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# Brawl at the Capitol

## -As police clash with protesters



Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2020 clashes between protesters and riot police on Capitol Hill in Monrovia

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# Continental News

## WHO to probe 'sex abuse' by aid staff in DR Congo

The World Health Organization (WHO) has pledged to investigate allegations that aid workers tackling the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo sexually abused and exploited women.

WHO and other aid agency staff were accused by 50 women in a joint investigation by two news agencies.

Local women were allegedly plied with drinks, "ambushed" in hospitals, forced to have sex, and two became pregnant.

The allegations cover the period between 2018 and March this year.

The New Humanitarian news agency and the Thomson Reuters Foundation have carried out an almost year-long investigation. The WHO said the allegations would be "robustly investigated".

"Anyone identified as being involved will be held to account and face serious consequences, including immediate dismissal," it said

in a statement.

"The betrayal of people in the communities we serve is reprehensible."

More than 2,000 people died in the Ebola outbreak in DR Congo.

The WHO, which spearheaded global efforts to curb the spread of the outbreak, declared it over in June this year.

The UN and aid agencies have previously promised zero tolerance of sexual abuse following similar allegations against some of their staff in other countries.

A spokesperson for the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said it would scrutinise the WHO findings closely, adding: "Sexual exploitation and

abuse are completely abhorrent. We regularly assess all of our partners against the highest safeguarding standards." Most of the allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation were against men, including doctors, said to be from the WHO. At least 30 women made allegations against them, the news agencies reported.

The next highest number of allegations - made by eight women - were against men said to be from DR Congo's health ministry.

Two other UN agencies, and four international charities, were also named in the report. Some of the accused men came from Belgium, Burkina Faso, Canada, France, Guinea-Conakry and Ivory Coast.

Many men refused to wear condoms, and at least two women said they became

pregnant as a result of the abuse, the news agencies reported. A 25-year-old cleaner was quoted as saying that she was invited to a WHO doctor's home to discuss a promotion.

"He shut the door and told me: 'There's a condition. We need to have sex right now,'" the woman said.

"He started to take my clothes off me. I stepped back but he forced himself against me and kept pulling off my clothes. I started crying and told him to stop... He didn't stop. So I opened the door and ran out." In another case, a 32-year-old Ebola survivor told the news agencies that she was invited to a hotel for counselling.

In the lobby, she was offered a soft drink. She said she woke up hours later, naked and alone in a hotel room, and believes she was raped. BBC



This woman said she was sexually exploited by a doctor involved in the Ebola response

## Court backs extradition of Rwanda genocide suspect

France's top appeals court has agreed to extradite the alleged financier of the Rwandan genocide, Félicien Kabuga, to face trial in Tanzania.

Mr Kabuga, in his 80s, was arrested in May at his home outside Paris after 26 years on the run. Some 800,000 people were killed in the 1994 genocide. Mr Kabuga is alleged to have funnelled money to militia groups as

chairman of the national defence fund. He denies all the charges. During a court appearance in May, he described the accusations as "lies".

His lawyers had argued that he was too frail to be sent to face trial at the UN tribunal in the Tanzanian town of Arusha. Once one of Rwanda's richest men, Mr Kabuga is accused of financing the Rwandan genocide.

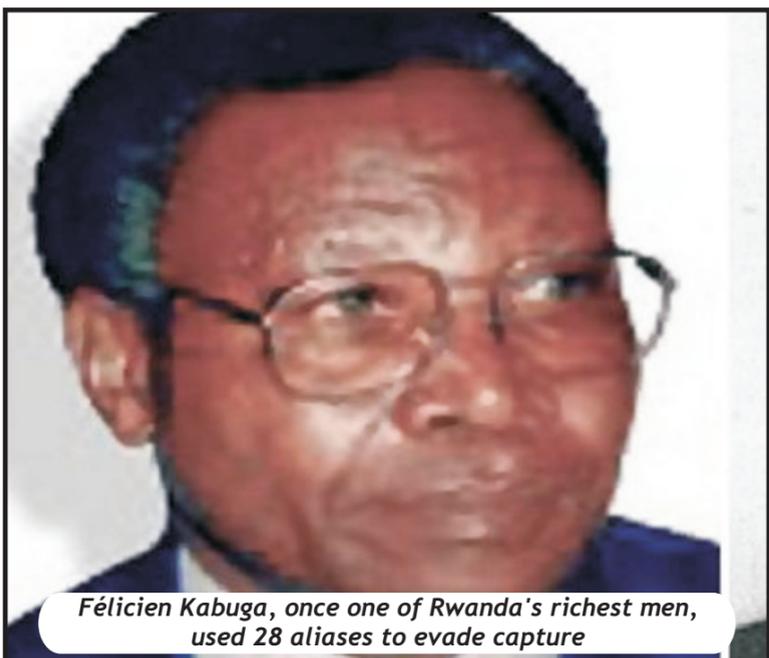
He is alleged to have backed and armed ethnic Hutu militias who slaughtered about 800,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994.

He set up the notorious Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM), a Rwandan broadcaster that actively encouraged people to search out and kill anyone ethnic Tutsis.

In 1997 he was indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) on seven counts including genocide and crimes against humanity. Mr Kabuga's lawyers argued that their client should not be transferred to Tanzania for health reasons, particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic. They also said that the appeals court had violated the constitution by failing to provide a thorough examination of international arrest warrants.

But these arguments were dismissed by the court.

The extradition ruling upheld one by a lower court on 3 June that Mr Kabuga's health was not "incompatible" with a transfer to a UN tribunal. BBC



Félicien Kabuga, once one of Rwanda's richest men, used 28 aliases to evade capture

## Former president banned from leaving Sierra Leone



Mr Koroma's party has denied the corruption allegations

The authorities in Sierra Leone have imposed a travel ban on former President Ernest Bai Koroma and several officials who served during his term over allegations of corruption.

Mr Koroma and more than 100 people will not be allowed to leave the country.

They have been ordered to pay back stolen money, forfeit their houses, or they will be further investigated.

Mr Koroma's opposition All People's Congress (APC) party has dismissed the allegations.

A lawyer for the party has said that they will go to court to challenge the travel ban. Last week President Maada Bio said the commission of inquiry, led by foreign judges, was a major breakthrough that would help make corruption

unfashionable and risky.

"We have to draw the line... we cannot be this corrupt as a nation and expect to develop," he told the BBC.

The commission identified 111 individuals consisting of former heads of parastatals, bankers, and businessmen as "people of interest"

The BBC's Umaru Fofana in the capital, Freetown, says the instruction signed by the attorney general and minister of justice instructs the country's chief immigration officer and inspector general of police to not allow them to leave Sierra Leone by air, land or sea until they have clearance.

The development has divided Sierra Leoneans down the middle, our reporter says. BBC

# EDITORIAL

## Stop the violence

**LIBERIA IS RETROGRESSING** gradually into violence of unimaginable proportion that could reverse hands of the clock and send this country once again nose-diving, amid a global pandemic.

**AHEAD OF MIDTERM** senatorial election in December, the country has witnessed spate of violence between supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change and loyalists of the opposition Collaborating Political Parties, threatening whatever is left of the economy and social peace.

**THIS IS DANGEROUS** and must claim attention of the Weah administration immediately. Opposition lawmakers Abraham Darius Dillon and Yekeh Kolubah have suffered attacks repeatedly in the past several months for criticizing the CDC administration. The latest saw the home of Montserrado County Electoral District#10 Representative Kolubah completely ransacked on Sunday, 27 September by mobilized youths believed to have come from the CDC just as it occurred in Zwedru, Grand Gedeh County few months back.

**THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS** to be comfortable with violence against members of the opposition, believing that such tactics would silence them into cowardice and submission. The ruling establishment is totally paranoid by criticisms, and is prepared to go after any citizen raising his or her voice, as is in the case of Dillon and Yekeh on critical issues.

**SURELY, THIS IS** not the type of democracy Liberians saw in the CDC and elected its standard bearer George Manneh Weah in 2017 as President. President Weah's conspicuous silence on the wave of violence across the country is not only worrisome, but disappointing.

**THIS IS EVEN** more dangerous as the country goes to the poll on December 8th to elect 15 senators with the ruling Coalition seeking absolute control of the Legislature, which it already has over both the House and the Senate.

**THE WEAH ADMINISTRATION** should understand that violently suppressing free speech and dissenting views are traits of dictatorship that undermine tolerance and national unity. The eastern European state of Belarus is a classic example of where tyrant rules with iron fist, crushing dissents at all cost.

**LIBERIA SHOULD NOT** be allowed to return to such atmosphere because our international partners, including the United States, the United Nations, ECOWAS and the African Union, among others invested a lot in this country to get us to where we are today as a people.

We call on the government to move quickly in ensuring the violence comes to an end no matter which side it emanated from to give way to democratic norms and practices, which are healthy for our democracy.

**IN THE SAME** vein, we want an immediate investigation into Sunday's violence that left Representative Kolubah's residence totally ransacked so that perpetrators are brought to justice. Anything short of that could be seen as government's complacency.

# COMMENTARY

By Iain Campbell & Caroline Winslow

## A Cool New Energy-Efficiency Policy

*A single change in our approach to energy efficiency can enable more people around the world to stay cool, benefit consumers, and flatten the curve on cooling-related energy demand and emissions. If we want climate-friendly AC, we need to leap toward the technology ceiling, rather than hover just above the technology floor.*

**D**ENVER - Air conditioning (AC) may be cooling us, but it's cooking our planet. would be just below the technology ceiling, rather than just above the technology floor.

Countries around the world have experienced scorching temperatures this summer. This August was the second hottest on record. Global warming and more intense summer heat waves, coupled with increased urbanization and rising incomes, are driving a dramatic increase in demand for AC units. The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that the number of ACs in operation globally will increase from 1.6 billion today to 5.6 billion by 2050. Over the next 30 years, ten air conditioners will be sold every second.

Air conditioners contribute significantly to the greenhouse-gas emissions fueling climate change, both directly, owing to the hydrofluorocarbon (HFC)-based refrigerants they contain, and indirectly, given the energy they consume. A recent report by the IEA and the United Nations Environment Program is the latest to highlight the threat, describing it as "one of the most critical and often neglected climate and development issues of our time."

The 2016 Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Destroy the Ozone Layer aims to reduce HFC production and consumption by over 80% by 2047. If implemented, this could avoid 0.4°C of global warming this century. But while the Kigali Amendment provides a pathway to address refrigerants, the world must now tackle the problem of air conditioners' energy intensity.

Most AC units sold today are 2-3 times less efficient than the best commercially available products. This is largely because consumers buy the lowest-priced units, with little or no understanding of the lifecycle cost implications of their purchase. The IEA estimates that widely diffusing the most efficient air conditioners on the market today could cut cooling energy demand by half.

While the AC industry needs to continue making units more efficient, we can, and must, take steps to drive the adoption of the best products already available. That means flipping the way we address the efficiency issue, which in turn will require policymakers and the industry to come together and show bold leadership.

One way to boost energy efficiency is through policy intervention, specifically regarding minimum energy-performance standards (MEPS). Currently, MEPS are set just above the level of the worst-performing AC products, in order to keep them out of the market and provide some protection to consumers.

But with market growth continuing to accelerate, policymakers should instead set MEPS with reference to the best commercially available products - meaning that the MEPS

This significant change would not only protect consumers; it would also considerably reduce the lifecycle costs of owning and operating air conditioners. At the same time, it would still allow sufficient space for product competition, thereby bringing down the purchase price of more efficient units.

Such a policy could emulate and build on Japan's Top Runner program, launched in 1999, which effectively advances the country's AC market while delivering energy savings and reducing lifecycle costs. The scheme encourages consumers to purchase the best-performing available units through a labeling program, which in turn increases economies of scale and lowers costs. And by demanding more efficient AC technologies from the market, Top Runner also bolsters investor confidence.

Targeting maximum efficiency in this way worldwide would decrease the lifecycle cost for consumers of owning an AC unit by a factor of two to three and eliminate the need for over 1,300 gigawatts of electricity generation capacity globally. It would also avoid 157-345 gigatons of carbon dioxide emissions over the next four decades.

Establishing policies based upon the best commercially available AC products rather than the most commonly sold ones would thus avoid emissions, reduce government spending on power generation, and save consumers money, all while continuing to incentivize the market to develop better performing products.

Better yet, such a policy shift would prepare the market for AC products with even greater efficiency potential that are already on the horizon. In 2018, an international coalition launched the Global Cooling Prize to identify a residential room air conditioner that uses dramatically less energy and contains refrigerants with little to no effect on the climate.

Eight teams have developed technologies that potentially could have five times less climate impact than standard AC units on the market today. Following testing this fall, one winner will be awarded a prize of \$1 million in March 2021 for their innovative cooling solution.

Scaling such a cooling technology globally could save consumers \$1 trillion in operational costs in the next 30 years, and avoid up to 0.5°C of warming by the end of the century. And that includes only the residential sector.

A single change in our approach to energy efficiency can enable more people around the world to stay cool, benefit consumers, and flatten the curve on cooling-related energy demand and emissions. If we want climate-friendly AC, we need to leap toward the technology ceiling.

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## O-PED

By Yanis Varoufakis

# The Redistribution Games

*Life is not the Olympics, where talent and training determine an athlete's performance. It's more like a Roman arena in which well-armed gladiators vanquish unarmed victims who lose not because they did not try hard enough, but because of the asymmetrical initial distribution of armor.*

**A**THENS - The Olympic 100-meter final is about to begin. The crowd roars at the sound of the starting gun. The sprinters are off. But, after 30 meters, the frontrunners slow down, as if in solidarity with the laggards. They have not chosen to do so, but new rules set strict limits on the maximum distance separating the winner from the last-place finisher.

Conservative opponents of income and wealth re-distribution have this kind of analogy in mind when they lament the "politics of envy." They envision the rich as sprinters that do-gooders want to slow down by law and through punitive taxes.

But life is not the Olympics, where talent and training determine an athlete's performance. It's more like a Roman arena in which well-armed gladiators vanquish unarmed victims who lose not because they did not try hard enough, but because of the asymmetrical initial distribution of armor.<sup>1</sup>

In the 1950s and 1960s, hard work and an innovative mind could perhaps be relied upon to lift people from poverty and propel them upward. But that was possible only because society imposed constraints on what the ultra-wealthy, bankers especially, were allowed to do with their money. Since those constraints were removed, with the collapse of the Bretton Woods system and the ensuing financialization of our economies, working long hours and showing immense flair may get one nowhere.

The problem facing most people, especially the young, is not that superstars like Warren Buffett are leaving them behind. It is that they are being held behind by stagnant investment and wages, owing to the simple fact that the wealthy get wealthier almost in their sleep, for reasons that have nothing to do with effort, entrepreneurship, or parsimony.

Even the great innovators are part of the problem. Jeff Bezos had foresight, revolutionized retail, and made a fortune. But what part of his \$200 billion is a reward for his smart thinking and entrepreneurship? And what part of his current wealth is simply a function of his previous wealth?

While it is impossible to answer such a question precisely, the greatest proportion of the world's wealth does not find its way to society's innovators or maintainers. As wealth accumulates in few hands, the rest of the economy gradually becomes a desert.

This is not news. We have always known that exorbitant market power underpins exorbitant wealth, which then feeds back into even greater market power. And this is the crux of the matter: Nothing retards productivity and depresses employment as efficiently as exorbitant market power. To invoke the conservative analogy, not even the fastest runners can win when the wealth commandeered by the ultra-rich turns the track into sand for everyone else. That's why the most soul-destroying poverty and the largest number of "deaths of despair" are observed in countries where wealth concentration is soaring.

What should we do about highly concentrated wealth? How do we redistribute it fairly and efficiently?

A wealth tax is much in vogue today. But no legally and politically feasible wealth tax can reduce substantially the current levels of crushing inequality. Moreover, it enables conservatives to cast doubt on wealth redistribution by asking pertinent questions: Should the state evict the poor heir of a good house if she can't afford to pay the wealth tax? How do we price an asset, such as a stamp collection, without first auctioning it off?

Fortunately, there are proven ways to redistribute wealth without violating anyone's rights or crossing ethical lines. In 1906, Theodore Roosevelt famously broke up Standard Oil and other cartels despite a chorus of opposition bemoaning his attack on innovation and entrepreneurship. Following the 1929 Wall Street collapse, another Roosevelt, Franklin Delano, faced the same chorus when he put the financial genie in a bottle. With these two moves, the Roosevelts effected a redistribution of wealth and power that nothing short of a revolution could accomplish.

Of course, the powerful find ways to shake off such shackles. After the Bretton Woods system collapsed in 1971, Wall Street and the cartels began to dominate again. Today, three megafirms, BlackRock, Vanguard, and State Street, own at least 40% of all American public companies and nearly 90% of those listed on the New York Stock Exchange.

Tacit collusion is rampant, because every CEO knows that the parent megafirm is likely to be talking to CEOs of rival companies that it also owns. The result is higher prices, less innovation, lower investment, and, naturally, stagnant wages.

Power was further concentrated after Wall Street imploded in 2008 and central banks began to pump rivers of money into the financial system. Levering up the central bank money, the gargantuan cartels used this liquidity to invent new forms of complex debt and to buy back their own shares, sending share prices (and, naturally, bonuses) into the stratosphere while starving the world of investment in quality jobs and green infrastructure.

Megafirms also indulged in another favorite pastime: usurping markets, buying politicians, and capturing regulators - in short, poisoning liberal democracy. By the time COVID-19 sent the real economy further into depression, the world of finance had decoupled fully from the real economy, turning capitalism into a type of techno-feudalism.

To end this regime, we must update the two Roosevelts' interventions. Instead of wasting energy on an ineffective wealth tax, progressives should concentrate on a three-pronged strategy.

First, central bank money must be exclusively directed to support public investment in the green transition and other public goods. Second, corporations that monopolize large marketplaces of their own making - as, say, Amazon and Facebook have done - should be broken up. Lastly, a proportion of large corporations' shares (perhaps 10%) should be deposited into a social equity fund to fund a universal basic dividend.

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## OPINION

By Chris Patten

# China's Leaders Can't Be Trusted

*Four examples of the Chinese leadership's duplicity and mendacity demonstrate that the last thing the world should do is trust the Communist Party of China. If governments recognize this and act together, the sooner the Beijing bullies will have to behave better.*

**L**ONDON - When I was governor of Hong Kong, one of my noisiest critics was Sir Percy Cradock, a former British ambassador to China. Cradock always argued that China would never break its solemn promises, memorialized in a treaty lodged at the United Nations, to guarantee Hong Kong's high degree of autonomy and way of life for 50 years after the return of the city from British to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

Cradock once memorably said that although China's leaders may be "thuggish dictators," they were "men of their word" and could be "trusted to do what they promise." Nowadays, we have overwhelming evidence of the truth of the first half of that observation.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's dictatorship is certainly thuggish. Consider its policies in Xinjiang. Many international lawyers argue that the incarceration of over one million Muslim Uighurs, forced sterilization and abortion, and slave labor meet the UN definition of genocide. This wicked repression goes beyond thuggery.

A recent Australian Strategic Policy Institute study based on satellite images indicates that China has built 380 internment camps in Xinjiang, including 14 still under construction. Having initially denied that these camps even existed, some Chinese officials now claim that most people detained in them have already been returned to their own communities. Clearly, this is far from the truth.

So, what about Xi and his apparatchiks being "men of their word"? Alas, that part of Cradock's description has no basis in reality. The last thing the world should do is trust the Communist Party of China (CPC). Four examples of the Chinese leadership's duplicity and mendacity - four out of many - should make this obvious to all.

First, consider the China-sourced COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed almost one million people globally and destroyed jobs and livelihoods on a horrendous scale in recent months. After the 2002-03 SARS epidemic, which also originated in China, the World Health Organization negotiated with its members - including China - to establish a set of guidelines known as the International Health Regulations. Under these rules, especially Article 6, the Chinese government is obliged - like all other signatories to the agreement - to collect information on any new public-health emergency and report it to the WHO within 24 hours.

Instead, as the University of Ottawa professor Errol Patrick Mendes, a distinguished international human-rights lawyer, has pointed out, China "suppressed, falsified, and obfuscated data and repressed advance warnings about the contagion as early as December" last year.

The result is that the coronavirus has become a far greater menace than it otherwise would have been. This is the CPC's coronavirus, not least because the party silenced brave Chinese doctors when they tried to blow the whistle on what was happening.

Former US President Barack Obama also can attest to Xi's lack of trustworthiness. In September 2015, Xi assured Obama that China was not pursuing militarization in and around the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

But this was a pledge with Chinese communist characteristics: it was completely untrue. Satellite imagery released by the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a US think tank, provides convincing evidence that the Chinese military has deployed large batteries of anti-aircraft guns on the islands. At the same time, the Chinese navy has rammed and sunk Vietnamese fishing vessels in these waters and tested new anti-aircraft carrier missiles there.

A third example of the CPC's dishonesty is its full-frontal assault on Hong Kong's autonomy, freedom, and rule of law. Hong Kong represents all those aspects of an open society that Chinese communists, despite their professed confidence in their own technological totalitarianism, regard as an existential threat to the surveillance state they have created.

Xi has therefore torn up the promises that China made to Hong Kong and the international community in the 1984 Joint Declaration (and subsequently) that the city would continue to enjoy its liberties until 2047. Moreover, the law that China imposed to eviscerate Hong Kong's freedom has extra-territorial scope. Article 38 of the National Security Law can apply to anyone in Hong Kong, mainland China, or any other country. So, for example, an American, British, or Japanese journalist who wrote anything in his or her own country criticizing the Chinese government's policy in Tibet or Hong Kong could be arrested if he or she were to set foot in Hong Kong or China.

Finally, one can add China's sackful of broken trade and investment promises, which overturned both the letter and spirit of what CPC officials had previously pledged. China's coercive commercial diplomacy includes threats not to buy exports of countries whose governments have the courage to stand up to Xi. This has happened to Norway, Australia, South Korea, Japan, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Canada, the United States, and others. The end result is often less than China had threatened, but not before an industry or economic sector has begged its government to back down.

One thing is clear: the world cannot trust Xi's dictatorship. The sooner we recognize this and act together, the sooner the Beijing bullies will have to behave better. The world will be safer and more prosperous for it.

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**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**MORE HEADLINE NEWS**

**Rep. Kolubah seeks ECOWAS, AU's intervention**

By Emmanuel Mondaye & By Lewis S. Teh

In the wake of Sunday's attack and looting of several valuables from the district office of Montserrado County Representative Yekeh Kolubah by gang alleged to be from the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC),

lawmaker and his followers or they would be constrained to defend themselves.

This is not the first time the Montserrado County lawmaker's home and district office has been attacked. Few months ago, a similar attack was waged on the lawmaker and his followers by people believed to be ruling party loyalists for

international community is necessary to prevent a full-scale situation that could arise if there were a repeat of such violence.

Narrating what transpired on Sunday, he said while at home, Representative Kolubah received information that the Inspector-General of the Ministry of Commerce (MOC) Madam Josephine David and others from the CDC were due in the district to attend a market dedicatory ceremony.

He notes that considering what had transpired before when people from the CDC disturbed the peace and security of residents of the district, Representative Kolubah decided to leave the vicinity to attend a program of his colleague, Senator Abraham Darius Dillon.

According to Kamara, while away the lawmaker received calls from the district that Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Koijee had arrived at the district office along with gang, threatening to get even with the lawmaker and his followers for consistently insulting the President.

He explains that considering the graveness of the situation, Representative Kolubah returned home where he and his family also live to ensure there was peace in his district.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11



the lawmaker's office seeks timely intervention of ECOWAS, African Union (AU), and other international partners.

Kolubah's district office wants these international bodies to prevail on the CDC to stop attacking the

criticizing President George Weah.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with The New Dawn on 30 September, the Special Assistant in the Office of Representative Kolubah, Abdullah Kamara, disclosed that intervention of the

**CDC suspends Bong County Chair -over electoral violence**

The National Executive Committee of the Congress for Democratic Change, with immediate effect, suspends the membership of CDC Bong County Chairman Victor Wisseh, for alleged violence and disruption of a political rally held in Gbarnga, Bong County over the weekend.

A press statement issued in Monrovia, Wednesday September 30, by CDC MulbahMorlu says the decision arises out of an official complaint dated 29 September 2020, which accuses Mr. Wisseh of leading a gang of young people to disrupt a political rally held by Bong County Sen. Henry W. Yallah at Chief Compound Public School, resulting to physical violence and

wounds.

The release says Wisseh has also been suspended from the Bong County Chairmanship,

pending outcome of full investigation.

At the same time, the CDC distances itself from Sunday's ransack of the home Montserrado County



**"Dysfunctional Society" Gbowee on Weah's Liberia**

Liberia's 2011 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Madam Leymah Gbowee, has described the current situation in Liberia as dysfunctional.

Madam Gbowee says Weah's Liberia is a country with poor governance. She maintained that President Weah and the Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) government seem to have no control of happenings in the country. She spoke recently when she

no interest in the Liberian people except during elections.

She criticized the Liberian government for what she described as "entrenched corrupt practices and a culture of impunity" in the country. Madam Gbowee named human rights violations, a terrible health and educational system and lack of proper redress for its citizens as other challenges facing the government.

The Nobel Laureate said the



served as the prime speaker during the 6th National Convention of the Association of Liberian Journalists in the Americas (ALJA) held virtually.

The 2020 ALJA National Convention was held on the theme "the Media, the rule of law and the culture of impunity. Madam Gbowee described the country's governing philosophy as a "pregnant rat democracy" which bites and blows, with the country's leaders showing

Weah led government has demonstrated a total lack of interest in prosecuting crimes in the country including corruption noting that officials of government have neglected the rule of law and are instead focus on enriching themselves at the expense of the people.

The Gender Advocate said it was laughable that Finance Minister Samuel Tweh would be toying with the idea of making President Weah a benevolent

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

District#10 Representative Yekeh Kolubah, saying neither was the ruling party nor (any of) its leaders was involved.

According to the CDC, analysis of facts and circumstances leading to the violence appear to support premise that the scuffle may be traced to a longstanding land dispute between Rep. Kolubah and a private citizen identified as KollieMorlu (No relationship to Chairman Morlu) and calls on the Liberia National Police to prosecute those arrested in connection with said violence.

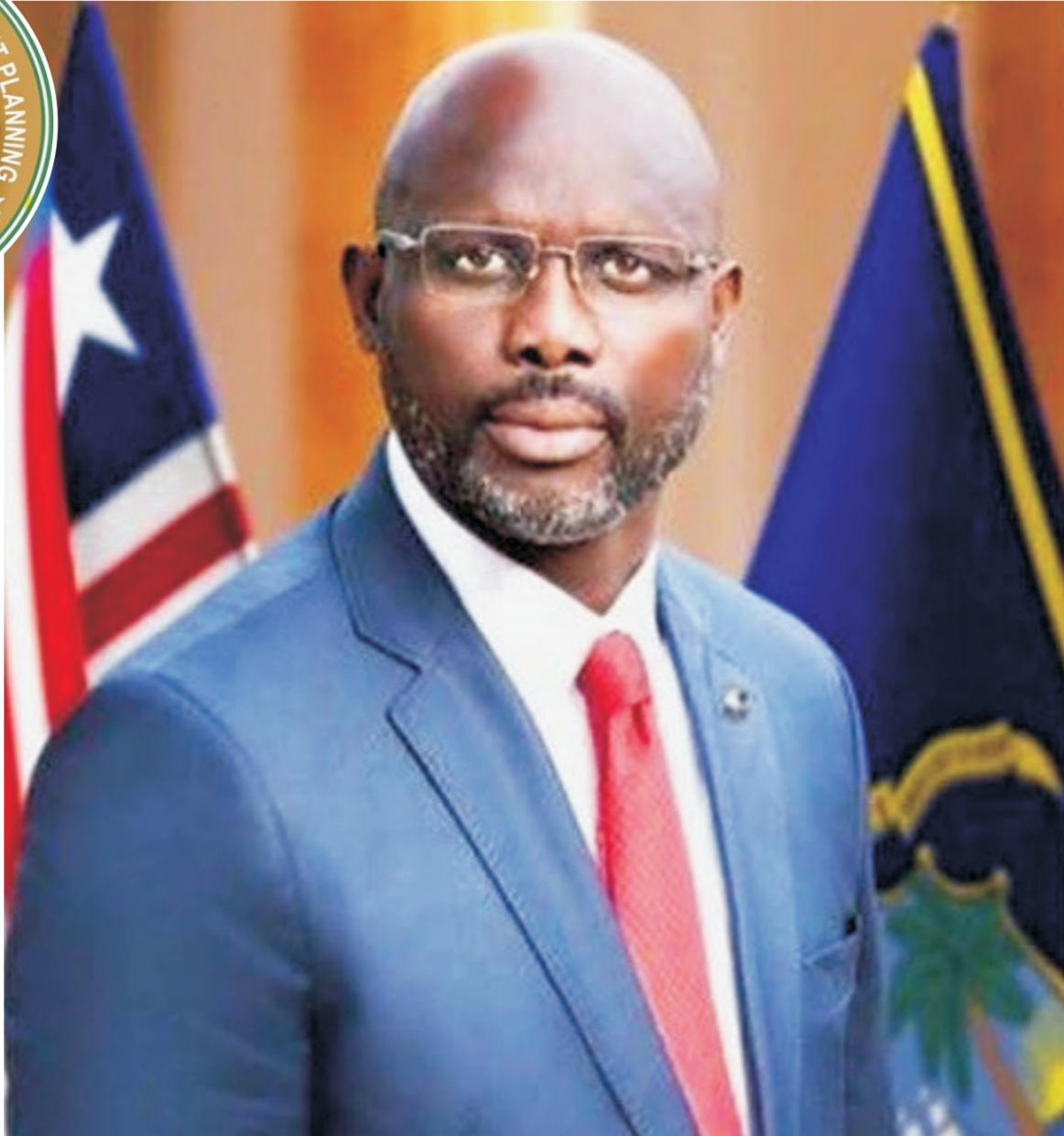
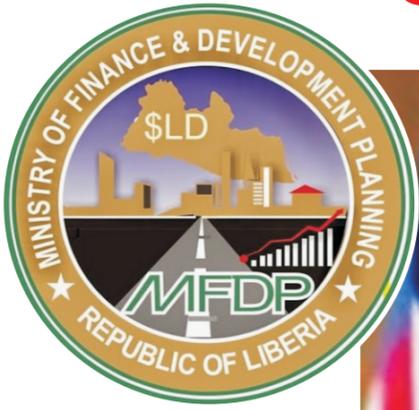
The leadership of the

Coalition reaffirms zero-tolerance against lawlessness, cautioning all partisans to abstain from violence even in the face of provocation and emphasizes that partisans, especially leaders caught in act of lawlessness will be dealt with harshly consistent with law and standards.

But despite denial of its involvement in the attack at the Lawmaker's residence, Rep. Kolubah revealed that a gang from the CDC led by one Abu, who formerly worked with him as an aide, led the attack. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

## *Birthday Greetings to*



**His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah**

*Happy, Happy Birthday, Our Beloved President!!!*

Your Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, as you celebrate another milestone on this wonderful occasion marking your 54th Birth Anniversary on today, October 1, 2020, the Minister Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr. and the entire Senior Management Team, as well, the staff of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning wish you God's abundant blessings.

*It is our fervent prayers that God continues to bless you with good health and wisdom as you lead Liberia to Economic Growth and Prosperity. May your outstanding leadership continue to inspire us and generations of our people to selflessly serve our country in collectively building a great and vibrant nation!*

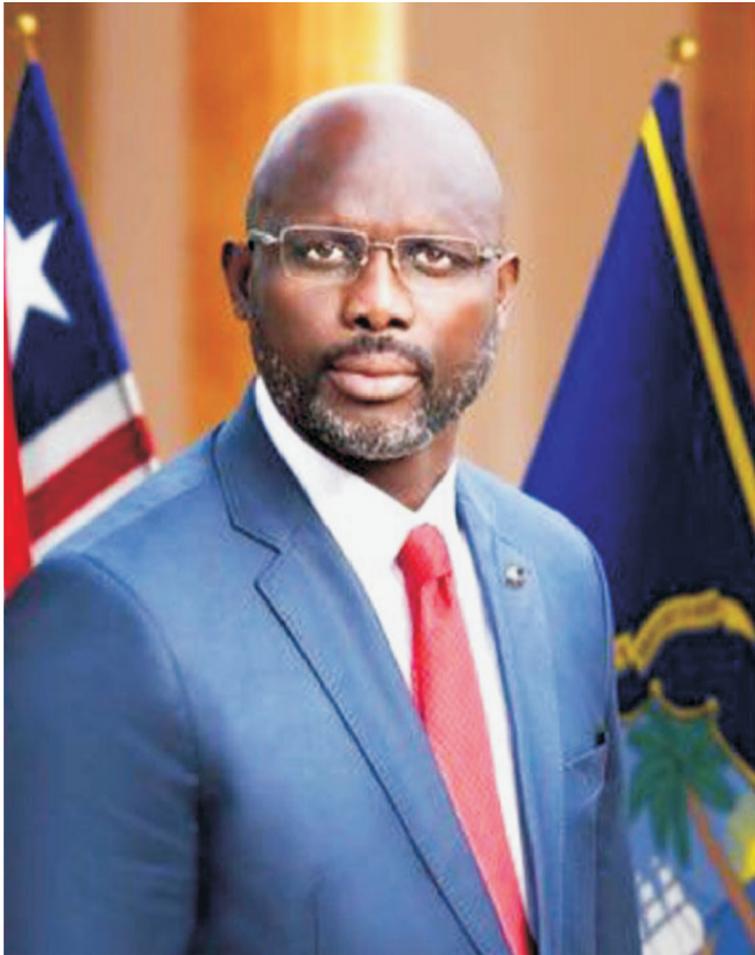
**Happy, Happy birthday to you, Mr. President!!!**



**LIBERIA TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION**

Special Message of Congratulations to  
His Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah  
President of the Republic of Liberia

On the Occasion Making His 54th Birthday Anniversary  
\*\*\*October 1, 2020\*\*\*



**H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah**  
President of the Republic of Liberia

The Board of Directors, the Management and Staff of the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation, LIBTELCO, wish to extend to you, Your Excellency Dr. George Manneh Weah, President of the Republic of Liberia, a Happy and Blessed Birthday.

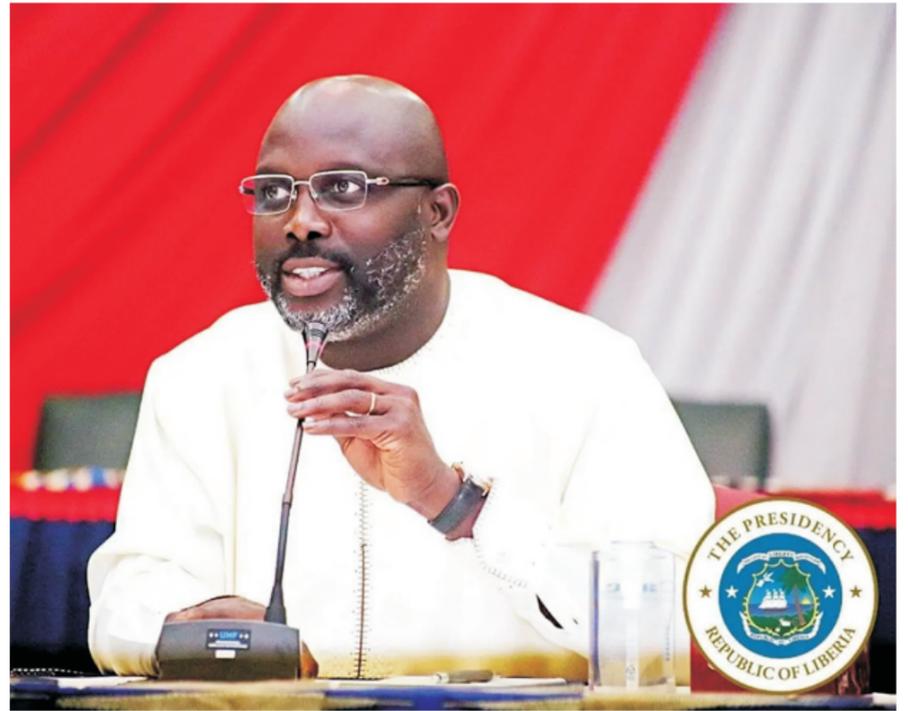
Your Excellency, Mr. President, as you celebrate this joyous day, may it bring you countless happiness, endless joy and life with peace and serenity.

May this day also be the beginning of another beautiful and peaceful year for you as you lead this great nation to noble heights and that peace and prosperity will continue under your regime.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU MR. PRESIDENT!!!**

Signed  
The Management  
Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (LIBTELCO)  
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**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**



The Board of Directors, The Director General, Hon. Archie N. Donmo, Deputy Directors, and Staff of the Liberia Petroleum Regulatory Authority extend best Wishes to you His Excellency Dr. George M. Weah PRESIDENT REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA on the occasion marking your 54th birth anniversary.

MAY GOD Grant you bountiful blessings and wisdom to provide adequate leadership for Liberia.

# Français

## La banque centrale trouve insuffisants les 4 milliards imprimés récemment

Les 4 milliards de dollars libériens nouvellement imprimés ne pourront pas remplacer tous les billets déchirés qui sont en circulation, a fait savoir la gouverneure adjointe désignée de la Banque Centrale du Libéria chargée des opérations.

Comparaissant le mardi 29 septembre au Sénat dans le cadre de son audience de

confirmation, Mme Nyemadid Pearson a indiqué que les 4 milliards de dollars libériens sont insignifiants face au volume des billets endommagés qui doivent être remplacés.

Selon une dépêche du département de la presse et des relations publiques du Sénat, Mme Nyemadid a révélé que le montant de la monnaie locale en circulation est de 21 milliards de dollars libériens et que la plupart des billets sont

mutilés, ce qui veut dire que les quatre milliards de dollars libériens nouvellement imprimés sont largement insuffisants.

Elle a en outre indiqué que la CBL fait tout son possible pour que les billets mutilés qui y retournent ne soient pas remis en circulation.

Elle a ainsi insisté sur la nécessité d'imprimer des

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



## La Coalition au pouvoir nourrirait-elle de la rancune contre le sénateur Morias ?

Le pouvoir serait rongé par la rancune, à en juger par les propos qu'a tenus le sénateur du H. Dan Morias devant le tribunal, selon lesquels la coalition au pouvoir refuse sa candidature aux élections sénatoriales pour ne l'avoir pas prétendument supportée à la présidentielle de 2017.

La CDC (Coalition pour le Changement Démocratique)

et M. Morias sont devant la Cour suprême du Libéria en raison du recours de la première contre la décision rendue par la commission électorale nationale le 16 septembre.

La coalition au pouvoir accuse le sénateur Morias de tenter de travailler contre ses intérêts. A noter que la CDC est composée de trois partis politiques qui sont le Congrès

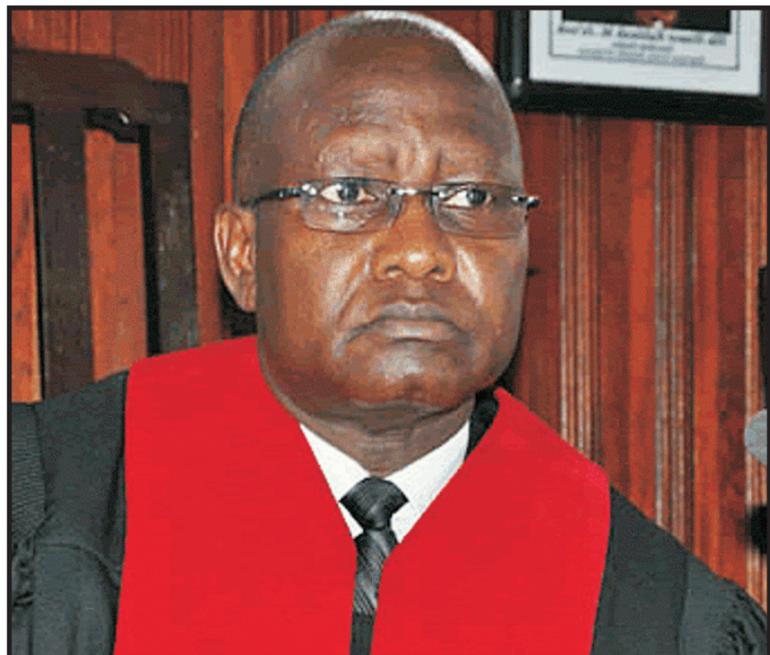
pour le changement démocratique du président Weah, le Parti démocratique du peuple libérien (LPDP) et le Parti Patriotique National (NPP) dont est membre le sénateur Morias.

La CDC a qualifié de frauduleuse l'élection primaire du NPP dans le comté de Maryland au cours de laquelle le sénateur a été choisi pour représenter son parti aux prochaines sénatoriales.

Elle a ainsi demandé au parti de choisir un autre candidat. Blessé dans son orgueil, Morias a porté plainte à la NEC. Voilà ce qui a déclenché la bataille juridique.

Dans sa délibération, la NEC a confirmé la candidature du sénateur Morias, statuant que seul le NPP a la prérogative du choix d'un candidat dans le comté de Maryland conformément aux textes de la coalition.

Mais la CDC a rejeté la décision de la NEC et déposé un recours devant la cour suprême.



## Sénatoriales : La Cour suprême se dit disposée à statuer sur tous les contentieux pré-électoraux

Le président de la Cour suprême, Son Honneur Juge Francis Korkpor, a fait part de l'intention de la haute cour de justice de se pencher sur tous les dossiers relatifs aux contentieux pré-électoraux en dépit du fait que les juges soient en congé actuellement.

Le juge Korkpor a indiqué que vue la nature indispensable des prochaines élections sénatoriales spéciales à la paix et à la cohésion sociale, la Cour suprême n'a d'autre

Kpokpor au cours d'un entretien à la cour suprême. La haute cour de justice, selon lui, restera ouverte pendant et après l'élection pour recevoir les différents recours relatifs aux contentieux électoraux qui pourraient survenir.

«Je voudrais rassurer le public que ce tribunal sera toujours en session et décidera en fonction de ce qui est conforme à la loi», a ajouté le juge en chef.



choix que d'interrompre son congé pour traiter tous les recours électoraux qui ont été introduits.

«J'ai déjà appelé le juge Jamesetta Wolokollie qui est en congé de maladie, en raison de nombreux recours qui ont été introduits auprès de cette honorable cour. Comme vous le savez, la semaine dernière, la Collaboration des partis politiques a déposé une requête en annulation», a déclaré lundi le juge

Vendredi dernier, la Collaboration des Partis Politiques (CPP) a saisi la Cour suprême pour demander la suspension de l'opération de mise à jour de la liste électorale qui est actuellement en cours et le nettoyage de celle-ci avant les élections, conformément à l'injonction de cette même cour dans sa décision dans le cadre des contentieux électoraux de 2017.

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# Français

## La banque centrale trouve insuffisants

billets supplémentaires en coupures de cinq, dix et cinquante dollars afin de remplacer ceux qui sont mutilés.

« Honorables Sénateurs, le montant qui a été imprimé est très minime, vous ne ressentirez pas alors son impact sur le marché », a-t-elle dit.

Elle a promis de travailler à la mise en œuvre des politiques opérationnelles efficaces pour soutenir les acquis, de s'assurer que la CBL continue de gérer des budgets crédibles, de suivre toutes les politiques requises et statutaires pour se procurer des devises et instituer des opérations bancaires efficaces.

Mme Pearson s'est aussi engagée à soutenir la direction de la banque pour rendre relativement stable le point culminant de la macroéconomie.

Vantant ses réalisations en

## Guinée : Reprise des manifestations anti-Condé, heurts avec la police à Conakry

Des heurts entre manifestants et forces de l'ordre ont eu lieu ce mardi à Conakry, lors d'une reprise de la mobilisation pour protester contre un troisième mandat du Président Alpha Condé

Ce mardi 29 Septembre, la contestation contre un troisième mandat du président guinéen Alpha Condé a repris à Conakry ainsi que dans plusieurs quartiers et a été marquée par des heurts entre manifestants et forces de l'ordre.

Le Front national pour la défense de la Constitution (FNDC), qui mène cette contestation, a annoncé qu'un de ses dirigeants, Oumar Sylla, avait été interpellé et conduit dans un commissariat, une arrestation confirmée par le gouvernement.

Une douzaine de jeunes ont été arrêtés et embarqués dans deux pick-ups des forces de sécurité.

Le FNDC a fait état d'autres rassemblements, notamment dans l'Ouest du pays.

Depuis l'annonce du troisième mandat du Président Alpha Condé au pouvoir depuis 2010, le collectif a promis de remobiliser ses militants.

Notons que la

tant que gouverneure adjointe par intérim chargée des opérations, la candidate a révélé que son équipe, à la demande du FMI, a procédé à l'externalisation de la fonction d'audit interne pour donner de la crédibilité aux processus de contrôle interne de la banque.

La banque, selon elle, soutient les efforts du gouvernement dans la négociation d'un programme d'appui du FMI au Libéria.

La gouverneure adjointe désignée de la CBL a également fait valoir avoir travaillé en étroite collaboration avec ses collègues pour veiller à ce que la banque respecte tous les engagements pris dans le cadre du programme du FMI, dont notamment la politique monétaire qui favorisera la stabilité macroéconomique, le contrôle, ainsi que le renforcement des réserves internationales du pays, entre autres.

Constitution guinéenne limite le nombre de mandats à deux, mais l'adoption en début d'année d'une nouvelle loi fondamentale lors d'un référendum boycotté par l'opposition permet au président de remettre les compteurs à zéro, selon ses partisans.

Je n'ai pas de sympathie du tout pour Condé. Lui, il a massé la constitution à quelques mois des échéances pour se rendre éligible. Surtout ne pas confondre avec le cas ivoirien ou notre constitution promulguée y'a 4 ans et validé à 93 pourcents par tous...

C'est le désert ici, pour approuver cette candidature de Alpha Condé. Et pourtant, moins subtile certes, la manœuvre est identique à celle en cours à Abidjan. Du reste et pour ceux qui ne le savent pas, Alpha Condé copie TOUT ce que fait Ouattara en Côte d'Ivoire, depuis son élection à quelques semaines d'intervalles. Alors chers supporters, venez déclarer et déclamer votre indéfectible soutien à la barbarie de Condé en Guinée, vu qu'il aurait lui aussi le droit de candidater à "un premier mandat d'une nouvelle République". Ou bien, c'est trop difficile?

## COMMENTAIRE

Par Iain Campbell & Caroline Winslow

## Vers une meilleure politique de rendement énergétique

**D**ENVER - Si la climatisation permet de rafraîchir notre air ambiant, dans le même temps cette technologie transforme notre planète en une véritable fournaise.

Cet été, tous les pays ont enregistré des températures caniculaires. Le mois d'août de cette année s'est classé en deuxième place des records de chaleur. Le réchauffement de la planète et des vagues de chaleur estivales plus marquées, ainsi qu'une augmentation de l'urbanisation et la hausse des revenus, encouragent une augmentation considérable de la demande en systèmes de climatisation. L'Agence internationale de l'énergie (AIE) prévoit que le nombre de systèmes de climatisation en fonction dans le monde va augmenter de 1,6 milliards aujourd'hui à 5,6 milliards d'ici 2050. Au cours des 30 prochaines années, dix systèmes de climatisation seront vendus par seconde.

Les systèmes de climatisation participent substantiellement aux émissions de gaz à effet de serre qui entraînent le changement climatique, aussi bien directement à cause des hydrofluorocarbones (HFC) qu'ils contiennent, qu'indirectement étant donné l'énergie qu'ils consomment. Un rapport récent de l'AIE et du Programme des Nations Unies pour l'environnement (PNUE) vient de renouveler l'importance de cette menace en la décrivant comme « l'un des problèmes climatiques et de développement les plus essentiels et les moins considérés de notre époque. »

L'Amendement de Kigali de 2016 au Protocole de Montréal relatif à des substances qui appauvrissent la couche d'ozone vise à réduire la production et la consommation de HFC de plus de 80 % d'ici 2047. Si cette mesure est mise en œuvre, elle permettra d'éviter 0,4°C de réchauffement de la planète au cours de ce siècle. Mais si l'Amendement de Kigali nous fournit une stratégie pour résoudre la question des frigorigènes, la communauté mondiale doit s'atteler dès à présent au problème d'intensité énergétique des climatiseurs.

La plupart des systèmes de climatisation vendus à l'heure actuelle ont un rendement énergétique 2 à 3 fois inférieur à celui des meilleurs produits disponibles sur le marché. Cela s'explique en grande partie par le choix des consommateurs qui préfèrent acheter des systèmes de climatisations à bas prix, sans se soucier des implications en termes de calcul du coût du cycle de vie de leur achat. Selon l'AIE, une large distribution sur le marché de systèmes de climatisation au meilleur rendement pourrait réduire de moitié la demande d'énergie à des fins de climatisation.

Si d'une part le secteur de l'air conditionné doit poursuivre ses efforts dans le domaine du rendement énergétique, nous devons quant à nous prendre des mesures pour orienter dès à présent le choix des consommateurs vers les meilleurs produits disponibles. Cela implique de revoir de fond en comble notre approche du rendement énergétique, ce qui va à son tour exiger de la part des décideurs et de ce secteur d'activité de collaborer pour prendre des décisions audacieuses.

Une méthode envisageable pour stimuler le rendement énergétique consiste à utiliser les politiques d'intervention, en particulier dans le domaine des normes minimales de rendement énergétique (minimum energy-performance standards, MEPS). À l'heure actuelle, les MEPS se situent juste au-dessus du niveau des produits aux pires caractéristiques en termes de résultats de climatisation, dans le but de les faire sortir du marché et d'assurer une forme de protection aux consommateurs.

Mais comme la croissance du marché ne cesse de s'accroître, les décideurs devraient plutôt établir les MEPS en fonction des meilleurs produits disponibles sur le marché - en d'autres termes, les MEPS devraient

se situer juste en deçà du plafond technologique, plutôt que juste au-delà du plancher technologique.

Non seulement une évolution aussi importante protégerait les consommateurs, mais elle réduirait en outre énormément les coûts du cycle de vie liés à la possession et au fonctionnement de systèmes de climatisation. En même temps, cela laisserait suffisamment de place pour la concurrence entre les produits, ce qui entraînerait une baisse du prix d'achat des systèmes au meilleur rendement.

Une telle politique pourrait s'inspirer du modèle japonais Top Runner program lancé en 1999 et chercher à en repousser les limites : ce programme fait effectivement progresser le marché de la climatisation dans ce pays, tout en réalisant des économies d'énergie et en réduisant les coûts liés au cycle de vie. Ce système encourage les consommateurs à acheter les systèmes fournissant les meilleurs résultats dans le cadre d'un programme d'étiquetage, ce qui à son tour fait augmenter les économies d'échelle et fait baisser les prix. En exigeant du marché des technologies de climatisation à meilleur rendement, Top Runner renforce en outre la confiance des investisseurs.

Le fait de viser le rendement maximum de cette manière à l'échelle de la planète pourrait faire diviser par deux ou trois le coût du cycle de vie pour les consommateurs propriétaires d'un système de climatisation, ce qui supprimerait le besoin de production de plus de 1 300 gigawatts d'électricité dans le monde. Cela éviterait également une production comprise entre 157 et 345 gigatonnes d'émissions de dioxyde de carbone au cours des quatre prochaines décennies.

Si nous réussissons à mettre en place des politiques fondées sur les meilleurs produits de climatisation disponibles sur le marché plutôt que sur les articles les plus fréquemment vendus, cela nous permettra donc d'éviter des émissions de carbone, de réduire les dépenses publiques de production d'électricité, de faire faire des économies aux consommateurs, tout en continuant à motiver le marché à développer des produits dotés de meilleures caractéristiques.

Mieux encore, un changement de politique de cette envergure pourrait préparer le marché à accueillir des produits de climatisation ayant un potentiel de rendement énergétique encore meilleur comparé à celui des prochaines générations de ces produits. En 2018, une coalition internationale a lancé le Global Cooling Prize afin d'identifier le modèle de système d'air conditionné résidentiel qui utilise le moins d'énergie et qui contient des frigorigènes ayant un effet faible sinon nul sur le climat.

Huit équipes ont développé des technologies qui ont en théorie cinq fois moins d'impact sur le climat, par rapport aux systèmes de climatisation standards vendus à l'heure actuelle sur le marché. Suite à la période de test qui aura lieu cet automne, le gagnant se verra décerner un prix d'un million de dollars en mars 2021, pour récompenser sa solution de climatisation innovante.

Mettre à l'échelle une solution de climatisation de ce type pourrait faire économiser aux consommateurs du monde entier 1 000 milliards de dollars en frais d'exploitation dans les 30 prochaines années et éviter jusqu'à 0,5°C de réchauffement d'ici la fin du siècle. Ces chiffres ne représentent en outre que le seul secteur résidentiel.

Un simple changement de point de vue dans notre conception du rendement énergétique peut permettre à davantage de gens de bénéficier de la climatisation, se montrer avantageux pour les consommateurs et aplatir la courbe de la demande énergétique liée à la climatisation et celle des émissions de carbone. Si nous voulons une climatisation écologique, nous devons faire un bond en avant pour nous rapprocher du plafond technologique.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS MORE HEADLINE NEWS

Liberia nets US\$9.5M for climate resilience

Liberia is to receive US\$ 9,592,082 to build climate resilience in the cocoa and rice sectors.

According to the Environmental Protection

helping developing countries to adapt to harmful effects of climate change.

It is setup under the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).



Agency, the money was approved Wednesday, 30 September by the Adaptation Fund Board, an international fund that finances projects and programs aimed at

The "Building Climate Resilience in Liberia's Cocoa and Rice Sectors" Project, which was advanced by the Environmental Protection Agency of Liberia and approved by the Adaptation Fund aims to

address key climate vulnerabilities in agriculture and water resources management in the rice and cocoa value chain and well as contribute to immediate and longer-term development and resilience needs of poor vulnerable smallholder farmers in the country.

A press release from EPA says the project was done in three components, including climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification, climate resilient rural transportation and water infrastructure and institutional capacity building and policy engagement.

The board has also requested the secretariat to draft an agreement with IFAD as the multilateral implementing entity for the project.

EPA Acting Executive Director, Randall M. Dobayou has lauded the Adaptation Fund Board for approval of the project, which he says would bring some relief in the agricultural sector amidst the negative impacts of climate change. -Press Release

UL commits to

Starts from back page

with the Global University Network for Innovation (GUNi), an international network created in 1999 by UNESCO, United Nations University (UNU) and the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya Barcelona Tech (UP).

Touching on UL's "committal" in support of the decade of action on the implementation of the SDGs, Dr. Nelson cites the creation of new academic programs for the undergraduate colleges, graduate and professional schools, biodiversity, climate change and environmental science, public health, nursing and midwifery, the Honors College of Research and Gender Studies and an entrepreneurship program.

He assures that UL will continue to create new organizational units to house many or most of its programs of sustainable development.

Dr. Nelson also reveals that UL's new educational programs will enable students to be trained in sustainable development, ideally at each level of higher education.

He concludes by announcing a plan to establish networks linking the SDSN, the United Nations Academic Impact, the United Nations University, the International Association of Universities, the World University Network and others, partnering together to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

Speaking at the program, Liberia's Education Minister Prof. D. Ansu Sonii urges the re-initiation of the association of Liberian universities so that universities are seen here as an enterprise that has a role to play and they can present their roles.

"Fortunately for, for institution of higher learning, it has been good part of my life in this, so I would be happy to promote a cause of the institution of higher learning to any place where it needs to rise," he says.

According to Prof. Sonii, sexuality education has now found part of the curriculum, funded by UNFPA, revealing that there's a small research being done on why girls drop out of school, especially secondary.

According to him, a World Bank project allocates US\$5m exclusively for girls, announcing that 3,000 girls are going to be selected across the country as of the 9th grade

moving to 10th grade "and provide them all that a girl would need to go to school."

He says they will be monitored to see if all financial needs are provided, what else would cause them to drop out of school notwithstanding.

World Bank Country Manager Dr. Khwima Nthara suggests that sometimes the answer to development challenges is not just about money, but it's just about how to do things differently.

"How to do things differently requires knowledge and this where the university is very critical," he says and announces that his institution is looking forward to partner with the University of Liberia.

During the panel discussions, UL Vice President for Institutional Development Prof. Weade Kobbah Boley spoke of major investment plans of the university, including a printing press, and a public - private partnership aimed at developing facilities that are mutually beneficial.

She notes that UL's Fendall campus technically has 5,800 acres of land, majority of which says has been allocated to the university's Agriculture College due to the institution's commitment to food sustainability and preparation of students.

"We have to put out graduates that are not just job seekers, but are also employers," she says.

Also speaking as one of the panelists, Assistant Prof. Thomas Kaydor, a Deputy Foreign Minister, calls on countries to take practical actions to ensure that they can achieve either all of the goals in the SDGs or some of them.

He says UL and all other universities got three major responsibilities which include doing evidence - based research and publication; teach, mentor and supervise; and to do community service or practical engagement in the development process.

Serving as one of the panelists, Mr. Bobby Musah, a Development Practitioner from the Ministry of Finance, says countries now have to factor into their national development plans how to address the issue of ending poverty, environmental sustainability and education in an effort to achieve sustainable development and economic growth.

Cont'd from page 5

"Dysfunctional Society"

dictator even as the country grapples with the current challenges.

Meanwhile, Madam Gbowee has criticized the Liberian media for being compromised. She claimed the media is doing little or nothing to expose the ills in the society. She accused the media of being in the pockets of politicians who pay them to distort the truth noting that they have "become guard dogs for the highest bidder".

The Nobel Laureate noted that the adage "the pen is mightier than the sword" no longer holds true for the media with many journalists now diluting the truth in their reportorial duties.

In his state of the Association remarks delivered on the first anniversary of his election, the President of ALJA, Mr. Joe Mason renewed his organizations' commitment to seeking opportunities for growth, capacity building and development of the media in Liberia.

Mr. Mason expressed concern that most Journalists in the country barely earn enough to make ends meet, a situation which poses a

serious threat to the country's democracy which depends on an independent and uncompromising media for it to thrive and remain vibrant.

The ALJA boss said leaders of the country need to ensure that the rule of law applies equally to everyone and do away with the culture of impunity that is so pervasive if the country is to make progress.

Also speaking for the first time at the ALJA convention was Professor Amy Hewitt of the Institute of Community Integration at the University of Minnesota. She urged the media to not only accurately report on issues affecting the disabled but to modify their storytelling format for people with disabilities to avoid stereotyping them.

Dr. Hewitt said, media practitioners in Liberia must be knowledgeable about various conventions the government signed relative to human rights protection for individuals with disability and liaise with organizations engaged in working with the disabled community in order to spotlight their activities.

Anther Speaker at the ALJA convention, Mr. EuriahsTogar, chairman of the Mass

Communications Department at the University of Liberia revealed plans by the UL administration to offer specialized career options for communications student at the entity. Mr. Togar said such options would enable students at the department specialized in areas of communications with the sole purpose of changing the media landscape in Liberia and enable them meet current world realities.

On the issue of harassment, Mr. Togar said, the constant intimidation of journalists in Liberia by state security is alarming as he called for more collaboration with ALJA and other partners to professionalize the department of communications at the UL.

Other speakers at the ALJA 2020 virtual national convention were long time VOA correspondent, James Butty, the Co-founder of the Liberia Feminist Forum, Madam Caroline Bowah, Cllr. Cyril Jones of Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law at the University of Liberia and Liberia' Ambassador to the United States, George Patten.

# Brawl at the Capitol

By Ethel A Tweh

Riot police on Wednesday used batons and excessive force to disperse Legislative staffers who had besieged the main entrance of the Capitol Building on Wednesday September 30, 2020 in demand of their benefits.

Eye witnesses say the instruction to violently handle the protecting staffers were issued by Bong County Representative Marvin Cole.

In demand of their share of sitting fees, staffers of the House of Representatives' Central Administration had locked the gates of the Legislature, vowing that no car of a representative would enter or leave the Capitol Building until their (staffers')

demanding a return of portions of their salaries that were allegedly unpaid for several months, among others.

One of the protesting staffers, Janet Liberty, calls on the police to kill them, saying it's very unfair that the Central Administration staffers at the Senate and others allegedly got a share of extra sitting fees while those at the House of Representatives could not get anything.

"Sergeant at Arms and all the police that are beating us today because we are demanding for our money, nothing will be well with you all," she cries out.

As they surrounded the gate and had it locked, Bong County Representative Marvin Cole instructed the Liberia National

Police (LNP) to open the entrance by force, saying the staffers had no right to lock it.

According to him, where one person's right ends, that's where the other person's right begins. Cole states that lawmakers have the right to be in session at that very moment and should not be obstructed by staffers from going to work.

Rep. Cole notes that when the decision was reached in plenary by two third votes that the staffers of the House of Representatives were not part of the money in question, he was not in session.

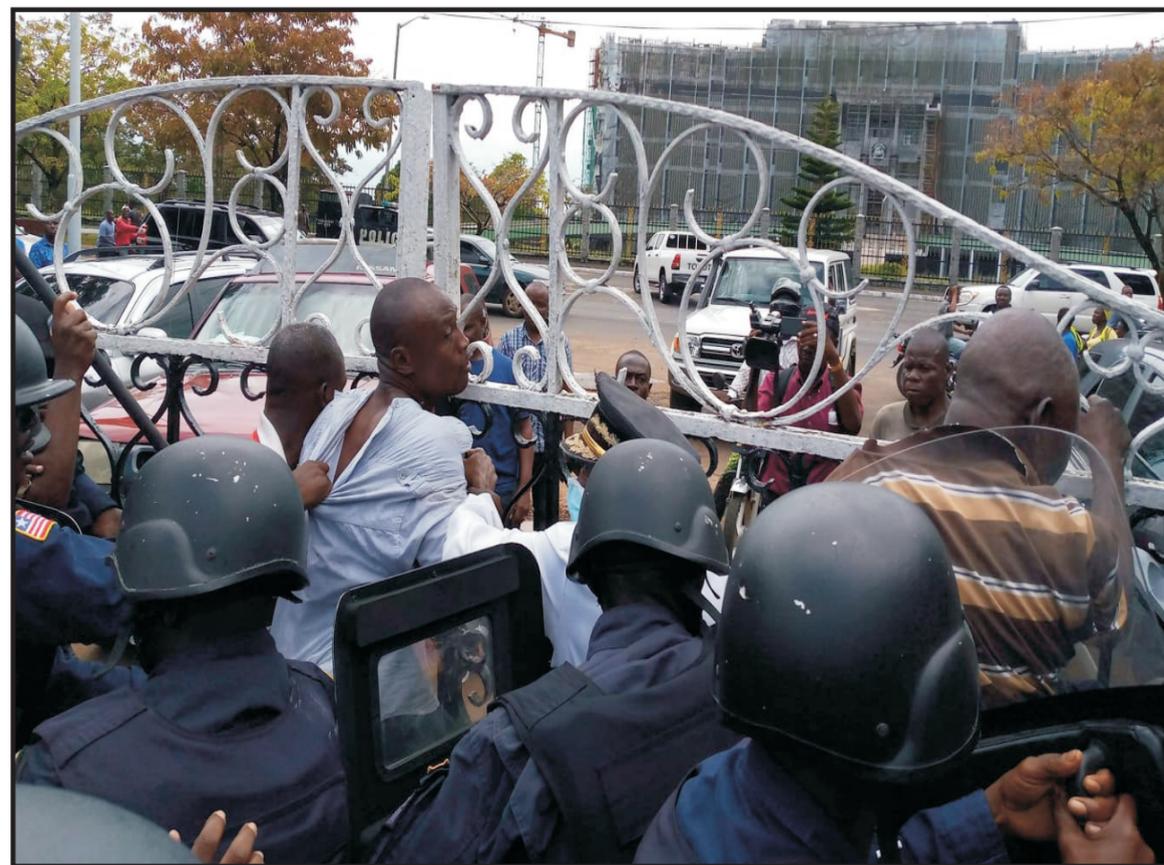
According to him, the group should meet with the leadership of the House, but notes that locking the gate will not be a solution for them.

He says if the protesters do not leave the gate to allow lawmakers to go to work, they will be taken from the gate by force, noting that neither the Speaker, nor anyone will come down to meet with them.

The spokesperson of the group G. Andrew Wolloh says that it has been very unfair to them that their one year Liberian dollars component of their salaries was cut off.

According to him, their six months gas was also cut off, lamenting that there was also a distribution of money for extra sitting, and they didn't get anything from there also.

"This is our government, we fought as opposition for 12 years. Speaker Chambers was here and said all kinds of things to Ma Ellen when she



concerns were met.

The protesting group of staffers surrounded the car of House Speaker Bhofal Chambers, but they were heavily resisted by police.

They stormed the grounds of the Capitol Building in demand of their portion of extra sitting fees distributed to other staffers, claiming that they were left out of the process.

Police succeeded in opening the gate forcibly, but left the staffers crying painfully owing to the flogging the staffers received.

This is just part of a series of protests that have been held by legislative staffers on Capitol Hill in recent times, some of which had to do with

was president, and now he is treating us even more than Madam Sirleaf's administration," Wolloh claims. He recalls that Representative Marvin Cole was once a staffer at the Legislature and was part of those who fought for extra fees and salary like it is being done today by aggrieved staffers, wondering why Cole will be wicked and forget so soon.

According to Wolloh, they have made several attempts in getting this resolved but there has been no solution.

He says they went in the Chamber of the House of Representatives during session, but they were sent out, adding that they have also gone to the speaker's office for a dialogue but he drove them outside.

"Since the speaker thinks we are not human beings with family, let him come to us and tell us when we will receive our share of the money," Wolloh concludes. --Edited by Winston W. Parley

He says in no time Mayor Koijee allegedly provided US\$500 to members of the gang to take in dangerous substances in preparation to attack Kolubah and his followers.

Kamara adds that when the gang returned, they started throwing stones and attacking followers of Representative Kolubah, destroying windshields of vehicles parked in the yard.

He discloses the gang was led by one Abu, who formerly worked with Representative Kolubah an aide, but is who employed with the Liberia Drugs Enforcement Agency, adding they looted computers and television sets, among other valuables from the district office.

Kamara explains that while the ransacking was ongoing, officers of the Liberia National Police (LNP) arrived on the scene but only chose to arrest people associated with the lawmaker, including one Rebecca, Kolubah's mechanist identified as Lassana Kanneh, and one Mohammed, leaving out the attackers.

When the communication office at the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) in Sinkor was contacted for comment on the allegations, a city police officer said media-relations people were in the field.

This paper could not also get comment from the Liberia National Police (LNP) on the latest situation as our reporter was told that police spokesperson H. Moses Carter was in a serious meeting and could not speak to the press.

# Rep. Kolubah seeks

Cont'd from page 5



However, Police in Monrovia have confirmed the attack on the residence of Representative Kolubah, disclosing that several arrests have been made in connection with the incident.

Police spokesman Carter earlier said an investigation has been launched into the matter, but presented a totally different scenario, claiming the attack against the Montserrado County District# 10 Lawmaker is as the result of an electrical wire Rep. Kolubah had crossed over the home of another resident in his district, which led to the violence.

But Kolubah denied. According to him, at no time did he throw stones, saying "I'm aware of this government's plans which is to have me killed, but I'm not turning myself over to any investigation from this government except the UN, ECOWAS, and the United States Embassy." -Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Protesting women

Starts from back page

citizens, they have a responsibility to ensure Liberians are provided better opportunities, while lamenting the high cost of living daily.

They recommend appropriation of US\$15,000,000.00 annually in the national budget plus other contributions to NASSCORP by employers and employees through monthly payroll deductions to include public servants.

The petitioners also want healthcare for citizens from ages 0-5 to 55 years and above, including people with disabilities to benefit subsidized medical insurance as well as for working class or those who voluntarily apply and contribute.

The women called for a national rehabilitation

program for drug addicts and other substance users, including skills training program.

They also want government to introduce school feeding program for all public schools, food stamp for senior citizens and persons with disabilities and other categories and criteria of beneficiaries to be determined by NASSCORP with a coupon system per beneficiary to selected businesses for food and other supplies.

Receiving the petition on behalf of the Legislature, Grand Bassa County District#5 Representative Thomas Gosuah, described the issues outlined by the women as important and vowed to take it to plenary for discussion and action. -Editing by Jonathan Browne

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# Protesting women want NASSCORP's Act amended



By Bridgett Milton

**G**roup of elderly women early Tuesday stormed the grounds of the Capitol and petitioned the 54th National Legislature to amend the 1975 Act creating the National Social Security and welfare Cooperation (NASSCORP) as revised in

1988 and 2017 to address welfare of Liberians.

Quoting late American civil rights campaigner, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the woman said 'Life's most persistent and urgent question is what you are doing for others?'

"This should be the question we expect our Legislators to answer with the mandates we

gave them without people knocking their doors for personal benefits. What are the national programs on healthcare, food stamp, etc that we can receive help from without knocking our leaders' doors?" They asked.

Protesting under the banner "Liberian Citizens", the women said many Liberians have become experts in working with empty stomach, wondering when and where their next meal will come from.

"Looking at our senior citizens and persons with disabilities at major intersections, supermarkets, gas stations and in the communities begging for aids, mostly with kids that should be in schools during school hours, should have rang the bells for prompt actions in the past 32 years", they said.

Reading the petition on behalf of the petitioners, Madam FubbiHenries said as

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 11

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# UL commits to coordinate SDGs network in academic community

By Winston W. Parley

**U**sing its intellectual forum Lux Talk to discuss the role of academia in national planning on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the University of Liberia (UL) says it is well-positioned to mobilize and coordinate the academic community here in the setup of a National United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Ahead of a panel

discussion Wednesday, 30 September in the auditorium of the university's Capitol Hill Campus, UL president Rev. Dr. Julius Sarwolo Nelson made a "committal" for and on behalf of the University of Liberia" in support of the Decade of Action on the Implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at the national level.

He says UL has already applied for membership to the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions



Network (SDSN) to forge global networks and partnerships of universities.

According to Dr. Nelson, the purpose is to strengthen both national and global problems solving.

He announced that preparations alongside the university's application process have already started, adding that UL has also embarked on the process of establishing institutional link

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 10

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