeuillent le peuple burkinabè!

(New York) - Au Burkina Faso, depuis avril 2019, des groupes islamistes armés ont tué plus de 250 civils dans des attaques ciblées et des exécutions sommaires, a déclaré Human Rights Watch aujourd'hui. Des témoins ont affirmé que les assaillants tentaient de justifier leurs meurtres en établissant un lien entre leurs victimes et le gouvernement, l'Occident ou la foi chrétienne. La recrudescence d'attaques, ces derniers mois, a amené des centaines de milliers de civils à fuir leurs domiciles.

Les groupes islamistes armés responsables des attaques ont commencé leurs opérations au Mali, au-delà de la frontière, avant de les poursuivre au Burkina Faso à partir de 2016. Au départ, les attaques étaient concentrées dans la région du

Sahel, dans le nord du pays, puis elles se sont propagées de façon continue vers les régions du Nord, du Centre-Nord, de la Boucle du Mouhoun et de l'Est. Les groupes armés ont principalement recruté leurs membres parmi les communautés nomades Peul ou Fulanis, en exploitant leurs récriminations sur la pauvreté et la corruption du secteur public. Cela a attisé les tensions avec les autres communautés, largement agraires, notamment les Mossis, les Songhai, les Foulés, et les Gourmantche, qui ont été les victimes de la plupart des attaques.

« Au Burkina Faso, les groupes armés islamistes ont attaqué des civils avec une extrême cruauté, sans le moindre égard pour la vie humaine », a déclaré Corinne Dufka, directrice de Human Rights Watch pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest. « Cibler délibérément des agriculteurs, des fidèles, des employés des mines, des personnes déplacées et des commerçants, ce sont des crimes de guerre. »...lire la suite en cliquant sur ce lien :

## Les dirigeants ivoiriens négocieraient en cachette avec les chefs de guerre libériens, à en croire Junior Gbagbo

Sachez que même les dirigeants de notre pays négocient en cachette avec les chefs de guerre libériens

Junior GBAGBO : « En 2013, les militaires libériens à leur frontière LIBERIA - COTE D'IVOIRE en avaient marre des comportements bêtes et sales des FRCI et les dozos en poste à la frontière du côté de la Côte d'Ivoire. Les militaires libériens ne les considéraient pas comme des militaires réguliers. Donc dès qu'un FRCI passait du côté de la frontière libérienne, il était frappé et blessé. Il y avait donc une tension à la frontière. Pendant ce temps moi j'étais en exil à Accra, Hamed Bakayoko ne faisait que m'appeler et m'embrouiller me demandant pardon jusqu'à me suppliant de rentrer au pays et de venir travailler avec le gouvernement Ouattara en vue de les aider à calmer la tension du Côté de la frontière. Je refusais à chaque fois et je lui répétais à chaque fois que je ne peux pas venir travailler avec eux car je ne veux pas trahir mon GBAGBO. Ma femme en avait également marre de

leurs appels. L'ONUCL puis le gouvernement libérien sont entrés en contact avec moi afin de les aider à ramener la paix du côté de la frontière car seul moi pouvais gérer ça. J'ai reçu donc un coup de fil de l'Etat libérien m'assurant de toutes les garanties mais j'ai exigé ne pas passer par la cote d'Ivoire car tant que mon GBAGBO n'est pas rentré je ne mettrai pas pied en Côte d'Ivoire. Je me suis donc rendu fin 2013 à la frontière du Liberia avec la cote d'Ivoire. (Voir photos jointes.) J'étais en civil accompagné des Onusiens et ceux qui étaient en civils étaient mes gars. J'ai passé près de 9 mois labà et j'y ai rétabli l'ordre. Hamed Bakayoko voulait me remettre l'argent j'ai dit NON. Il a voulu corrompre les soldats libériens ils ont jeté son argent. Des temps après, on m'annonce l'arrivée de Ouattara à la frontière du Liberia puisque le calme était revenu. Hamed Bakayoko a demandé à ses hommes et à l'ONUCL de me faire partir car si je vois Ouattara je risque de le tuer... Je n'ai pas trahi GBAGBO.

président du Libéria». Selon des chiffres d'organisations internationales, alors que les projections de l'administration Weah étaient d'atteindre 1,4%

en 2019 au lieu des 1,2% de 2018 ; l'inflation au Libéria aurait

# Français

## Des milliers de personnes manifestent

à des heurts.

À moins de trois semaines du deuxième anniversaire de sa présidence, George Weah, ancienne star du PSG et du Milan AC, peine à tenir les promesses de résorption de la pauvreté et de lutte contre la corruption qui ont contribué à son élection, alors que son pays se débat avec l'inflation et la dévaluation de sa monnaie.

Il convient de rappeler que le vendredi 7 juin, des milliers de manifestants avaient défilé devant le Capitole, le siège du pouvoir législatif du Libéria pour exiger plusieurs réformes au sein du régime du président Weah, face aux allégations de corruption massive. Mais les manifestants n'avaient pas pu présenter leurs doléances à cause d'un mal attendu, promettant ainsi lors d'une conférence de presse du lundi 10 juin de redescendre dans la rue.

Le gouvernement Weah et les organisateurs de la manifestation très médiatisée du 7 juin étaient parvenus à un accord selon lequel ils (les manifestants) auraient présenté leur pétition à la vice-présidente Jewel Howard Taylor, l'épouse de l'ancien président Charles Taylor emprisonné, mais cette dernière n'avait pas pu faire le déplacement pour recevoir la pétition des manifestants pour, dit-on, cause de malaise.

À la dernière heure, le gouvernement avait désigné le ministre de la Justice, Musa Dean, qui était accompagné du ministre des Affaires étrangères Gbehzongar Finley et des responsables de la CEDEAO, mais les manifestants les avaient rejetés, insistant sur la présence de soit le président Weah, ou de la vice-présidente Taylor, et exigeant la mise en liberté d'un certain nombre d'étudiants arrêtés avant la manifestation.

N'ayant pas pu présenter leur pétition le 7 juin, la COP avait convoqué une conférence de presse le lundi 10 juin, date à laquelle ils avaient rendu publiques leurs demandes au gouvernement de M. Weah. Parmi leurs revendications figuraient des réformes dans tous les secteurs du gouvernement. Cela comprenait l'état de droit, la sécurité, la santé, l'éducation et l'agriculture.

« Nous avons une liste de demandes. Nous avons identifié des problèmes et

nous avons fait des suggestions pour aller de l'avant. C'est sans choix », avait déclaré le sénateur Darius Dillon, alors candidat à l'élection sénatoriale partielle de Montserrado.

Ces demandes comprenaient, par exemple, la création d'un tribunal des crimes de guerre, une action claire et précise sur l'économie, y compris une action contre l'inflation à deux chiffres, et la demande d'explications sur la disparition présumée de 16 milliards de dollars libériens ainsi que sur la gestion de 25 millions de dollars américains décaissés pour lutter contre l'inflation.

Y a-t-il eu d'autres manifestations à part celle du COP ?

Le gouvernement de M. Weah a dû faire face à plusieurs autres manifestations.

Le 15 octobre 2019, plusieurs élèves étaient descendus dans la rue pour exiger le retour de leurs enseignants dans les salles de classe, un jour après que les enseignants des écoles publiques avaient déposé leurs craies pour réclamer le versement des arriérés de salaires. Les enseignants avaient pris les mesures nécessaires un jour avant le début des tests prévus.

Le 17 octobre, des étudiants de l'Université du Libéria étaient également descendus dans la rue pour exiger la présence de leurs professeurs dans les salles de classe après que les professeurs aient également déposé leurs craies. Cela avait eu pour conséquence le limogeage du président de l'UL, le Dr Antoinette Weeks.

Le 30 octobre, le Consortium des organisations de travailleurs du secteur public du Libéria, un groupe comprenant des agents de santé, des enseignants des écoles publiques et tous les fonctionnaires, avait menacé d'entamer un mouvement de grève générale si le gouvernement ne payait pas tous leurs arriérés de salaires avant le 31 octobre 2019.

Le lundi 16 décembre, des centaines de soldats des Forces armées du Libéria (AFL) dissous avait eux aussi prévu d'organiser un rassemblement général à Monrovia.

Comment le président Weah a-t-il géré cette situation ?

L'incapacité du président Weah à répondre à ces

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Kenneth Rogoff

### Le débat indispensable sur les inégalités

CAMBRIDGE - Alors que les habitants des économies les plus riches du monde débattent de l'avenir de la classe moyenne, plus de 800 millions de personnes dans le monde n'ont pas accès à l'électricité. Plus de deux milliards ne disposent pas d'appareils de cuisson salubres, ce qui les oblige à utiliser des alternatives toxiques comme les déjections animales comme principal combustible de cuisine. En outre, les émissions de dioxyde de carbone par habitant en Europe et aux États-Unis sont encore beaucoup plus élevées qu'en Chine et en Inde. Quel droit ont les Américains, en particulier, de se plaindre quand la Chine augmente la production dans les industries traditionnelles pour contrer le ralentissement économique causé par sa guerre commerciale avec les États-Unis ? Pour de nombreuses personnes en Asie, le débat centré sur lui-même de l'Occident semble souvent borné et hors sujet.

Même si l'Europe et les États-Unis mettaient délibérément au point mort leurs moteurs de croissance capitalistes - comme certaines propositions politiques les plus radicales pourraient le faire si on les appliquait - cela ne suffirait pas à contenir le réchauffement climatique si les économies émergentes restaient sur leur trajectoire actuelle de croissance de la consommation.

Les dernières données en date des Nations Unies suggèrent que le monde est déjà parvenu à un point critique où il y a peu de chances de limiter l'augmentation de la température mondiale à ce que les climatologues considèrent comme le seuil de sécurité de 1,5°C au-dessus des niveaux préindustriels. En fait, une augmentation significativement plus importante est probable. Selon un rapport récent du Fonds monétaire international, limiter le réchauffement climatique même à 2°C exigerait un prix mondial du carbone d'au moins 75 à 100 dollars par tonne de CO<sub>2</sub> - soit plus du double de son niveau actuel - d'ici 2030.

Toute solution au problème nécessite deux parties interconnectées. La première et la plus importante est une taxe mondiale sur les émissions de CO<sub>2</sub>, afin de décourager les activités qui aggravent le réchauffement climatique et d'encourager l'innovation. Une égalisation du prix des émissions de CO<sub>2</sub> à l'échelle mondiale permettrait d'éliminer les distorsions qui permettraient à une entreprise américaine de choisir, par exemple, de délocaliser sa production la plus polluante en carbone vers la Chine. En outre, une taxe mondiale sur le carbone permettrait de réaliser d'un seul coup ce que la myriade de mesures de mesures d'injonction et de contrôle ne peuvent pas facilement reproduire.

La deuxième composante essentielle est un mécanisme qui oblige les économies émergentes et moins développées à adhérer aux politiques de réduction des émissions, ce qui peut être très coûteux en termes de croissance sacrifiée. Ces dernières années, la plus importante contribution à l'augmentation mondiale des émissions de CO<sub>2</sub> a été celle de l'Asie à croissance rapide, où une nouvelle centrale à charbon se construit chaque semaine. Pour les économies avancées, où les centrales à charbon sont en service en moyenne depuis 45 ans, la suppression progressive de ces installations est la mesure la plus facile à mettre en œuvre en termes de réduction des émissions de CO<sub>2</sub>. Mais en Asie, où l'âge moyen des centrales à charbon n'est que de 12 ans, sans aide extérieure, il est pratiquement impossible de faire disparaître ces centrales à coups de taxes.

Oui, l'Europe et les États-Unis peuvent imposer des taxes carbone aux frontières aux pays en développement qui ne respectent pas leurs normes. Mais au-delà des défis techniques qui en résultent, cela soulève des questions d'équité, compte tenu des profondes inégalités mondiales en matière d'énergie. Une idée prometteuse, que j'ai suggérée précédemment, consisterait à créer une Banque mondiale du carbone qui se spécialiserait dans les questions de transition énergétique et qui fournirait une assistance technique et financière aux pays pauvres et à revenus moyens.

En principe, soit une taxe carbone, soit un système de quotas, comme celui que l'Europe a institué, peuvent fonctionner. Mais comme feu l'économiste Martin Weitzman l'a montré dans son œuvre d'avant-garde du début des années 1970, il existe des subtilités importantes selon la nature des incertitudes. Par exemple (et en simplifiant énormément), si les scientifiques ont une idée assez précise de la quantité cumulative d'émissions de CO<sub>2</sub> que la planète peut tolérer entre aujourd'hui et 2100, et si les économistes ne sont pas très sûrs de la trajectoire des prix qui inciterait les pays et les entreprises à respecter ces limites, alors il existe des arguments convaincants en faveur de quotas (négociables). Selon d'autres hypothèses quant à la nature des incertitudes liées aux coûts et aux avantages, une taxe carbone est préférable.

Une question que Weitzman n'a pas prise en compte est que les accords de taxe sur le carbone risquent d'être plus transparents et plus faciles à surveiller que les quotas, ce qui est particulièrement important dans le cas du commerce international. Il y a de bonnes raisons pour lesquelles une succession d'accords de réduction des droits de douane multi-pays après la seconde Guerre mondiale a cherché à supprimer les contraintes réglementaires et quantitatives et à les remplacer par des tarifs douaniers relativement simples. En outre, les taxes sur le carbone pourraient générer des revenus importants pour soutenir la recherche verte, pour dédommager les ménages à faibles revenus dans les pays pour assumer les coûts de transition (par exemple, en donnant aux propriétaires de voitures des incitations à revendre leurs vieux « tacots » et en achetant des véhicules plus économes en carburant) et en finançant les transferts des pays riches vers les pays pauvres grâce à un mécanisme comme la Banque mondiale du carbone. Les quotas pourraient, en principe, être mis aux enchères pour atteindre le même objectif, mais ils sont souvent offerts gratuitement.

Dans la pratique, presque tous les 40 pays qui ont établi des prix nationaux du carbone l'ont fait indirectement, par le biais de quotas. Les décideurs européens sont particulièrement enthousiastes quant à cette approche, en soutenant qu'elle est beaucoup plus acceptable sur le plan politique que l'introduction d'une taxe carbone. Mais il n'est pas du tout clair que la même chose soit vraie pour un système mondial, où la transparence est de mise. À mesure que le coût des taxes à effets de distorsion et des quotas augmente, il est logique de s'aligner sur le système le plus efficace possible.

Les preuves scientifiques indiquent de plus en plus que le monde pourrait bientôt atteindre un point de non-retour sur le changement climatique. Ainsi, plutôt que de se soucier presque exclusivement des inégalités économiques et politiques, les citoyens des pays riches doivent commencer à réfléchir à la manière de gérer les inégalités énergétiques mondiales avant qu'il ne soit trop tard.

## ARTICLE

## ARTICLE

# Uprooting Corruption: Cosmetic Politics Or Total Overhaul Of Corruption

*Pastor Torli H. Krua*

**H**ave you ever wondered what is really wrong with Liberia? Why is it that Africa's oldest republic is always stuck in underdevelopment, endemic corruption, ritualistic killings, impassable roads, excessive salaries of lawmakers and officials, skyrocketing unemployment, terrible economic mess and always relying on international partners for everything? Easy. Liberia's disappointing state of affairs is not an accident. Liberia was designed to be a place where the political leaders are empowered and enriched to the detriment of the people. Worse, the system of governance in Liberia was designed to keep Africans as slaves for ever and trap Liberian Citizens in poverty and misery under the control of White American Slave Masters.

To reverse Liberia's two centuries of misery for citizens and prosperity for politicians, we need a new constitution designed by ordinary citizens, not by politicians. A constitution that empowers the people, provides equal opportunities, justice and ends representative democracy, replacing it with participatory democracy.

Replacement of one politician with another while keeping the old corrupt system intact have yielded the same results for two hundred years; more corruption! Proof: Aftermath of changing political leaders in 1822, 1841, 1871, 1980, 1997, 2005, 2017...Without question, our system is broken and corrupt by design! But isn't it incredible that not a single Liberian politician has suggested a complete overhaul or changing our system of governance which was clearly broken and corrupt by design two centuries ago?

Where is the source of corruption in Liberia? The United States of America is the undisputed source of corruption in Liberia. Most of the political leaders of Liberia are American Citizens or agents of the CIA. The United States of America, Liberia's de facto colonial power has long held erroneously that Liberia is not an American Colony but a country founded by freed American Slaves. America lied because American Slaves could not have created Liberia in 1822 when the slaves were not freed until after the Civil War on January 1, 1863. In fact, the American Colonization Society (ACS) was founded in 1816 to remove and illegally colonize mixed race and Black Americans. And the American Settlers arrived in 1822 in what became Liberia! In fact, high ranking United States Government officials who were also white supremacists and slave owners specifically created Liberia to protect their property (African Slaves and the dehumanizing institution of American Slavery).

The purpose of the ACS was not to liberate slaves but to disenfranchise and oppress all Americans who were not white (mixed race and free Black Americans) aka 'free men of color' in subjugation and misery forever in a remote American Colony in Africa, never to return. Misery in Liberia is an ongoing crime against humanity, two centuries in the making, thanks to America! That is why America must allow Liberians of American Descent to return home if they so desire without visa requirements and why the United States must also pay damages for the excesses of their dehumanizing racial colonization of Americans that still ravages lives in America and Liberia two hundred years after Congress paid the American Colonization Society \$100,000.00 to colonize all mixed race and free Black American Citizens

According to documents from the Library of Congress of the United States, the idea of Liberia did not originate within the community of "free men of color" (mixed race and free Black Americans). America's racial colonization was created by high ranking American Government Officials who were white supremacists and slave owners with the goal of protecting their property (African Slaves) and oppressing mixed race and free Black Americans forever in the American Colony they created in West Africa.

Evidenced by the records of the 2nd annual report of the American Colonization Society (ACS) filed at the Library of Congress, keeping African Slaves in America in bondage forever was one of the main objectives of the ACS: "If, as is most confidently believed, the colonization of the free people of colour, will render the slave who remains in America more obedient, more faithful, more honest, and, consequently, more useful to his master, is it proper to regard this happy



consequence to both, as the sole object which the Society hope to attain..."

In the first 20 years, the colony of Liberia was not governed by free men of color or mixed race Americans but exclusively by white folks. The ACS itself was governed not by Black Americans or mixed race Americans but by white slave owners who never freed their slaves. Not only did Congress pay the ACS \$100,000 to colonize Americans based on their race, the American flag was proudly hoisted over the colony of Liberia, making all actions and excesses of the brutal colonization wholly owned by the United States of America. Liberia was a US Naval Base.

The system of representative democracy in Liberia is broken and corrupt not by accident but by design. It was designed by American Slave Masters to keep Africans enslaved in America and oppress free color people in the colony of Liberia subjugated under white leadership.

Decolonization and liberation of Liberia is the only way to give Liberia a fresh start. All the colonial names Europeans gave African countries and cities were changed after liberation. Why do we still have Monrovia, named after a slave owner and President of the United States who illegally colonized American Citizens because of their race? Why do we still have Bushrod Island, named after a white supremacists and Associate Justice of the US Supreme Court who sold 54 African Slaves because they wanted to escape slavery? Why do we still fly the American Flag when 22 million citizens from 38 countries enter the US yearly without a visa but the US Embassy illegally make millions of dollars from Liberians wrongly deny visa to visit the country built by the blood, sweat and tears of their ancestors? Liberia's founding fathers were white supremacists and slave masters. The United States of America is in partnership with current Liberian politicians who are running the business established by the American Colonization Society two hundred years ago because Congress invested \$100,000 to remove and colonize all mixed race and free Black Americans in order to prevent slave revolt and protect the property

of political leaders. No wonder while Liberians are crying from excessive salaries and benefits of Liberian lawmakers and politicians, America doesn't complain because its citizens and agents are working according to the grand old design of colonization of Americans based on race. Stay tuned for how to decolonize Liberia.

A pastor and human rights activist, Torli was instrumental in lobbying with US congressmen and policymakers to increase the quota of refugees from Africa being allowed into the US. He has also worked tirelessly in the New England region and beyond to champion the rights of refugees and immigrants. His organization, Universal Human Rights International, worked with thousands of immigrants from 38 different countries over the span of 30 years. He has been honored by the National Peace Corps Association and the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild.

# Trademark of tyranny

The opposition Alternative National Congress or ANC has condemned the move by riot police to disperse protesters using teargas canisters and hot water resulting into injuries.

On Monday thousands of protesters led by the Council of Patriots or CoP came under intense teargas firing and hot water pouring after an attempt by riot police to prevent them (protesters) from cooking in the streets turned nasty.

The protesters had gathered as planned after resisting calls from Ambassadors of the United States, European Union, ECOWAS and UN Residence Coordinator to set their protest date over the weekend of January 4.

The protest was relatively peaceful from the morning hours till late evening until the protesters decided to cook on giant size coal pot in front of both the Executive



Mansion and the Capitol Building the home of the National Legislature.

"This is an act of tyranny and a clear trademark of tyrants who subject their people to fear, suffering, injury and death," the

opposition ANC said in a press statement issued late Monday after reports that what was described as a peaceful protest had ended in chaos.

"We strongly condemn today's act of violence by the Government of Liberia against

peaceful citizens participating in the Jan 6, 2020 protest organized by the Council of Patriots. This government, having informed citizens of the provision of security for the duration of the protest, failed to do so when it chose to use the same security to launch tear gas and spray hot water on our people." The party lamented.

It said the act on the part of the government is intended to abrogate the constitutional right of assembly guaranteed to citizens of this nation and sets the precedence for future use of arbitrary decisions to revoke the constitution in part or in whole. "It is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," the ANC added.

The party said it found the excuse given by the government through the Ministry of Information that the use of force was necessitated by the cooking of food for protestors on the side of the street at the protest site unfounded.

"It is common sense that where large groups of people are gathered, there will be the need to provide food and water to them. Hence, in our December 28, 2019 press release, we called on the government and the COP to negotiate the logistics of the protest which also covers the provision of food and water. Had these logistical issues

been discussed and agreed upon, the violence which occurred today may not have happened. The government bears full responsibility for inflicting harm and injury on its citizens who for hours remained peaceful during their protest. The right of peaceful assembly given to Liberians as prescribed in our constitution cannot not be abrogated by any government unless under a state of emergency." Said the ANC.

The party said it was also concern over media reports indicating that the Liberian National Police(LNP) had confiscated guns and other illegal items from the vehicle of its Lawmaker Rep. Yekeh Koluba.

"While it is the right of the police to investigate crimes or the allegations thereof, we want to let them know that we will not accept any attempt to frame our partisan or innocent citizens of crimes with the intent to quiet them through bogus charges and imprisonment. The opposition will not be silenced," the party warned.

"We will continue to hold this government accountable and where necessary, exhaust all alternative measures to ensuring that they address the plight of our people. Again, Liberia is all we have and as a party, the ANC shall continue to guide against the government's misuse of its power and authority to oppress our people or any attempt to derail our peace," it concluded.

## CoP has hidden agenda

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change Chairman Mulbah Morlu, says organizers of Monday's (January 06, 2020) protest had hidden agenda that was bigger than mere protest.

Addressing a news conference in Monrovia Tuesday, January 7, Chairman Morlu noted that for protesters under mandate from their leaders to have lit fire on the grounds of the Capitol where they had assembled suggest their plans were deep.

He says nowhere in history where protesters will carry fire at such a national premises, but only in Liberia due to tolerance of President George Manneh Weah.

"Today, protesters can take the streets of Monrovia without being harassed by security forces; during our struggle under President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf regime, I was jailed 14 times only for speaking against power. But they took fire to grounds that play host to the Executive Mansion, Temple of Justice, the Capitol Building, the Foreign Affairs and Information Ministries and the University of Liberia, without being arrested. They should be grateful to President Weah for this kind modern democracy that Liberians enjoy today," the ruling Coalition Chair asserts.

According to him, despite the much publicized protest, the CoP could not bring 1000 persons in the streets, saying,

"The threats that they are coming to the streets was proven with less than 1000 persons. I mean four political parties, including the former ruling Unity Party, the All Liberian Party, the Liberty Party and the Alternative National Congress failed to pull the crowd."

Morlu continues that due to the low turnout, the leadership resulted to creating chaotic scene by bringing coal pots in the premises of the Executive Mansion, something which it knew would not be accepted by the police.

He laments that since the inception of the Weah administration, the CDC-government has being greeted with more protests than any previous administration in the history of the country and whenever protesters take the streets, the government provides security.

Meanwhile, Chairman Morlu calls on the Minister of Justice, Cllr. Frank Musa Dean to invite Representative Yekeh Kolubah and the head of CoP, Henry Costa for questioning in regards to separate statements allegedly made by the two gentlemen that threaten the peace and stability of the country.

Commenting on claim by the Liberia National Police that it discovered fire arms in a car that belongs to Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah, he says government should take the matter serious, on grounds that Representative Kolubah is



a former rebel.

Rep. Kolubah fought during the 14 years of civil crisis as a member of the defunct National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) rebels. He subsequently headed the Special Operations Division of the Liberia National Police during the regime of jailed ex-President Charles Taylor.

The much publicized January 06 protest organized by the Council of Patriots ended in chaos after officers of the Liberia National Police fired teargas and water cannon at protesters on the grounds of the Capitol in Monrovia.

Protesters had peacefully assembled early morning hours until the leadership of the CoP headed by talk show host

Henry Costa, Mo Ali, Montserrado County Senator Darios Dillon and Representative Yekeh Kolubah approved the cooking of food on the grounds of the Capitol opposite the Executive Mansion, official home of the Presidency.

Despite an appeal from the National Human Rights Commission for protesters to abandon their plan to light fire and cook food at the Capitol because it is a sacred premises, they insisted on preparing their food on grounds that they were hungry, having been out for the entire day without food. But the police forcibly dispersed the crowd, leading to several injuries and arrests. **-Editing by Jonathan Browne**



# Peaceful protest turns nasty



By Winston W. Parley

A peaceful mass protest in Monrovia turned violent Monday, 6 June after joint state security agents teargassed peaceful protesters during reported disagreements with the protesters over their demand to cook, eat and sleep at their protest site on Capitol Hill.

The Council of Patriots

(COP) which led similar mass protest on June 7, 2019 to demand reforms in President George Manneh Weah's government, also led the 6 January 2020 protest in followup to their demands on several things.

The COP wants President Weah to dismiss some of his key cabinet officials, publish his assets, and to give the outcome into audit on the

infusion of US\$25m into the economy to mop - up excess liquidity, among others.

Following weeks of threats from a pro -government group to stage a counter protest on the same day of COP's assembly, international partners' intervention saved the country from possible chaos by prevailing on the COP to suspend its assembly ahead of 30 December, the original date it set for the protest.

After the joint securities' move on Monday which affected protesters, some journalists and bystanders, the head of COP and radio talk show host Henry P. Costa told journalists that "... our people were peaceful until they were provoked and teargassed, and several of them wounded, we are being told."

He challenges police's claim that they found firearms in two vehicles allegedly belonging to opposition lawmaker Rep. Yekeh Kolubah, a key member of the COP and fierce critic of President Weah and his regime.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 6



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# Caldwell residents close to getting electricity

By Student Margaret Kris Topor  
 (Department of Mass Communication,  
 University of Liberia ID# 92043)

Anxious residents of Caldwell Township, Montserrado County appear to be bracing themselves to receive electricity in the township for the first time since the area was disconnected like many parts of Liberia, as a result of destruction during the Liberian Civil War in the 90s.

Authorities from the

Liberia Electricity Corporation have begun to erect light-poles and transformers along the streets of Caldwell, connecting hundreds of private homes in readiness for the restoration of power to the Monrovia suburb that leads to the Mount Coffee Hydro Plant in Louisiana, Montserrado.



The Mount Coffee Hydro Plant

The restless residents had protested and erected roadblocks on several occasions, demanding restoration of electricity but their agitations were met with promises upon promises, and at one moment, drew attention of the Management of the Liberia Electricity Corporation.

Though an exact date for the Caldwell residents to receive electricity is still

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 6

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