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Continental News

6 French Aid Workers Among 8 Killed by Gunmen in Niger

Six French aid workers with the nongovernmental organization ACTED and their local guide and driver were killed Sunday by gunmen riding motorcycles in an area of southwestern Niger that is home to the last West African giraffes, officials said.

The six worked for the international aid group, Niger's Defense Minister Issoufou Katambé told Reuters. Officials had earlier described them as tourists.

"Among the eight people killed in Niger, several are ACTED employees," said Joseph Brehm, an NGO lawyer.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the assault.

French President Emmanuel Macron denounced "the deadly attack which cowardly hit a group of humanitarian workers" in Niger and said in a statement Sunday the attack will be investigated.

Macron, who spoke Sunday with his Nigerian counterpart Mahamadou Issoufou, added that "their determination to

continue the common fight against terrorist groups in the Sahel" remained intact.

The president "expresses his condolences and the support of the French nation to the families and relatives of the victims," the statement said.

It is believed to be the first such attack on Western tourists in the area, a popular attraction

in the former French colony thanks to its unique population of West African or Niger giraffes.

A source close to Niger's environmental services said the assault took place around 11:30 a.m. (1030 GMT) 6 kilometers (4 miles) east of the town of Koure, which is an hour's drive from the capital,



President Emmanuel Macron confirmed the French deaths

Ethiopia defence minister suspended from politburo

Ethiopian Defence Minister Lemma Megerssa and two other top officials have been temporarily suspended from the ruling Prosperity Party's central committee.

Mr Lemma was once a close ally of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed and a key figure in the

country's political and economic reform over the past few years.

Prior to being appointed as a defence minister he was the head of the country's most populous state, Oromia.

But last November, Mr Lemma publicly criticised the prime minister's efforts to

reorganise and rebrand the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) - a coalition of four ethnic based parties that has been in power since the early 1990s.

The EPRDF was renamed as the Prosperity Party.

He also cast doubts on Mr Abiy's philosophy of Medemer (coming together).

The announcement of his suspension comes after the Oromia wing of the ruling party held a two-day summit in the wake of ethnic and religious violence that claimed the lives of more than 170 people.

A spokesperson for the party accused Mr Lemma of disregarding the party and his duties. It is not yet clear if Mr Lemma will continue holding the position of defence minister.

Teyba Hassen, who was Mr Lemma's deputy when he was head of Oromia state, is also among those suspended for reasons that are related to the recent violence, the spokesperson said. BBC



Lemma Megerssa was once a key ally of Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Image

poachers and predators in the Koure area.

Today they number in their hundreds and are a key tourist attraction, enjoying the protection of local people and conservation groups.

However the Tillaberi region is in a hugely unstable location, near the borders of Mali and Burkina Faso.

The region has become a hideout for Sahel jihadist groups such as the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS).

The use of motorcycles has been totally banned since January in an attempt to curb the movements of such jihadists. VOA

Nigerian singer sentenced to death for blasphemy

A musician in Nigeria's northern state of Kano has been sentenced to death by hanging for blaspheming against the Prophet Muhammad.

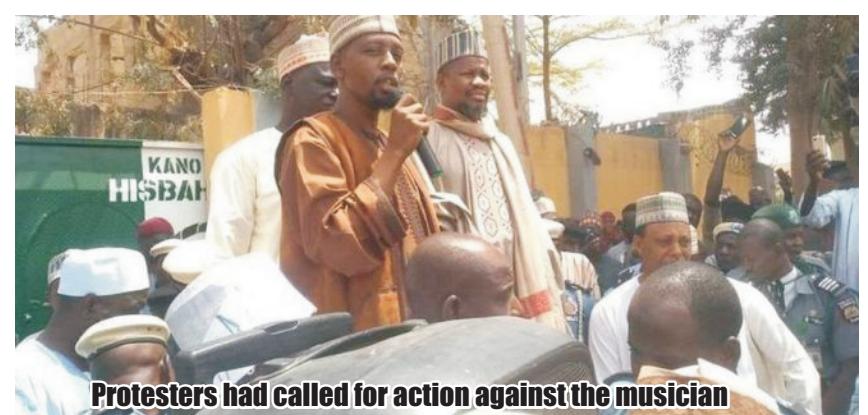
An upper Sharia court in the Hausawa Filin Hockey area of the state said Yahaya Sharif-Aminu, 22, was guilty of committing blasphemy for a song he circulated via WhatsApp in March.

Mr Sharif-Aminu did not deny the charges.

Judge Khadi Aliyu Muhammad Kani said he could

Critics said the song was blasphemous as it praised an imam to the extent it elevated him above the Prophet Muhammad. The leader of the protesters that called for the musician's arrest in March, Idris Ibrahim, told the BBC that the judgement will serve as a warning to others "contemplating toeing Yahaya's path". "When I heard about the judgment I was so happy because it showed our protest wasn't in vain."

"This [judgement] will



Protesters had called for action against the musician

serve as a deterrent to others who feel they could insult our religion or prophet and go scot-free," he said. The last time a Nigerian Sharia court passed a death sentence was in 2016 when Abdulazeez Inyass was sentenced to death for blaspheming against Islam during a secret trial in Kano.

Protestors had burnt down his family home and gathered outside the headquarters of the Islamic police, known as the Hisbah, demanding action against him. Death sentences are rare in northern Nigeria, where Sharia law is implemented alongside secular law in most states, says the BBC's Mansur Abubakar in Kano.

The sentence has however not been carried out as a death sentence in Nigeria requires the sign-off of the state governor. BBC

EDITORIAL

Bring the Zwedru's violence perpetrators to book speedily

FOREIGN MISSIONS IN LIBERIA recently called on the Weah administration to swiftly investigate the July 30 political violence in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County in an objective and non-partisan manner to bring all those culpable to justice.

THEY underscored THAT such action will send a clear signal that threats and violence have no place in the democratic dispensation the people of Liberia have established for their country.

THE UNITED NATIONS, ECOWAS, United States Embassy and the European Union in a joint statement issued in Monrovia expressed support for concern expressed by several Liberian groups specifically, the Inter-Religious Council, the Catholic Diocese of Cape Palmas, the Providence Baptist Church, the Grand Gedeh Legislative Caucus and other religious and political stakeholders, including President George Manneh Weah and his Government, over use of hate speech and mob violence, particularly recent violent attack against opposition politicians in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County.

IT IS ALMOST two weeks since hundreds of stone-throwing youths believed to be from the youth league of the governing Congress for Democratic Change chapter in Zwedru City, Grand Gedeh County besieged a local entertainment center, B-2 Guesthouse in the city on Thursday, 30 July and prevented the Chairman of the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) Alexander B. Cummings and Montserrado County District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah from stepping outside.

FOR MORE THAN five hours, angry youths joined by thugs armed with stones, sticks and cutlasses, attacked the guesthouse entertainment center, Hotel B-2 in the heart of Zwedru City, where Chairman Cummings, Representative Kolubah and members of their delegation lodged, threatening to lynch Rep. Kolubah for constantly ranting invectives at President George Manneh Weah, but Joint Security forces, led by troops of the Armed Forces of Liberia intervened, providing corridor for the opposition politicians to leave the county, known for its strong support for President Weah and his ruling Coalition for Democratic Change.

NEITHER THE RULING Coalition for Democratic Change nor the Government of Liberia condemned the violence immediately. It took President George Weah four days before he commented while attending worship at his own church, calling on his supporters not to engage in violence.

BUT WE JOIN the Foreign Missions in their call for speedy and impartial investigation to bring all those responsible before the law and allow justice to prevail. This would serve as deterrence to future attempt by any group to disrupt the current peace thru political violence.

WITH BARELY THREE months to midterm senatorial elections across Liberia on December 8, 2020, if the Zwedru's violence is swept under the rug like two previous bloody electoral violence in Montserrado County Electoral District#13 and District#15 respectively, it could send a very strong signal of what to expect in the pending polls.

WE DON'T WANT a continuous repeat of such attitude in our political dispensation that has a propensity to reverse the gains achieved in restoring this country to democratic governance and stability with help of the international community.

WE BELIEVE IT is in this light that the Foreign Missions called on the Weah administration to investigate speedily with objectivity and bring the matter to close so that the government would not be suspected of complacency, and by extension, condoning violent acts.



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+231-775407211 Managing Editor: Othello B. Garlah; Editor-In-Chief: Jonathan

COMMENTARY

America's Unholy Crusade Against China

Last month, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo delivered an anti-China speech that was extremist, simplistic, and dangerous. If biblical literalists like Pompeo remain in power past November, they could well bring the world to the brink of a war that they expect and perhaps even seek.

NEW YORK - Many white Christian evangelicals in the United States have long believed that America has a God-given mission to save the world. Under the influence of this crusading mentality, US foreign policy has often swerved from diplomacy to war. It is in danger of doing so again.

Last month, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo launched yet another evangelical crusade, this time against China. His speech was extremist, simplistic, and dangerous - and may well put the US on a path to conflict with China.

According to Pompeo, Chinese President Xi Jinping and the Communist Party of China (CPC) harbor a "decades-long desire for global hegemony." This is ironic. Only one country - the US - has a defense strategy calling for it to be the "preeminent military power in the world," with "favorable regional balances of power in the Indo-Pacific, Europe, the Middle East, and the Western Hemisphere." China's defense white paper, by contrast, states that "China will never follow the beaten track of big powers in seeking hegemony," and that, "As economic globalization, the information society, and cultural diversification develop in an increasingly multi-polar world, peace, development, and win-win cooperation remain the irreversible trends of the times."

One is reminded of Jesus's own admonition: "Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye" (Matthew 7:5). US military spending totaled \$732 billion in 2019, nearly three times the \$261 billion China spent.

The US, moreover, has around 800 overseas military bases, while China has just one (a small naval base in Djibouti). The US has many military bases close to China, which has none anywhere near the US. The US has 5,800 nuclear warheads; China has roughly 320. The US has 11 aircraft carriers; China has one. The US has launched many overseas wars in the past 40 years; China has launched none (though it has been criticized for border skirmishes, most recently with India, that stop short of war).

The US has repeatedly rejected or withdrawn from United Nations treaties and UN organizations in recent years, including UNESCO, the Paris climate agreement, and, most recently, the World Health Organization, while China supports UN processes and agencies. US President Donald Trump recently threatened the staff of the International Criminal Court with sanctions. Pompeo rails against China's clampdown on its mainly Muslim Uighur population, but Trump's former national security adviser, John Bolton, claims that Trump privately gave China's actions a pass, or even encouraged them.

The world took relatively little notice of Pompeo's speech, which offered no evidence to back up his claims of China's hegemonic ambition. China's rejection of US hegemony does not mean that China itself seeks hegemony. Indeed, outside of the US, there is little belief that China aims for global dominance. China's explicitly stated national goals are to be a "moderately prosperous society" by 2021 (the centenary of the CPC), and a "fully developed country" by 2049 (the centennial of the People's Republic).

Moreover, at an estimated \$10,098 in 2019, China's GDP per capita was less than one-sixth that of the US (\$65,112) - hardly the basis for global supremacy. China still has a lot of catching up to do to achieve even its basic economic development goals.

Assuming that Trump loses in November's presidential election, Pompeo's speech will likely receive no further notice. The Democrats will surely criticize China, but without Pompeo's brazen exaggerations. Yet, if Trump wins, Pompeo's speech could be a harbinger of chaos. Pompeo's evangelism is real, and white evangelicals are the political base of today's Republican Party.

Pompeo's zealous excesses have deep roots in American history. As I recounted in my recent book *A New Foreign Policy*, English protestant settlers believed that they were founding a New Israel in the new promised land, with God's providential blessings. In 1845, John O'Sullivan coined the phrase "Manifest Destiny" to justify and celebrate America's violent annexation of North America. "All this will be our future history," he wrote in 1839, "to establish on earth the moral dignity and salvation of man - the immutable truth and beneficence of God. For this blessed mission to the nations of the world, which are shut out from the life-giving light of truth, has America been chosen..."

On the basis of such exalted views of its own beneficence, the US engaged in mass enslavement until the Civil War and mass apartheid thereafter; slaughtered Native Americans throughout the nineteenth century and subjugated them thereafter; and, with the closure of the Western frontier, extended Manifest Destiny overseas. Later, with the onset of the Cold War, anti-communist fervor led the US to fight disastrous wars in Southeast Asia (Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia) in the 1960s and 1970s, and brutal wars in Central America in the 1980s.

After the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the evangelical ardor was directed against "radical Islam" or "Islamic fascism," with four US wars of choice - in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, and Libya - all of which remain debacles to this day. Suddenly, the supposed existential threat of radical Islam has been forgotten, and the new crusade targets the CPC.

Pompeo himself is a biblical literalist who believes that the end time, the apocalyptic battle between good and evil, is imminent. Pompeo described his beliefs in a 2015 speech while a Congressman from Kansas: America is a Judeo-Christian nation, the greatest in history, whose task is to fight God's battles until the Rapture, when Christ's born-again followers, like Pompeo, will be swept to heaven at the Last Judgment.

White evangelicals represent only around 17% of the US adult population, but comprise around 26% of voters. They vote overwhelmingly Republican (an estimated 81% in 2016), making them the party's single most important voting bloc. That gives them powerful influence on Republican policy, and in particular on foreign policy when Republicans control the White House and Senate (with its treaty-ratifying powers). Fully 99% of Republican congressmen are Christian, of whom around 70% are Protestant, including a significant though unknown proportion of evangelicals.

OPED

By Kemal Dervis

Hope for a New “UN Moment”

When the United Nations celebrates its 75th anniversary this September, the US will still be misgoverned by a transactional president who has no interest in global rules. But if that rules out a rebirth of global multilateralism this fall, things could look very different next spring.

WASHINGTON, DC - On September 21, 2020, the United Nations will mark its 75th anniversary with a negotiated declaration to be endorsed at a high-level meeting the same month. The UN's member countries should turn the event into a rechristening.

The UN was founded after World War II, after the Allied powers defeated a regime motivated by an ideology of pure evil that had inspired and even claimed to justify unspeakable, industrial-scale atrocities. The UN's creation was a watershed moment, inaugurating a new era of cooperation and multilateralism intended to prevent such a catastrophe from ever recurring.

But even before the UN was born, the other deep fault line that would determine the course of the twentieth-century was emerging. The onset of the Cold War, which divided the world between an American-led “West” and a Soviet-led “East,” dashed the high hopes that had been placed in the “UN moment” of 1945.

Today, the world is experiencing a different kind of catastrophe, with no end in sight. More worrying than COVID-19 are epidemiologists’ predictions that an even worse pandemic could hit us in the future. And even if we are spared from that scenario, climate scientists warn that global warming will inflict massive damage on human civilization unless we can achieve net-zero greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050 - a target that requires drastic action over the next decade.

Moreover, global regulation of new technologies such as artificial intelligence and human gene editing is urgently needed. These innovations hold great promise for improving human wellbeing, but would pose an even greater danger if misused.

The question, then, is whether this 75th anniversary could serve as another UN moment, an occasion for the world to come together behind a renewed multilateralism in response to the pandemic. While the current crisis is very different from a world war, it is arguably comparable in scale. As a truly global problem, the pandemic could be an impetus for much stronger internationalism under the UN’s auspices, at least in principle.

The UN75 Declaration is drafted in the anodyne language that has come to be unavoidable in such joint statements. To its credit, it refers to “applicable State commitments to the Paris Climate Agreement,” and mentions the “need to immediately curb greenhouse gas emissions [...] in line with the 2030 Agenda” for sustainable development. It also calls for “reinvigorated multilateralism” as the only way to meet global challenges.

The text provides a useful broad vision, but does not break new ground. Coming in the middle of the pandemic, it is destined to disappoint those hoping that the magnitude of the current catastrophe will bring about a new UN moment this September. With the US being governed by a transactional president who has no interest in global rules, and with the Sino-American rivalry steadily escalating, internationalists simply cannot expect more at this stage.

But there is hope yet. The declaration stipulates that the UN secretary-general should “report back before the end of the 75th session of the General Assembly with recommendations to respond to current and future challenges.” That means the report would arrive in the first half of 2021, at which point the United States might well have a new president, one who is far more willing to support a post-pandemic multilateral recovery effort. In other words, a new UN moment could arrive a half-year late for the 75th anniversary.

In any case, the UN should remain the central venue for pursuing multilateral efforts. It offers universal membership, which is an essential source of legitimacy in a world where many people still identify strongly with nation-states. While the G20 accounts for over 80% of the world’s population and GDP, it nonetheless excludes the vast majority of the world’s countries.

The UN also has broad appeal, owing to its multi-level, multi-channel approach to global governance. It regularly convenes representatives of local governments, cities, civil society, and the private sector, so that all voices are heard. And in preparation for the 75th anniversary, it organized the largest-ever open global debate, through the “UN75 Dialogues” initiative.

Finally, it is important to remember that the UN is not just one organization. It is a system boasting a wide range of specialized agencies whose expertise can be deployed around the world (resources and legal hurdles permitting). It is even host to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, though they operate autonomously.

For all of these reasons, a renewed global multilateralism without the UN isn’t even conceivable. The COVID-19 crisis and the mounting warnings of crises to come should be sufficient to prompt a new UN moment in the first half of 2021.

Secretary-General António Guterres can help by submitting a report with recommendations that are comprehensive, daring, and ambitious. Now is not the time simply to accept existing constraints. The report should include, for example, creative proposals for reforming the anachronistic Security Council, which has long been incompatible with global fairness and realities. One idea would be to introduce gradual changes with weighted voting and/or a double-majority formula that accounts for population size, in addition to the number of countries in a group.

Even if only parts of the forthcoming report are endorsed, it could establish a future vision for democratic internationalism, as well as a blueprint for reforms over time. That vision should resemble the one that launched the UN in 1945, which embodied the triumph over an ideology of permanent conflict. Ideological victories are never complete. As the historian Robert Kagan puts it, the jungle can always grow back.

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OPINION

By Lilyana Pavlova

Capitalizing on Women’s Ventures

Even though women-led businesses are more likely to yield market-beating returns, they are woefully neglected by venture capital firms, which are dominated by men. This translates directly into lost productivity gains and foregone innovation, starting in Europe.

LUXEMBOURG - If you are a venture capitalist, you are almost certainly a man. But you would do well to know that your best chance to outperform the market is to invest your money in a company led by a woman.

That rule of thumb - *cherchez la femme* - would radically simplify complicated VC investment decisions. Yet, because men make up 91% of the VC industry’s executive ranks, the bottom-line performance of women-led companies has been chronically overlooked.

Securing funding to enable women-led businesses to reach their potential is needed to drive European innovation. The annual productivity loss to the European Union as a result of women leaving their jobs in information and communications technology (ICT) is around €16.2 billion (\$19.1 billion). Though women represent roughly 52% of Europe’s overall population, they constitute only 34% of the EU’s self-employed workers, and 30% of its start-up entrepreneurs. Worse, in 2017, women-led ICT companies accounted for less than 10% of VC invested across the continent.

Research suggests that women-led companies, displaying some degree of risk aversion, are less inclined to pursue external financing options. Even when women starting new enterprises in the EU are aware of their opportunities to secure external funding, many still prefer to provide a significant level of start-up capital by themselves.

As such, female founders are less likely than male founders to pursue VC investment. The relative lack of female entrepreneurs, combined with women’s self-reported preference for “bootstrapping” their businesses, appears to have contributed to a reduced overall demand for external financing in Europe.

The situation in the United States is even worse. There, roughly four out of five VC firms have never employed a woman in a senior investment role. Just one of every ten new hires is a woman.

All told, a combination of risk aversion on the part of women, gender bias on the part of men, and the lack of female representation among investors and founders creates a vicious cycle that has been difficult to break.

That’s the bad news. The good news is that the cycle can be broken, especially when one considers women entrepreneurs’ far-reaching potential as innovators and job creators. Women-led businesses tend to attract more investment at later stages than their male-led counterparts. They also outperform the market in terms of median revenues, and are more likely to provide employment for other female entrepreneurs. These are just a few of the findings of a European Investment Bank Advisory Report that was released in early July.

In fact, the EIB also finds that women-led VC-backed companies in the EU enjoy higher exit rates in terms of deal value and volume. Mature VC-funded companies tend to hire more women in general, and this has contributed to a recent increase in funding for businesses founded by women or with women in executive roles. Equally promising, the European venture community has begun investing in women-led companies at an annual rate above that of overall investment growth in the region.

Global challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic underscore the need for more finance for female entrepreneurs, who have a critical role to play in responding to market shocks and contributing to economic recoveries. Amid the turmoil of the current crisis, there is an opportunity to encourage more gender-balanced innovation. But, to make progress toward gender parity and reap the full benefits of diversity, there will need to be fundamental changes in attitudes, business cultures, and institutions.

The EIB itself has been making a concerted effort to improve gender diversity within its ranks. But with just three female members (including me) on the nine-member Management Committee, it still has a way to go. Beyond establishing a better gender balance among the leadership ranks, the EIB Group also must ensure that its financing decisions benefit all members of the community equally.

To that end, the Bank has adopted a Strategy on Gender Equality and Women’s Economic Empowerment based on three pillars: protection, impact, and investment. The goal is to help identify innovative, high-growth female-led companies, and then provide advice, financing options, and assistance making connections with other market players. So far, these include lenders such as Spain’s CaixaBank, Romania’s Garanti Bank, the Netherlands’ Karmijn Kapitaal, and Italy’s UniCredit.

Other investment and development banks around the world should consider adopting a similar model. With a strong partnership between public banks and private investors, we can encourage VCs and other sources of finance to adopt a more gender-balanced approach. Ensuring access to finance for women-led enterprises ultimately creates jobs and contributes to our shared prosperity. Not only does empowering women make ethical and social sense, but it also happens to be good for business.

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ARTICLE**ARTICLE**

Veteran Liberian Educator Jessie Wah King (May 25, 1919-July 22, 2020): A Memoir & Tribute Of An “Academic Son/Mentee” (Writer)

By Samuel G. Dweh

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AUTHOR’S NOTE:

The photos featured in this memoiric article are those featured in the Author’s published news stories and articles on his “Academic Mother/Mentor” throughout their mentor-mentee relationship between 2017 and 2020

Memory: The longest of her teaching life was at the College of West Africa (CWA), Liberia’s oldest High School, between the 1950s and 1970s And some of her former students became Head of State of Liberia—2006-2017 (Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf), Vice President of Liberia—2006-2017 (Joseph NyumahBoakai), and Minister of Education of Liberia—1997-2006 (Dwaboyea Evelyn S. Kandakair).....(many more) Class level of each person: Ellen Johnson—10th grade class), Joseph h NyumahBoakai—7th grade class); and Dwaboyea Evelyn S. White—7th grade class. She picked Music and Religious Education here (CWA)

MY FIRST MEETING WITH THE “VETERAN EDUCATOR”

On Saturday, December 9, 2017, I embarked on a search for a renowned Liberian educator feature under a column, titled “A Ride With The Educationalist”, for my Education newspaper named Edu-Diary. The condition for appearing in this Column is you should possess a physical proof of being in teaching profession for at least 10 unbroken years, or at least five persons should have knowledge about your being a teacher in this time.

The production of Edu-Diary (first edition) was scheduled for Monday, December 15. I felt time running against me, so I began hurrying with the search—putting telephone calls to acquaintances I felt knew any “Veteran Educator”, and toured my community (named Lakpazee), situated in a political division named Sinkor in Liberia’s capital. But I found nobody—a person who squarely fits into the “at least ten unbroken teaching years” condition. I retired to my house, to continue the search on another day.

By 3pm of Sunday (December 10), I continued the search—on leg, as it was on Day One—but my ‘luck’ couldn’t come, until 5pm.

After almost four hours of moving around on legs, asking people sitting in front their houses or passing by me, I finally decided ending the “fruitless searching tours” at the home of a friend named Naomi Harris—president of the National Union of Organizations of the Disabled (NUOD)—in the Sophie’s Community of Congotown (another political division) “I know about one very old woman who is a teacher and owns a Kindergarten School on the Old Road. Some people say she taught Ellen, Liberia’s current President,” one of Ms. Harris’ son, Solomon Garduah, of the Mary Brownel Junior High School (located on the 12th Street, Sinkor, Monrovia), interrupted when I was explaining my mission to his mother.

Solomon’s information instantly infused spiritual energy into me and pushed me into flight to find the house of the “old teacher”.

I found the house! It was—and still is (at the time I was writing this article—Sunday, August 9, 2020)

But I didn’t have a voice recorder. I had only a notepad and a pen.

“Veteran, please excuse me to get a voice recorder,” I said to Madam King, after I had informed her about my mission. “Your presence is very important to the face of my educational newspaper on the newsstand for Monday,” I added.

“Ok, Mr. freelance development journalist,” Madam King responded, not knowing the time I will spend on getting a voice recorder—I didn’t personally own.

I raced off to the house of my media colleague, Alfred L.M. Gezaye, former reporter of Radio Veritas, who was then living in Old Matadi Estate—a 70-minute walk from Madam King’s house.

“Gezaye, I’ve found the best person for my education newspaper’s special column—A Ride with the Educationalist!” I began with Alfred at his house. I had told him about the paper and the column a week before my search.

“Have you conducted the interview?” Alfred inquired.

“No. I didn’t have a voice recorder. That’s why I’m at your house—to borrow yours,” I narrated.

“Wait for me,” Alfred said, and marched into his house. In quarter of a minute, Alfred appeared with an ash-color SONY voice recorder. “You may use this as long as you wish to spend on the exclusive interview with that veteran educator.”

“Thank you, but I don’t know how to operate this other voice recorder,” I admitted, after collecting the gadget from its owner.

“Dweh, you can find another person to help you operate it” Alfred said.

“It’s you, its owner, I need to help me on operating it,” I replied.

“Let’s go!” Alfred said.

We left to the veteran Educator’s house.

During the interview, Madam King took her guests down memory lane of her personal life: Her parentage and birth; her personal education; her teaching days (at the College of West Africa—CWA—a High School and fond memories of some of her students (“Ellen Johnson...was academically brilliant but a tomboy, excessively active,” she had told this writer in the interview for the educational newspaper); her worries about Liberia’s current educational system and concerns over students’ performances in class work; and many more. (See the rest in the December 15, 2017 edition of Edu-Diary)

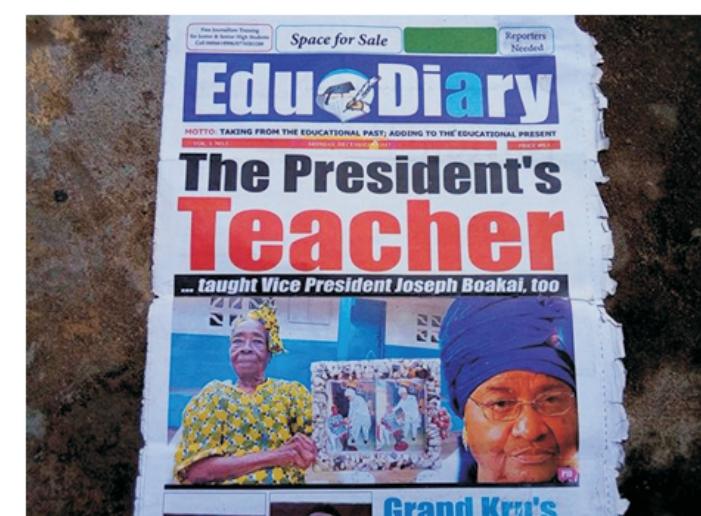


In her compound for interview for Edu-Diary (2017): Veteran Educator (age 98) being led to the interview spot. Mentee/Author holding mentor’s great-great grandson. Far right: One of her great-great grand children. Photo taken by Alfred L.M. Gezaye—who provided the voice recorder for the interview



The main business: Interview for the “A Ride with the Educationalist” Column of “Edu-Diary” (Newspaper), Sunday, December 10, 2027. Photo taken by Alfred L.M. Gezaye—who provided the voice recorder for the interview

VETERAN EDUCATOR ON THE FRONT PAGE OF MY EDUCATION NEWSPAPER



Displaying a souvenir of ‘most popular’ former student: Framed photo of President Sirleaf’s visit at her home to say “sorry” to former teacher on sickness and to discuss renovation of home

Finally, Veteran Educator Jessie Wah King appeared on the front page of Edu-Diary—Monday, December 15, 2017 edition. The full interview is under “A Ride With The Educationalist” (column) on pages 6, 7 & 8 of the educational paper.

VETERAN WITH ONE OF HER FORMER STUDENTS



Mentee’s published article’s photo: Dr. Evelyn Kandakai (left) with her former teacher, Jessie Wah King at the Kandakai Family’s Nursery School closing program (Friday, March 2. 2018)

At the Closing Program of the Family Nursery School (in Madam King’s Family compound), owned by the family of Mrs. (Dr.) Dwaboyea Evelyn Kandakai, former Education Minister of Liberia (1997-2006), I had the opportunity to see the former teacher with one of her former students (pictured above) I did an article about their emotional meeting titled: “Liberia: When A Former Minister of Education Meets Her Former Teacher”, which was published in the FrontPage Africa newspaper of Liberia. The photo above is the same with that article.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Rep. Sebo responds to Cummings

By E. J. Nathaniel Daygbor

Ruling Coalition for Democratic Change lawmaker Dixon Sebo sharply reacts to criticism by opposition leader Alexander Cummings that he (Rep. Sebo) is using his proximity to President George Manneh Weah to imprison and try a young female, who

Political Parties is just not wrong but suggests that he is now obsessed with his presidential dream, which according to Sebo, is far from reality.

Representative Sebo says it makes no sense for Cummings, who comes from the corporate world to complain anyone trying to use the law to seek redress.



accused him (Sebo) of sexual harassment.

But the Montserrado County Electoral District #16 Representative addressing a press conference on Monday, 10 August at the Capitol argued that the assertion by the Chairman of the opposition Collaborating

Mr. Cummings noted in a live broadcast address to the nation that, "The underfunding of our judicial sector, and the flagrant efforts to politically influence and undermine justice is clearly destroying the lives of far too many of our citizens. It is also weaning public confidence in the justice system. A prime

example is the case of a CDC lawmaker and executive of the ruling Coalition, who continues to use his political influence, proximity to the President and affluence to imprison and try a young woman who is alleging that he had sexually harassed her".

However, Representative Sebo counters that the statement by Cummings is characterized by fraud, falsehood and a clear indication of desperation of the CPP/ANC leader for the Liberian presidency.

According to him, during the 2017 Presidential election some elements from the Unity Party called Cummings name, and the Alternative National Congress did not take the allegation lightly, though it was campaign period so Cummings did not seek redress.

Sebo maintains that the best option for allegation is to run to court for justice, adding that going to court shouldn't be construed as intimidation, instead, to ensure justice is served.

He says as a member of the corporate world, Cummings should be man enough to react his statement, noting that in the corporate world when errors are committed, the doers are men enough and they react.

MOH takes birth registration campaign to West Point Township

By Lewis S. Teh

In an effort to strengthen the health sector of Liberia and making sure every here child obtain birth certificate, the Ministry of Health has taken celebration for the African Civil Registration and Vital Statistics Day to West Point Township, a densely populated community in Monrovia, registering birth statistics of children there.

According to health officials, the conduct of statistics on African Civil Registration will help parents to properly identify their children. This year's celebration was held under the theme, "For every child a legal identity."

Welcoming officials of the ministry to the township, West Point Commissioner William C. Wea expressed joy for the launch of vital

statistics campaign in the township.

I strongly believe that today is not only a historical day in our country, evidence is the fact that health authorities have begun the launch of this process

at the time I'm in the township, which brings joy to me. I'm glad we the people of West Point are ready for this process to begin in our district", Commissioner Wea said.

Giving the historicity of the day, Assistant Health Minister for Statistics, Sanford Wesseh



Transport begins rigid inspection

By Emmanuel Mondaye

The Ministry of Transport in collaboration with the Liberia National Police (LNP) has begun a rigid inspection of private vehicles in the country.

The Director of Public Affairs at the Ministry of Transport Samuel G. Barjibo, Sr., says the Ministry is also collaborating with the Liberia

equipment, service garages, driving schools, auto parts dealers and other transport-related businesses operating in the country.

Mr. Barjibo appealed to all those concern to regularize their registration process with government to avoid embarrassment. He said government would not hesitate to impound unregistered



Revenue Authority (LRA) to ensure all lawful taxes of transport related businesses are collected without any precondition.

He said these three government entities shall collect lawful taxes from owners of vehicles, tricycle operators, earthmoving

vehicles, tricycles, commercial bikes and shut down driving schools, service garages and auto parts stores that would fail to cooperate during the inspection period.

He said during the exercise, driver's licenses will be inspected along with eligibility certificates, among others.

The theme shows Africa, particularly Liberia's commitment to attaining indicator 16.9.1 on "Proportion of children under 5 years whose births have been registered with a civil authority" and indicator 17.19.2 on "Increase proportion of countries that have achieved 100 percent birth registration and 80 percent death registration".

He said the day was declared officially at the Fourth Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration in December 2017 in Mauritania.

Minister Sanford added that the first Africa CRVS day was commemorated on August 10, 2018, under the theme "Birth Certificate for all: fundamental for protecting human rights and promoting inclusion."

He said the theme reflects that birth registration certificate, as a legal document that provides proof of age, helps to prevent violation of child rights, including child marriage, child labor, and trafficking, including use of child soldiers, particularly in emergencies.

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MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Dillon's office frowns at violence

By Ethel A. Tweh

The office of Montserrado County Senator Abraham Darius Dillon has frowned on acts of violence in the country, cautioning that this is not good for Liberia.

Speaking to Legislative reporters Monday, 10 August, the Chief of Office Staff of

"Yesterday the Friends of Dillon in Clara Town invited us and we received a resounding yes to the re-election of Senator Dillon. Thanks to the people of District #14 for [a] warm welcome. Violence is not healthy for the forward - march of the democracy of our country," Martin says.

Mr. Kollah further recalls



Senator Abraham Darius Dillon

Senator Dillon, Mr. Martin Kollah said that the political space in the country is surrounded by a lot of violence, noting that it is not good for the country.

He calls on Liberians be civil and desist from any form of violence as they prepare for the upcoming 2020 senatorial election.

other violent incidents including the District #13 incident that had Liberty Party political leader Senator Nyonblee Kangar - Lawrence narrowly escaped to save her life.

Kollah laments that up to now, the government has not come out with any findings from the investigation that was

launched, adding that the same happened to the Collaborating Political Parties (CPP) candidate in District #15, Telia Urey.

Additionally, Kollah says the government has set up another investigation into the recent incident involving CPP chair Alexander Cummings and Rep. Yekeh Kolubah in Grand Gedeh County, noting that from the past incidents, there will not be any result from the Grand Gedeh case.

"Team Dillon will campaign everywhere in Montserrado County, CPP will also campaign everywhere in the Republic of Liberia irrespective of how someone ... feels. This government is under the obligation to make sure that the political space is free for [everyone] to campaign," Mr. Kollah says.

"Any attempt for any hooligans to be used to throw stones at us when we go campaign, there will be equal [and] opposite reaction. Clara Town incident should serve as a warning to everyone of them," Kollah continues.

According to Kollah, Team Dillon will no longer depend on the partisan police that are in the country for protection, adding that they will protect themselves and will retaliate when necessary, saying they will campaign in West Point and New Kru Town, among others.--Edited by Winston W. Parley

Liberian police charge several for human trafficking

By Winston W. Parley

Police in Monrovia have charged several suspects for human trafficking, having busted a scheme in which victims recruited from neighboring Guinea, Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast and Mali were made to pay huge sums of U.S. Dollars, brought to Liberia by traffickers and promised jobs by that were never provided.

Police say the total money collected from the victims by alleged traffickers Abu Kamara, Yusu Konneh, Keifela Kamara and Ousman Kamara amounted to US\$13,650.00, noting that the suspects collected the victims' travel documents from them including passports and laissez passez to prevent their movement.

Victim Ibrahim Jalloh who spoke to police on behalf of his colleagues, explained that he met about 20 other boys who had left their countries Guinea, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and Mali and were all staying in a single room under harsh conditions at the 72nd, SKD Boulevard.

Other victims interviewed by police include Amadu Jalloh,

Zakaria Diallo, Mohammed Allium, Ousman Diallo, Mamadou Diallo, Diallo Amadou and Cherno Abdulaye.

According to police, defendant Abu Kamara rented a single room in Neezo community in Paynesville and held the victims there under harsh conditions.

At the start of their recruitment, police indicate that the victims were made to believe that a company operating in Liberia by defendant Keifela Kamara believed to be the brother of defendant Abu Kamara.



The victim narrated that they were asked to pay US\$1,000 and they would be offered lucrative employment in Liberia.

GNBank transitions to SIBLL

By Bridgett Milton

The Management of GN Bank Liberia Limited, says it has received approval from the Central Bank of Liberia to operate under license as Sapelle International Bank Liberia Limited (SIBLL).

According to a press statement released by the Board of Directors of GN Bank Liberia Limited, the bank will now trade as "SIB."



It also states that this will heighten the Liberian character and nature of the bank's operations.

GN Bank Liberia Limited is one of the over 50 subsidiaries that constitute the Groupe Nduom conglomerate.

The commissioning of GN Bank Liberia was performed by the former Vice President of Liberia, Joseph Nyumah Boakai with support from the

President and Chairman of Groupe Nduom, Dr. Papa Kwesi Nduom, attended by some top management personnel.

Dr. Nduom disclosed that the establishment of GN Bank Liberia was part of the Groupe's commitment towards improving Africa.

The statement noted that SIBLL also has approval to operate and pay Global Mobil Money and digital banking

product.

Accordingly, the bank is ready to roll out its Automatic Teller Machines, making banking more convenient for customers.

"SIBLL remains well capitalized and ready to service the banking needs of its numerous customers throughout Liberia", the statement concludes.

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Liberia called Q-net was hiring them and it would have given the victims lucrative salaries for their services once they paid cash charged each of them and come to Liberia.

Police quote victim Ibrahim Jalloh as narrating that while he was still residing in Guinea sometime in January 2020, he and other victims were convinced about a company operating in Liberia by defendant Keifela Kamara believed to be the brother of defendant Abu Kamara.

The victim narrated that they were asked to pay US\$1,000 and they would be offered lucrative employment in Liberia.

Having received the complaint, police say on Tuesday, 21 July they spoke with 11 of the victims and relocated them to GK Guest House on Peace Island in Congo Town and obtained statements

from them.

Meanwhile, Police say defendant Abu Kamara narrated that he had been operating his network marketing business in Liberia since March 2019, having returned from Mali where his brother Ayoba Kromah had invited him in August 2019 to do an online network marketing business.

He allegedly admitted that one Molee to be identified, informed him (Abu) that he had sent 15 persons from Mali to join the company, and that he had already rented a place at Neezo for them to stay.

He allegedly admitted that only Cherno Sow gave him (Abu) US\$800.00 as registration.

The defendants have been charged along with those yet to be identified for human trafficking and theft of property and sent to court.

Français

Corruption : Le NPHIL mouillé dans un scandale, trois fonctionnaires suspendus

Au moins trois responsables de l'Institut national de santé publique du Libéria (NPHIL) ont été suspendus pour avoir frauduleusement délivré un certificat à une patient du COVID-19, certifiant qu'elle n'était pas porteuse du Coronavirus, alors qu'en fait cette dernière avait été testée positive. Le NPHIL est l'institution

gouvernementale chargée de tester les cas probables de coronavirus. Il est au-devant de la lutte contre le COVID-19 au Libéria.

Les fonctionnaires suspendus sont Amos F. Gborie, directeur adjoint, Division de l'hygiène du milieu et du travail, M. Fahm Taweh, directeur adjoint du Laboratoire national de santé publique et de référence et

Jonathan G. Ender, chef de cabinet du directeur général du NPHIL, Dr Masoka Fallah.

Le trio a délivré un certificat médical de COVID-19 pour voyageur à une Américaine d'origine libérienne, Mme Skeeter T. Wilson, qui a été débarquée de l'avion le dimanche 2 août 2020 par des responsables du service de l'immigration du Libéria après que les autorités ont découvert que son certificat était faux.

Selon les informations recueillies par ce journal, Mme Wilson a été testée positive et, grâce au protocole de traitement du système de gestion des incidents (IMS), elle a été informée du résultat et mise sous traitement. Moins d'une semaine plus tard, un certificat médical portant la signature du Dr Makosa Fallah lui a été délivré, lequel certificat médical la déclarait exempte du virus.

Dr Fallah, qui n'a pas nié que c'est sa signature qui

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« Dix ans après l'élection d'Alpha Condé, il est temps de faire le deuil de la Guinée promise »

Pour Amnesty International, la probable candidature de l'actuel président à un troisième mandat est l'aboutissement d'une « répression féroce » ayant fait de nombreux morts.

Tribune. Jeudi 6 août, le Rassemblement du peuple de Guinée (RPG, au pouvoir) a choisi Alpha Condé pour être son candidat à l'élection présidentielle envisagée le 18 octobre. S'il accepte d'être candidat et s'il est élu, l'actuel président entamera un troisième mandat consécutif.

Ce serait l'aboutissement attendu du changement de Constitution impulsé par le pouvoir et concrétisé avec le référendum du 22 mars. La crédibilité de ce dernier, adopté avec 89,76 % de « oui », a été remise en cause par l'Union européenne (UE) et les Etats-Unis. La Communauté économique des Etats de l'Afrique de l'Ouest (Cédéao) et l'Union africaine (UA) avaient renoncé à déployer des missions d'observation électorale lors du vote, en raison notamment d'un fichier électoral comprenant

plus d'un tiers d'électeurs enregistrés sans aucune pièce justificative.

Amnesty International ne défend aucune position politique mais constate que ce processus s'est fait au prix d'une répression féroce contre la coalition de partis politiques, de syndicats et d'organisations de la société civile rassemblés au sein du Front national de défense de la Constitution (FNDC). L'horizon vers lequel regardait Alpha Condé lors de son investiture en 2010, quand il se révélait en « Mandela de la Guinée qui va unir les fils de la Guinée », s'est dissipé. Dix ans après son arrivée au pouvoir, près de 200 personnes ont été tuées dans des manifestations de l'opposition, selon cette dernière et en l'absence de chiffres officiels.

Aucune région n'est épargnée

Sous le régime d'Alpha Condé, les victimes sont surtout des jeunes hommes des quartiers populaires de Conakry, membres ou sympathisants de l'opposition. Mais l'usage excessif de la force ne s'abat pas seulement sur eux et aucune région n'est épargnée. Dans les régions occidentales de Kindia et Boké,

au moins six personnes ont été tuées par balles, en mai, pour avoir réclamé de l'électricité et dénoncé les rackets aux barrages installés dans le cadre de la lutte contre la pandémie de Covid-19.

En juin à Conakry, des habitants du quartier Matoto, plongés dans le noir depuis des semaines et qui entendaient ronfler le générateur du haut représentant du chef de l'Etat, sont sortis pour exprimer leur indignation. Un homme a récolté une balle dans la cuisse, un adolescent une grenade lacrymogène dans le cou.

Des vidéos et des photos qui montrent des membres des forces de défense et de sécurité tirer sur des manifestants existent. D'autres prouvent la présence d'armes de guerre parmi ces forces lors des opérations de maintien de l'ordre, en violation de la loi et malgré les dénégations des autorités. Des dizaines de témoignages accusent ces forces d'homicides illégaux. L'identité des auteurs est parfois même connue.

Les autorités rejettent ces

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Editorial

Traduisez les auteurs des violences de Zwedru en justice rapidement

Les missions étrangères au Libéria ont récemment appelé l'administration Weah à enquêter rapidement sur les violences politiques qui se sont produites le 30 juillet à Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, de manière objective et non partisane, afin de traduire tous les coupables en justice.

Ils ont indiqué qu'une telle action enverrait un signal clair aux fauteurs de troubles comme quoi les menaces et la violence n'ont pas leur place dans le régime démocratique dont le peuple libérien s'est doté.

Les Nations Unies, la CEDEAO, l'ambassade des États-Unis et l'Union européenne, dans une déclaration commune rendue publique à Monrovia, ont exprimé leur soutien aux groupes libériens en particulier, le Conseil interreligieux, le diocèse catholique de Cape Palmas, la Providence Baptist Church, le caucus parlementaire de Grand Gedeh et d'autres parties prenantes religieuses et politiques, pour leurs préoccupations face à la recrudescence des discours de haine et de la violence, dont en particulier la violente attaque contre des politiciens de l'opposition à Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh.

Il y a près de deux semaines, des centaines de jeunes issus de la ligue des jeunes du Congrès pour le changement démocratique de Zwedru, dans le comté de Grand Gedeh, ont assiégié l'hôtel dans lequel président de l'Alliance des partis politiques de l'opposition, Alexander B. Cummings, et le représentant du district # 10 du comté de Montserrado, Yekeh Kolubah, ont élu domicile.

Les deux opposants au régime du président Weah ont été empêchés de sortir et de vaguer à leurs activités politiques. Ces jeunes en colère rejoints par des voyous armés de projectiles, de gourdins et de machettes, ont tenu leur siège pendant plus de cinq heures.

Ils menaçaient de lyncher le représentant Kolubah à qui ils reprochent l'habitude d'insulter le président George Manneh Weah. Il a fallu l'intervention d'une colonne des forces armées du Libéria qui a réussi à exfiltrer les politiciens de l'opposition du comté qui est un bastion du président Weah et sa coalition au pouvoir.

Ni la Coalition pour le changement démocratique, ni le gouvernement du Libéria n'a immédiatement condamné la violence. Il a fallu quatre jours au président George Weah avant de faire des commentaires alors qu'il assistait au culte dans sa propre église, appelant ses partisans à ne pas se livrer à la violence.

Mais nous nous joignons aux missions étrangères et appelons à une enquête rapide et impartiale pour traduire tous les responsables en justice et permettre à l'état de droit de régner. Cela servira sûrement de moyens de dissuasion à toute autre velléité de la part de quelque groupe que ce soit de perturber la paix actuelle par la violence politique dans le futur.

Si à seulement trois mois des élections sénatoriales la violence de Zwedru n'est pas punie comme ce fut le cas des deux violences électorales sanglantes précédentes qui se sont produites dans les circonscriptions électorales n° 13 et 15 du comté de Montserrado, alors il y aura de quoi à être inquiet pour les prochaines élections.

Nous ne voulons pas que cette attitude se répète continuellement dans notre pays où les politiciens ont tendance à détruire les progrès, comme notamment la gouvernance démocratique et la stabilité politique, réalisés grâce à l'aide de la communauté internationale.

Nous pensons que c'est dans cette optique que les missions étrangères ont appelé l'administration Weah à enquêter rapidement avec objectivité et à clore l'affaire afin que le gouvernement ne soit pas soupçonné de complaisance et, par extension, de pardonner les actes de violence.

Français

Corruption : Le NPHIL

figurait sur le document, a accusé son chef de cabinet Jonathan G. Ender qui, selon lui, aurait apposé sa signature électronique sur le document à son insu.

« Cette question a été portée à mon attention le vendredi 7 août », a dit Dr Fallah au New Dawn le dimanche 9 août. « Je ne savais pas que cela se passait sous mon nez », a-t-il ajouté.

Selon lui, après que l'affaire a été portée à son attention, il a été informé par son adjoint Amos F. Gborie, que Mme Wilson était venue brusquement au bureau pour demander un certificat médical pour voyageur, qui est une exigence dans le cadre de la lutte contre la COVID-19.

Il a expliqué que lorsque la question a été portée à son attention, il a ouvert une enquête et a découvert que le résultat initial de Mme Wilson était positif, mais qu'il avait été changé en négatif par M. Gborie.

Les informations recueillies par ce quotidien indiquent que M. Gborie a délivré à Mme Wilson un certificat médical qui faisait état d'un test négatif après que M. TrokonYeabah, l'un des responsables du laboratoire, lui a été envoyé le résultat. M. TrokonYeabah avait pourtant clairement déclaré que le résultat était positif.

Gborie a ensuite envoyé une lettre de confirmation au chef du personnel du bureau de Dr Fallah, Jonathan Enders, qui sans vérification, a apposé la signature électronique du Dr Fallah.

La délivrance du certificat de décharge qui a été délivré à Mme Wilson a maintenant déclenché une controverse majeure qui pourrait miner la crédibilité du pays dans sa lutte contre le coronavirus alors que l'avocat représentant Mme Wilson a obtenu la libération de sa

cliente.

Me Neto ZarzarLigne a déclaré dimanche au New Dawn qu'il avait écrit l'IMS qui, sous la présidence du ministre de la Santé, Dr WilhelminaJallah, a immédiatement libéré sa cliente et lui a rendu son passeport américain. Me Ligne a déclaré que sa cliente ne peut être tenue responsable d'une erreur interne commise au NPHIL.

Dans une communication qui a été adressée à M. Gborie et à deux autres personnes, Dr Fallah a déclaré : « Au milieu de la crise du COVID-19, il est très dangereux pour le pays quand des cas positifs confirmés reçoivent des résultats négatifs. Cela entraînera une nouvelle propagation de la maladie, ce qui rendra son endiguement extrêmement difficile ».

Il a déclaré que conformément aux lignes directrices et aux meilleures pratiques du NPHIL, seules les personnes dont les résultats négatifs ont été vérifiés reçoivent un certificat de voyage. Il a ajouté que la violation grave de cette mesure établit un risque de déminage la lutte contre la propagation du COVID-19 dans le pays.

Ce n'est pas la première fois qu'un tel incident se produit. On se souvient d'une situation similaire qui s'est produite lorsque le professeur Alaric Tokpaha a rejeté les allégations selon lesquelles il était COVID-19 positif après avoir précédemment reçu un certificat signé par Dr Fallah, l'informant qu'il était négatif.

Quelques minutes après que les responsables de la santé ont alerté le professeur Tokpaha, il a demandé sa mise en quarantaine immédiate, un tollé s'est ensuivi, incitant les militants du Parti de l'unification des étudiants (SUP) à déployer des étudiants dans sa communauté à Lapkazee pour empêcher les autorités sanitaires de le mettre en quarantaine.

« Dix ans après l'élection

accusations et s'indignent. Elles réclament des preuves, qu'elles ne se donnent pas la peine de chercher ou qu'elles refusent de voir. Pourtant, elles-mêmes aimeraient être crites sur parole quand elles affirment que les balles retrouvées dans les corps de victimes ont été placées a posteriori dans la chair ou que des usurpateurs d'uniformes circulent dans la capitale.

L'impunité est totale

Lors des manifestations, des cliniques privées héritent

des victimes que les hôpitaux publics refusent d'accueillir, sur ordre des autorités, avec pour principales conséquences un nombre de victimes minimisé et une justice impossible pour des familles contraintes d'enterrer leurs proches dans l'urgence, sans autopsie.

L'impunité est totale et la crainte de représailles ou l'absence totale de confiance en la justice freinent les familles dans leur quête de justice.

COMMENTAIRE

Par Jeffrey D. Sachs

L'indécente croisade de l'Amérique contre la Chine

NEW YORK - De nombreux chrétiens évangéliques aux États-Unis pensent depuis longtemps que l'Amérique a pour mission divine de sauver le monde. Sous l'influence de cette mentalité de croisade, la politique étrangère américaine a souvent dévié de la diplomatie vers la guerre. Et elle risque aujourd'hui de le faire à nouveau.

Le mois dernier, le secrétaire d'État Mike Pompeo a lancé une nouvelle croisade évangélique, cette fois-ci contre la Chine. Son discours était en effet extrémiste, simpliste, dangereux - et pourrait bien orienter les États-Unis sur une trajectoire de conflit avec la Chine.

Selon Pompeo, le président chinois Xi Jinping et le Parti communiste chinois (PCC) nourriraient un « désir d'hégémonie mondiale depuis plusieurs décennies ». Quelle ironie. Car s'il est un pays qui applique une stratégie de défense fondée sur le statut de « première puissance militaire de la planète », c'est bien les États-Unis, qui œuvrent pour des « équilibres régionaux favorables dans la région indopacifique, en Europe, au Moyen-Orient, et dans l'hémisphère nord ». Par opposition, le livre blanc de la défense chinoise soutient que « la Chine ne suivra jamais le chemin des grandes puissances en quête d'hégémonie », et qu'« à l'heure où la mondialisation, la société de l'information, et la diversité culturelle se développent au sein d'un monde de plus en plus multipolaire, la paix, le développement et la coopération gagnant-gagnant constituent les tendances irréversibles de notre époque ».

Ce n'est pas sans rappeler les paroles de Jésus lui-même : « Hypocrite, enlève d'abord la poutre de ton œil, et alors tu verras clair pour retirer la paille de l'œil de ton frère » (Matthieu 7.5). Les dépenses militaires des États-Unis ont atteint 732 milliards \$ en 2019, soit près de trois fois plus que les 261 milliards \$ dépensés par la Chine.

De même, les États-Unis possèdent près de 800 bases militaires à l'étranger, contre une seule pour la Chine (une petite base navale à Djibouti), dont un grand nombre se situent à proximité de la Chine, qui n'en dispose d'aucune à proximité de États-Unis. L'Amérique possède par ailleurs 5 800 têtes nucléaires, contre environ 320 pour la Chine, ainsi que 11 porte-avions, contre un seul pour la Chine. L'Amérique a déclaré de nombreuses guerres à l'étrangers ces 40 dernières années ; la Chine n'en a déclenchée aucune (plusieurs accrochages ont certes eu lieu aux frontières, dernièrement contre l'Inde, qui ont frôlé la déclaration de guerre).

Régulièrement depuis quelques années, les États-Unis rejettent ou se retirent de traités des Nations Unies et d'organes de l'ONU, dont l'UNESCO, l'accord climatique de Paris, et plus récemment l'Organisation mondiale de la santé, tandis que la Chine soutient les démarches et agences de l'ONU. Le président américain Donald Trump a dernièrement menacé de sanctions la Cour pénale internationale. Pompeo condamne la répression de la Chine contre les musulmans ouïghours, alors même que l'ancien conseiller à la sécurité nationale de Trump, John Bolton, explique que Trump aurait en privé donné carte blanche à la Chine, voire l'aurait encouragée.

Le monde a relativement peu relevé les propos de Pompeo, qui ne contenaient d'ailleurs aucune preuve à l'appui de l'affirmation selon laquelle la Chine viserait l'hégémonie. Le fait que la Chine s'oppose à l'hégémonie américaine ne signifie pas qu'elle aspire elle-même à la toute-puissance. En dehors d'Amérique, peu considèrent d'ailleurs que la Chine aurait pour ambition la domination du monde. Parmi ses objectifs nationaux explicitement formulés, la Chine entend devenir une « société relativement prospère » d'ici 2021 (centenaire du PCC), et un « pays pleinement développé » d'ici 2049 (centenaire de la République populaire).

On estime par ailleurs qu'en 2019, le PIB par habitant de la Chine (10 098 \$) représentait moins d'un sixième de son équivalent américain (65 112 \$) - ce qui ne plaide pas en faveur d'une suprématie mondiale. La Chine a encore beaucoup de retard à rattraper pour atteindre ses objectifs de développement même les plus basiques.

Si Trump échoue à l'élection présidentielle de novembre, le discours de Pompeo tombera probablement dans l'oubli. Les Démocrates continueront certainement de critiquer la Chine, mais sans les exagérations éhontées de Pompeo. En revanche, si Trump l'emporte, le discours de Pompeo pourrait bien être un signe avant-coureur de chaos. L'évangélisme du secrétaire d'État est réel, et les évangéliques constituent aujourd'hui la base politique du Parti républicain.

Les excès de zèle de Pompeo trouvent leurs profondes racines dans l'histoire américaine. Comme je le raconte dans mon récent livre intitulé *A New Foreign Policy*, les colons protestants anglais pensaient créer un nouvel Israël sur cette nouvelle Terre promise, avec la bénédiction providentielle de Dieu lui-même. En 1845, John O'Sullivan parle de « destinée manifeste » pour justifier et célébrer l'annexion américaine violente du nord du continent. « Tout ceci formera notre histoire future », écrit-il en 1839, « l'établissement sur Terre de la dignité morale et du salut de l'homme - vérité et bénédiction immuable de Dieu. Car dans cette mission bénie pour les nations du monde, qui sont privée d'une lumière de vérité fertile, c'est l'Amérique qui a été choisie... ».

Sur la base de cette vision exaltée de sa propre bienfaisance, l'Amérique appliquera un esclavage de masse jusqu'à la guerre de Sécession, puis un apartheid de masse. Elle massacrera les Amérindiens tout au long du XIXe siècle, puis les soumettra. Une fois l'installation des colons achevée, elle commencera à propager sa destinée manifeste à l'étranger. Plus tard, avec l'apparition de la guerre froide, la ferveur anti-communiste conduira les États-Unis à mener des guerres désastreuses en Asie du Sud-Est (Viêtnam, Laos et Cambodge) dans les années 1960 et 1970, puis des guerres particulièrement brutales en Amérique centrale dans les années 1980.

Après les attentats terroristes du 11 septembre 2001, cette ardeur évangélique prendra pour cible « l'islam radical », ou « fascisme islamique », à travers quatre guerres américaines qui seront le fruit d'un choix - Afghanistan, Irak, Syrie et Libye - et qui toutes demeurent à ce jour des échecs lamentables. Voici aujourd'hui que la prétendue menace existentielle incarnée par l'islam radical est soudainement oubliée, la nouvelle croisade prenant pour cible le PCC.

Pompeo interprète à la lettre les textes bibliques, et considère que la fin des temps, l'heure du combat apocalyptique entre le bien et le mal, est imminente. Dans un discours de 2015, époque à laquelle il est parlementaire du Kansas, Pompeo décrit ses convictions personnelles : l'Amérique est une nation judéo-chrétienne, la plus grande de l'histoire, qui a pour mission de mener le combat de Dieu jusqu'à la bénédiction, jusqu'à ce jour du jugement dernier auquel les chrétiens ressuscités, Pompeo inclus, rejoindront le paradis.

Le discours incendiaire de Pompeo à l'encontre de la Chine pourrait devenir encore plus apocalyptique dans les prochaines semaines, ne serait-ce que pour galvaniser la base républicaine à l'approche de l'élection. Si Trump échoue, ce qui semble probable, le risque de confrontation entre les États-Unis et la Chine devrait reculer. En revanche, s'il remporte un second mandat, que ce soit après une victoire électorale légitime ou par fraude électorale, voire par un coup de force (tout est possible), la croisade de Pompeo aura peut-être bel et bien lieu, et pourrait alors pousser le monde entier vers cette guerre qu'annonce le secrétaire d'État, et qu'il souhaite peut-être.

Cont'd from page 5

VETERAN EDUCATOR CLOCKS 99



Teacher Jessie Wah King with her 99th birthday cake at her home

I was the “Special Guest of Honor” at Veteran Educator Jessie Wah King’s 99th birthday celebration held at her residence. Physically strong, intellectually alert, and vocally sharp, she personally cut her birthday cake. The birthday coincided with the Closing Program of the

THROUGH HER, I TASTED FOOD FROM HEAD OF STATE ELLEN SIRLEAF’S HOME

On a writing project on a Sunday, in 2018, my mobile phone rang. I looked at the phone’s screen and heartily responded. “Veteran Educator, Jessie Wah King!”

“Sam, where are you?” Madam King said.

“At my home, Veteran,” I answered.

“What are you doing?”

“Writing, Veteran!”

“Please drop the pen and paper, or the computer, and come to my house now!” she stressed.

“Ok, Veteran. I’m on my way right away,” I responded to the ‘command’

I met my Academic Mentor sitting behind her food table in the piazza. “Veteran!” I said, announcing my presence—the way chose to inform her about my presence anytime I was in her private residence.

She looked up to my face and laughed. “Sam, I called you only for us to have dinner from the home of my former student, Liberia’s current President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf,” she told me, her smiles refusing to go away. She removed a white cloth over two glass bowls, served me first, and put hers into another bowl.

The food was nutritiously rich, but it wasn’t pepperish—I mean with enough pepper. My system had got used to plenty pepper. But, I later realized the main person (President Sirleaf or Mrs. Jessie Wah King) the food was prepared for didn’t have the kind of ‘pepper system’ I had.



2018: Mentor & Mentee: Having lunch with food from her former student (President Ellen Sirleaf) on 10th Grade at the College of West Africa (CWA)

TOGETHER AT PUBLIC FUNCTIONS

At age 99, my Academic Mother/Mentor graced the induction ceremony of my Leadership of the Liberia Association of Writers (LAW), held in the Park of the Main Campus of the University of Liberia on Saturday, February 28, 2017. She joined me on the stage during part of my inaugural address.

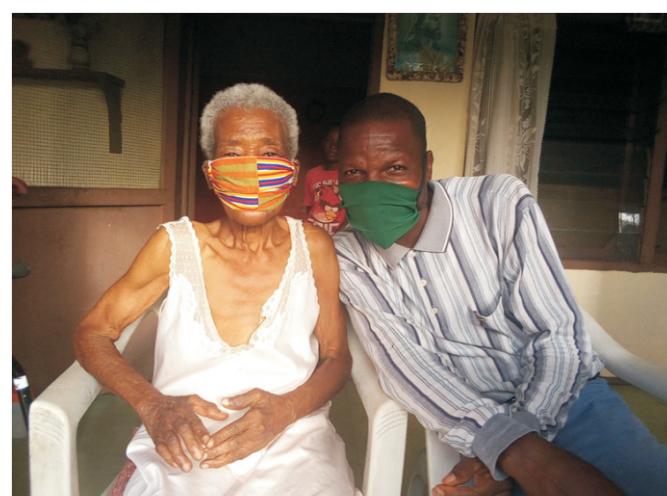
I escorted my Academic Mother the celebration of the 2018’s International Women’s Day (IWD), held at the Samuel Kanyon Doe Sports Complex, where she was honored on “Education” by the Ministry of Gender, through First Lady Clar Marie Weah. My news stories and articles on her attracted the Ministry’s attention to her. In 2017, she told me: “You are the first writer that published me in a newspaper, since I started teaching.”

At the IWD celebration, she, at age 99, she shocked watchers, who had gathered around her, with aerobics (fast bend of the body lower, touch the toes with tips of fingers, and fast straightening of the body) This was her proof of “physical fitness” to one of the watchers who had remarked: “Mama is not physically fit, to walk long distance, as she used to be forty years ago.” Before the acrobatic, she said to the speaker: “You think I’m not strong like a younger person, now watch me show you I’m as strong as you or another young person.”

Before the IWD celebration, she had exhibited similar physical strength: she walked without any aid (stick or human being) she mounted commercial motorcycles (She didn’t have a personal car—even in her advanced age) whenever she was going to Church (Sometime President Sirleaf sent a Government’s car and a driver to take her to Church)

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) & 101-YEAR-OLD JESSIE WAH KING

My last meeting with veteran Educator Jessie Wah King—before death eternally separated us—was on Saturday, May 30, 2020 (after 12 months-plus of separation) My main purpose of my visit was to know how she was coping during the COVID-19 pandemic. She was prepared for the pandemic—evident from presence of a hand-wash bucket at the entry point of her home and a cloth mask near to her. We posed for photos.



Saturday, May 30, 2020: Veteran Educator & ‘Academic Mentee’ observing the COVID-19 ‘Protocol’ at her house

THE “SHOCKING NEW”

Around 2pm of July 27, I was at the Center for Media Studies & Peacebuilding (CEMESP), reading e-mails to me and responding to Social Media posts from friends when my mobile phone rang. I turned my attention to the phone. “Why is he calling me now, after almost five months of speech recess between me and me?” I said to the person whose name was attached to the phone number on my phone.

“Dweh!” the person called my surname after I opened the telephonic line.

“Yes, B,” I said with less enthusiasm toward the caller. The caller was Mr. Bai Best, Managing Director of the Daily Observer newspaper (Liberia’s oldest independent print medium found in 1982) where I worked as Proofreader for six months in

2011 (my first place of work upon my return from a 10-year refugee life in Nigeria) His father, Mr. Kenneth Y. Best, now in his advanced age, is the Founder of the newspaper, published by the Liberian Observer Corporation.

“Are you aware about the death of your oldma, Jessie King?” Mr. Bai Best inquired.

I froze, speechless over two minutes, and developed goose pimples over Bai’s comment. Suddenly, my attention left my computer on my thighs and, seconds later, my memory wandered to 99-year-old Jessie and me in 2018 (the first time we met) and rolled to Saturday, May 30, 2020 (out last meeting day)

“Ay, God! Veteran is gone!” I cried when I regained mental strength. I always called her “veteran”(due to the longer time she spent in the teaching profession and productivities—two things that determine the title “veteran”) She always called me “Sam”

Bai didn’t right away tell me when “Veteran” died. (He said he didn’t see the date in a poetic obituary by veteran Liberian economist Togbah Nah Tipoteh he had got the death news from) He gave the date to me about four hours later.

The news from Bai clicked my memory to Mrs. King’s ‘death comment’ during the final mentor-mentee meeting on Saturday, May 30, 2020. She said: “I’m now ready for death,” the centenarian said, without any comment or question from this writer on this subject. “I’m expecting to be called by the Lord anytime. She said one of her daily prayer points to God is to make her “always willing to join him when he calls.”

An elderly friend to the Family of my Late Academic Mother/Mentor told me on Sunday, August 9, 2020, that she will be buried on Monday, August 10.

Adieu, Veteran Educator—My Academic Mother/Mentor!



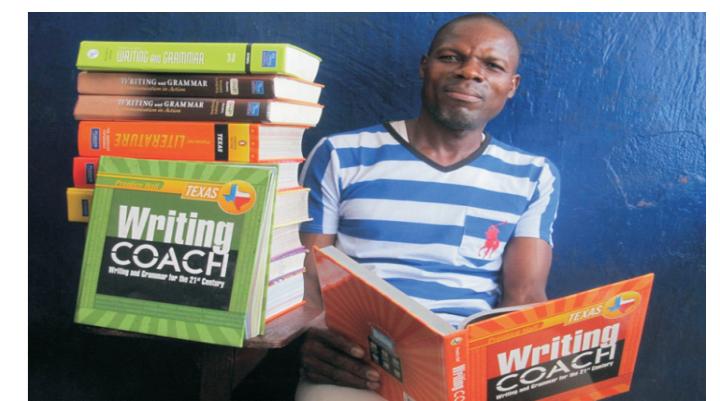
Saturday, May, 30, 2020: Educational Mentor (at age 101) & Her ‘Academic Mentee/Protégé’ (Writer) at her residence

May you be welcomed in the Bosom of your Creator—Jehovah.

In the Great Beyond, continue to send to Earth, in Liberia, your Quality Educational breath to clean the “Mess” (as your former student, President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf described the entire Liberia’s education system in 2015) and make it the “best”

BRIEF SELF-INTRO

The Author, without a University Degree, is a member of the Wedabo ethnic group of Grand Kru County, situated in the South-Eastern part of Liberia.



Test scandal chokes NPHIL

Liberian-born American Ms. Skeeter T. Wilson, whose COVID-19 test result has entangled the National Public Health Institute of Liberia or NPHIL in a major scandal, involving staffers tempering with patients' tests, has completed a second test at the Institute.

Lawyer representing the legal interest of Ms. Wilson told the New Dawn Monday, 10 August that authorities of NPHIL are yet to respond to a written inquiry about his client's COVID-19 status, and is on the verge of writing a second communication to get clarity from the Institute.

The scandal, which is the second, has drawn the National Public Health

2, 2020, by Liberian Immigration Service officials after authorities discovered that the certificate which she was bearing was forged.

According to information gathered by this paper, Ms. Wilson was tested positive and through the Incident Management System (IMS) treatment protocol was informed about her positive results and placed under treatment. In less than a week, a certificate under the signature of Dr. Makosa Fallah was issued to the patient that she's negative.

But Dr. Fallah who did not deny that his signature was on that certificate claims that it was rather his chief of office staff Jonathan G. Ender who affixed his electronic signature

Enders, who without verification placed the electronic signature of Dr. Fallah on it.

The issuance of the clearance certificate to Ms. Wilson has now sparked a major controversy that could undermine the country's credibility in its fight against the coronavirus as the lawyer representing Ms. Wilson is now claiming the release of his client.

Cllr. Neto Zarzar Lige told the New Dawn on Sunday that he has written the IMS which ins under the chairmanship of Health Minister Dr. Wilhelmina Jallah to immediately release his client and have her American passport return.

Cllr. Lige told this paper that his client cannot be responsible for an internal error within the NPHIL.

In a communication to Mr. Gborie and two others, Dr. Fallah said, "In the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, it is very dangerous to the country for confirmed positive cases to be given results as negative. This will cause further spread of the disease making containment extremely difficult".

He stated that as per the guidelines and best practice from NPHIL, only people with known negative results that have been verified are given a certificate of travel. He added that the serious breach of this established protocol has the propensity to derail COVID-19 containment in the country.

This is not the first time that such incident has occurred. It could be recalled that a similar situation involving Dr. Alaric Tokpah occurred where Dr. Tokpah rejected claims that he

Information gathered by this paper indicates that Mr. Gborie issued Ms. Wilson a negative certificate to through a proxy when her result sent to him by Mr. Trokon Yeabah, one of the Lab officials clearly stated that she was positive.

Gborie then sent a letter of testimonial to Dr. Fallah's chief of office staff, Jonathan

he had previously received certificate under the signature of Dr. Fallah informing him that he was negative.

Minutes after health officials alerted Dr. Tokpah and sought his immediate quarantine an uproar ensued

prompting militants from the Student Unification Party-SUP, to deploy student-militant at his Lapkazee community to prevent health authorities from quarantining Prof. Alaric Tokpah. -By Othello B. Garblah

MOH takes birth

Cont'd from page 6

said, UNICEF is making sure that every child has birth registration certificate and educate parents on the importance of the day.

"We want to thank you for showing interest, we will work with you to ensure that children have the necessary documents", Madam Gad said.

Liberia's Deputy Minister of Health A. Vaifee Tulay explained that the 2020 CRVS theme is a reflection of millions of children in Africa, who do not have legal identity, and as a result, many are denied their rightful inheritance, while others some instances, are forced into early marriages or are vulnerable to sexual abuse, violence and trafficking.

"As we celebrate the CRVS

day, I want to remind everyone present here today that legal identity of people begins with the registration of a child's birth, which is fundamental human rights", Minister Tulay underscored.

"As a country, we must not only embrace the 'no name campaign' but we must commit ourselves to this campaign to ensure that every child born in the borders of our country has a legal identity."

Minister Tulay added that over the last three years, Liberia with support from international partners, including the World Bank, WHO, and UNICEF has made great strides to increasing access to birth registration and provide legal identity to children in the country. -

Editing by Jonathan Browne



Institute to serious public scrutiny here, bordering on integrity and professional standards.

At least three officials at the National Public Health Institute of Liberia (NPHIL) has been suspended as the entity co-leading the country's COVID-19 fight comes under another public scrutiny after issuing a fraudulent certificate, declaring a positive patient, negative. NPHIL is the government's institution responsible for testing probable corona virus cases.

The suspended officials are Amos F. Gborie, Deputy Director, Division of Environmental and Occupational Health; Mr. Fahn Taweh, Deputy Director, National Public Health and Reference Laboratory and Jonathan G. Ender, Chief of Office Staff to Dr. Masoka Fallah, NPHIL's Director General.

The trio issued a negative COVID-19 traveler's certificate to a Liberian born American Ms. Skeeter T. Wilson, who was bundled out an airplane on Sunday August

on the document without his knowledge.

"This matter came to my attention on Friday (August 7)." Dr. Fallah told the New Dawn on Sunday August 9. "I never even knew that this was happening under my nose." He added.

According to him, after the matter was brought to his attention he was informed by his Deputy Amos F. Gborie, that Ms. Wilson had come abruptly to the office seeking a COVID-19 traveler certificate, which is a requirement for travelers leaving the country.

He explained that when the issue was brought to his attention he launched an investigation and discovered that the initial result of Ms. Wilson had come back positive but somehow it was changed to negative by Mr. Gborie.

Information gathered by this paper indicates that Mr. Gborie issued Ms. Wilson a negative certificate to through a proxy when her result sent to him by Mr. Trokon Yeabah, one of the Lab officials clearly stated that she was positive.

Gborie then sent a letter of testimonial to Dr. Fallah's chief of office staff, Jonathan

PRESS RELEASE BY THE MANAGEMENT OF SAPELLE INTERNATIONAL BANK LIBERIA LIMITED (FORMERLY GN BANK LIBERIA LIMITED)

The Board of Directors of GN Bank Liberia Limited wish to inform our customers and the general public that the company has received the approval of the Central Bank of Liberia to operate under license as "Sapelle International Bank Liberia Limited" (SIBLL).

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Liberia Black Star FC identify with Ex-officials



L - R: Philip Togba, Bah Sandimannie And Harris Quincy Myers

Three former officials of Liberia Black Star have benefited humanitarian assistance provided by the club.

The former officials are Harris Quincy Myers, Bah Sandimannie and Coach Philip Togba alias "Facao".

Making the presentation on behalf of the club, a current official Mr. Willie B. Davis, recalled the exemplary roles played by the Ex-officials and admonished them to use the funds for their personal sustainability.

The humanitarian assistance is the result of a fundraising exercise

undertaken from 1 - 31 July, 2020, by members, supporters, and affiliates of Black Star.

Coach Philip Togba, one of the three recipients, who was overwhelmed with joy, thanked the Black Star family for being thoughtful about his welfare.

Another beneficiary, Bah Sandimannie, said he was elated and grateful for the assistance while Harris Quincy Myers said "Little is much when God is involved." Harris also extended gratitude to Black Star family for the support.

The former officials served with distinction and played significant role during Black Star's growth. Harris Myers is

the founding president of Liberia Black Star FC; Bah Sandimannie served as chaplain and program coordinator, and Coach Philip Togba served with dedication as deputy coach under Coaches Jarwee Quiah, George Attiah Lewis, and Henry Browne in the 80s, before later becoming head coach of the club.

Members of the Black Star delegation that visited the former officials comprised Willie B. Davis, Thomas Kojo, Kelvin Sebwe, Musa Sillah and Dionysius Sebwe.

Liberia Black Star was founded on March 15, 1980, in South Beach Community, Central Monrovia. The football club won three championships in one year (LFA National League, Knock-out Championship, and President's Cup), becoming LFA Trip Champions in 2007. The following year, they represented Liberia at the Confederation of African Football (CAF) Club Championship.

Inter star Lukaku sets Europa League scoring record

Romelu Lukaku scored for a ninth successive Europa League match as Inter took on Bayer Leverkusen on Monday, setting a new record in the competition.

Inter forward Lukaku put Antonio Conte's side 2-0 up 21 minutes into the quarter-final clash in Germany, squeezing a low finish in after holding off Edmond Tapsoba, before Kai Havertz pulled one back for

Leverkusen.

Having matched a long-standing Alan Shearer record with a strike against Getafe last week, Lukaku is the first player to score in nine straight matches in either the UEFA Cup or the Europa League.

The Belgium international had previously appeared in the competition with Everton in 2014-15, scoring in matches against Dynamo Kiev, Young Boys and Wolfsburg.

Lukaku looked set to have the chance to add to his tally shortly after Havertz's strike, when Daley Sinkgraven was penalised for handball, but the spot-kick was overturned after the referee checked with VAR.

In his maiden season in Serie A, former Manchester United striker Lukaku scored 23 league goals for Inter, as they finished second behind Juventus.

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Vacancy Announcement

The Searchlight Communications Inc., Publishers of the New Dawn newspaper is seeking applications from young females between the ages of 18-28 for an internship placement within the business department of the paper as sales agents.

The internship runs for three months. Interns who demonstrate excellent marketing skills will be hired permanently after the three months.

The applicants must be at least high school graduates and above, have good communication skill, must be able to market the New Dawn to potential advertisers etc.

All interested persons should direct their communications to:
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