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

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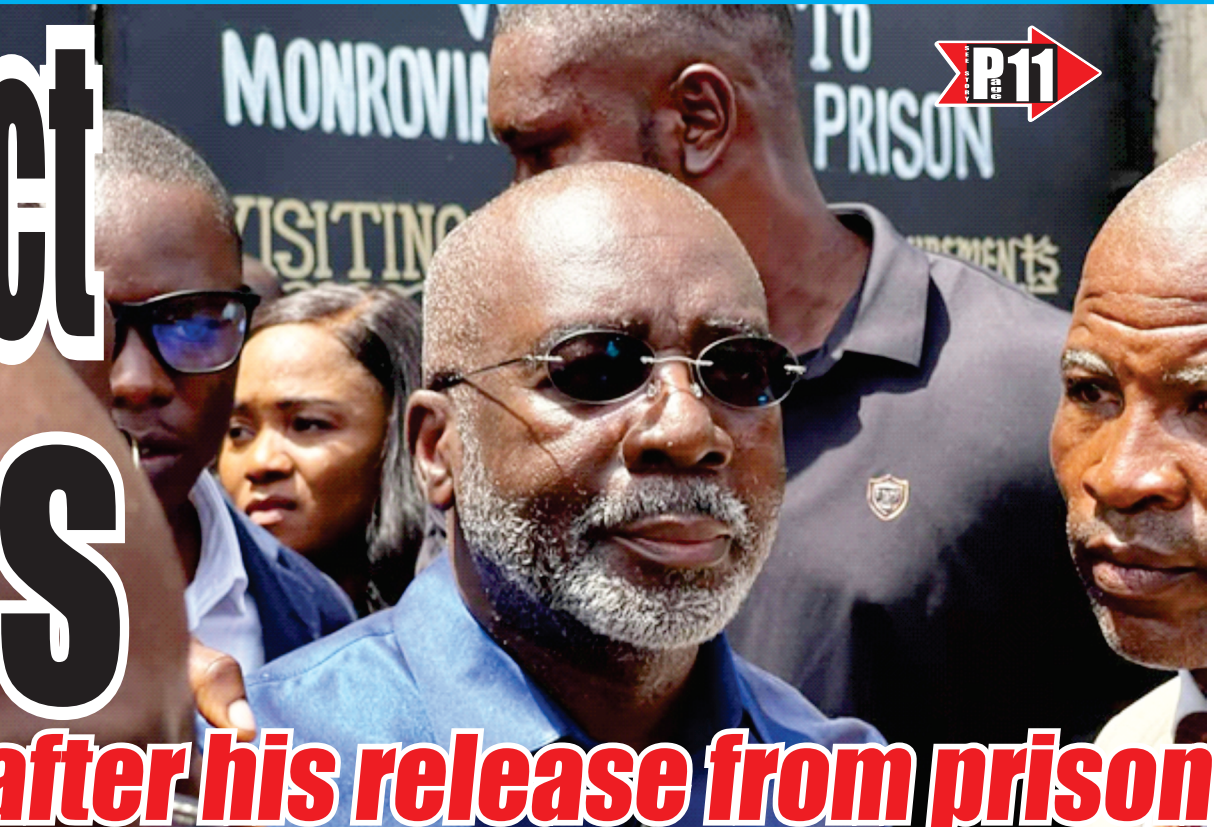
VOL. 15 NO. 094 TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025 PRICE LD\$50.00



Doe's family divided over Weah's gift

-Daughter rejects, but family accepts cows

We'll deconstruct those lies



-Rep. Koffa speaks out after his release from prison

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Continental News

Politicians accused of Liberia parliament arson bailed

Liberia's former speaker and three other members of the House of Representatives have been released from prison after paying a bond of £325,000 (\$440,000).

Jonathan Fonati Koffa, Abu Kamara, Dixon Seboe and

there were "credible links" to suggest Koffa was "strategically involved" in the incident. Koffa has previously denied any connection to the fire.

Lawmakers Kamara, Seboe and Debee - who are all members of the opposition Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) party

conclusion of the case.

The blaze on 18 December last year destroyed the entire joint chambers of the West African nation's legislature. No one was inside the building at the time. The day before had seen tense protests over the plans to remove Koffa, with demonstrators including an aide to former President George Weah arrested. Several individuals, including Koffa and Representative Frank Saah Foko, were brought in for questioning by police. Foko, a prominent figure in the House of Representatives, allegedly uploaded a video to Facebook in which he said: "If they want us to burn the chambers, we will burn it."

Liberia's House of Representatives has been beset by a long-running power struggle.

Koffa had been locked in a stand-off with his political opponents, with dozens of lawmakers voting for his impeachment last October over accusations of poor governance, corruption and conflicts of interest. Although the bid to impeach him fell short of the two-thirds majority required, the group of 47 lawmakers who had voted for the move unilaterally appointed their own speaker. BBC

- were detained alongside Koffa on Friday in connection with the case.

They spent a night in detention at the national police headquarters, before being transferred to the Monrovia Central Prison on Saturday, where they were held for two nights.

Representative Priscilla Cooper has also been charged, but was not detained due to ill-health.

The court has placed a travel ban on the accused pending the

Police stakeout of Cameroon's presidential hopeful ends

Police have ended their two-day stakeout of an apartment block in which Cameroon's main opposition leader Maurice Kamto had been staying after he returned from France, where he had held a political rally that inflamed the ruling CPDM party.

On Sunday law enforcement officers blocked the 71-year-old from leaving the building in the main city of Douala for a meeting with members of his Cameroon Renaissance Movement (CRM) party. He later called off plans to hold the meeting on Monday, and left for the capital, Yaoundé.

Kamto plans to contest the presidential election later this year, hoping to end 92-year-old Paul Biya's four-decade grip on power. Biya has not yet declared whether he will stand for re-election.

Kamto spent nine months in detention after contesting the 2018 poll, when the authorities accused the former law professor of insurrection following protests by his

supporters who claimed that the poll had been rigged in favour of Biya. The government denied the allegation.

While in Paris last month, Kamto promised he would protect Biya and his family if he wins October's election. "When you do me the great of honour of entrusting me with the reins, you can be sure that nothing will happen to Mr Biya and his family. Nothing. I guarantee it, I have no time for hatred. I [only] have time to build Cameroon with you," he told thousands of Cameroonians living in the

diaspora who had turned up to his rally on 31 May.

This did not go down well with ruling party officials, with one calling his comments "pathetic". "What protection do they need? Which family are we talking about?," asked Labour Minister Grégoire Owona in a Facebook post, adding, "Cameroon is not in danger." Following Kamto's return, security was tightened in parts of Douala. Police officers on the ground told the BBC on Monday that they had been instructed to watch the neighbourhood where Kamto was staying, and the media was not allowed to film. BBC



Presidential hopeful Maurice Kamto, pictured in Paris last month, is a former law professor

Protest hits Kenya after shock death of man held by police

Dozens of activists have staged a protest outside a mortuary in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, following the death of a 31-year-old man in police custody.

Albert Omondi Ojwang's death has sparked outrage in Kenya. He was arrested following a complaint by the deputy police chief, who accused him of tarnishing his name on social media.

In an initial statement, police said that Mr Ojwang "sustained head injuries after hitting his head against a cell wall" while in custody. However, the Ojwang family's lawyer, Julius Juma, said the body bore signs of severe physical trauma, including swelling on the head, nose and ears. Mr Juma also cited bruises on Mr Ojwang's shoulders and hands - injuries which, he said, were inconsistent with a single impact against a wall. Kenya's

being "tarnished".

"It was on that basis that investigations were actually being carried out," Mr Kanja said at a press conference. Responding to mounting public pressure, Mr Kanja announced that senior officers at Nairobi's Central Police Station had been "interdicted".

Police spokesperson Michael Muchiri, told the BBC that this means the officers could not perform their duties, and would receive half their salaries, pending the outcome of the investigation by IPOA.

Speaking at a press conference, Inspector General Kanja said the police would give the investigators all "necessary support" to resolve the case. Mr Ojwang was found unconscious during a routine inspection of the cells and "rushed to hospital, where he was pronounced



Albert Ojwang has been described in media reports as a teacher and a blogger

Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) has launched an inquiry into his death. Holding placards and chanting "Stop killing us", a crowd protested outside Nairobi City mortuary, where Mr Ojwang's body is being kept.

The crowd later marched to the Central Police Station where Mr Ojwang was being held at the time of his death. Mr Ojwang was arrested in Homa Bay, a town in western Kenya, on Friday, over a post on X that was allegedly critical of the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Eliud Lagat.

He was subsequently transferred over 350 km (220 miles) to Nairobi and booked into the Central Police Station on Saturday. According to Mr Kanja, Mr Ojwang was arrested after Mr Lagat filed a complaint that his name was

dead on arrival", police say.

The director of Amnesty International's Kenya branch, Irungu Houghton, told the BBC that Mr Ojwang's death was "very suspicious". Mr Houghton said it was "quite shocking" that Mr Ojwang was not booked in at the local police station after being detained, but was instead taken on a long journey.

On Sunday, he called on the independent investigators to secure what he described as "the crime scene" at the police station in Nairobi. Mr Ojwang's death in detention comes at a time of rising concern about how some government critics are being treated.

Last week, software developer Rose Njeri, who created a tool to help people oppose a government finance bill, was charged with violating a cybercrime law. She denies the charge. BBC

EDITORIAL

We welcome intervention in the rubber sector

The Government of Liberia has taken a noticeable step to regulate prices in the rubber sector in the country effective this June, thanks to intervention by President Joseph Boakai.

This paper gathered that President Boakai has constituted the Liberia National Rubber Pricing Committee headed by the Ministry of Agriculture to ensure fair pricing in the rubber sector.

We think this is an applaudable action because rubber farmers across the country have complained of bad pricing for too long that has cheated them of the actual benefit of their labor.

For too long farmers in the country have been subjected to being price takers, which put them in a very disadvantageous position at the hands of Firestone Plantations in Harbel, Margibi County and the Liberia Agriculture Company in Grand Bassa County, respectively, the major firms here.

These two foreign companies have always offered low prices, leaving farmers, who are restricted to sell only at home, with no choice despite advocating to be allowed to sell to buyers of their choice outside the country.

Because of persistent low prices, local farmers across the country have never benefited from their crops despite toiling in their rain and the sun, day and night in cultivating their farms.

It is our hope that this time around, the latest intervention by the government thru the President will bring long desired relief to rubber farmers in the country.

According to a resolution from the meeting, the Government of Liberia's decision was triggered by numerous complaints from rubber farmers in the country about unfair pricing in the rubber sector. The latest move comes after a series of meetings among members of the Liberia National Rubber Pricing Committee during which a scenario for determining a fair monthly price of rubber was unanimously agreed upon, from several scenarios presented by a technical sub-committee.

The Ministry of Agriculture is quoted as saying “The committee has resolved that the monthly price of rubber will be derived from an average of the daily prices of one ton of rubber for the preceding month posted on the Singapore Commodity Exchange, applying a 58 percent dry rubber content to get the actual, from which the production cost is deducted, and the resultant amount be used to calculate 10 percent profit margin for the processor.”

We hope this will become sincerely turning point for our local farmers in getting worth for their production.

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PRESS



COMMENTARY

By Eric A. Friedman, Ibrahim Alduma, Zeinab Bakhiet

Sudan's Srebrenica Moment

DARFUR/WASHINGTON, DC - Srebrenica. Rwanda. Aleppo. Each of these names marks a site of unspeakable horror - places synonymous with genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. And now, as places across Sudan become sites of horrific atrocities, history is repeating itself with chilling familiarity.

Consider, for example, Zamzam, a camp for internally displaced people near El Fasher in North Darfur. In April, the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) - a powerful paramilitary group - launched a brutal attack on the camp, shelling, shooting, and raping civilians. More than 400 people were murdered, including the entire staff of Zamzam's only remaining operational medical clinic.

The RSF also razed Zamzam's market and set much of the camp on fire. At least 400,000 survivors fled, though the actual number may be far higher. More than 100,000 people remained trapped inside the camp, lacking the most basic of services. They continue to be subjected to lethal attacks and other abuses at the hands of the RSF. Many are feared dead. At the same time as their assault on Zamzam, RSF fighters were attacking the nearby Abu Shouk camp, killing dozens and displacing many more.

For those fleeing Zamzam, the horror was not over; the RSF ambushed civilians trying to escape. Weakened by famine and extreme heat, some collapsed from hunger and dehydration before reaching Tawila - about 30 miles away - where even basic aid was scarce. In total, thousands of people likely died.

This massacre is one of the darkest episodes in Sudan's ongoing civil war. Though no accurate nationwide death toll exists, our contacts on the ground estimate that hundreds of thousands of people have been killed or succumbed to war-related starvation, malnutrition, and disease.

The war in Sudan began two years ago as a power struggle between the RSF and the Sudanese Armed Forces. But the RSF soon turned its guns on civilians across central Sudan and Darfur - especially members of the Masalit, Fur, Zaghawa, and other non-Arab tribal groups - reviving the genocidal campaign waged by its predecessor, the Janjaweed, a militia backed by former dictator Omar al-Bashir. In this sense, what is unfolding in parts of Sudan is not a new conflict; it is a continuation of the Darfur genocide that began in 2003 and was never fully confronted or resolved.

The question facing the world today is whether Zamzam will become Sudan's Srebrenica moment - a massacre that finally compels international action - or whether it will join Rwanda, Gaza, and so many other sites of atrocities that triggered global outrage but no meaningful intervention.

Critically, the Zamzam massacre is only the latest in a growing string of mass atrocities across Sudan, including El Geneina in West Darfur and Al Hilaliya and Wad al-Noura in the central state of Gezira. Zamzam can - and must - be the last. But to make that happen, the international community must finally intervene.

Together, we have extensive personal and professional experience with the crisis in Sudan through our legal and policy work, human rights advocacy, and direct engagement with affected communities. One of us, Ibrahim Alduma, is a Sudanese human rights activist from Darfur who has documented RSF atrocities, including horrific attacks in which Masalit civilians were

burned alive near El Geneina. Our message is simple: global leaders must trust Sudanese civil society and provide it with the resources and political support it urgently needs.

Sudan is full of experienced organizers and frontline responders who, given the means to act, are ready to do so. For example, the 20 women who comprised Team Zamzam counseled survivors of sexual violence and cared for the camp's most vulnerable residents. Though now displaced themselves, they are determined to resume their work.

Or consider the neighborhood resistance committees that helped topple al-Bashir, and the more recent Nobel Peace Prize-nominated Emergency Response Rooms. These volunteer networks run community kitchens, evacuate civilians, repair infrastructure, and build shelters - often at great personal risk. Yet despite their effectiveness and dedication, they receive less than 1% of international humanitarian funding.

That must change. To reach everyone in need, humanitarian aid must be scaled up and channeled through trusted local organizations. Aid agencies should be able to operate without interference from armed groups. Where insecurity prevents overland delivery - particularly in El Fasher and across Darfur - the United Nations and other international actors should immediately initiate sustained humanitarian airdrops.

One urgent priority is confronting the external powers fueling this war. Chief among them is the United Arab Emirates, which has done more than any other country to enable the RSF's atrocities and continues to arm and support the group. The international community and the private sector must treat the UAE as a pariah state: halt all weapons sales, sever security ties, and end business partnerships like the one between Abu Dhabi and America's National Basketball Association. Artists should refuse to perform there, and investors should shun a regime that is facilitating genocide.

Governments and courts must hold all those responsible for the war's enormous crimes fully accountable, both legally and politically. The Janjaweed and Sudanese military leaders were never held accountable for the original Darfur genocide - and we now see the consequences.

Diplomacy must also change course. Peace talks have centered on the war's architects, rather than on Sudan's civil society and grassroots leaders whose vision of peace is rooted in dignity, justice, and accountability.

Even as Sudan is home to monstrous crimes against humanity, it is also home to the very best of humanity. Look to the resistance committees, the Emergency Response Rooms, and Team Zamzam. Look to aid workers who refuse to abandon the Sudanese people amid the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Look to organizations like the Mutual Aid Sudan Coalition, the Sudanese American Physicians Association, Darfur Women Action Group, and the Sudan Solidarity Collective, and to members of Sudan's diaspora who give all they can and refuse to let the world look away. And look to the mothers who walk for days without food, risking death or sexual violence to save their children.

Their efforts have saved countless lives, but their resilience is not limitless. Will we stand with them? If we stand by as they die, a piece of our own humanity will die with them.

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OP-ED

Ulrike Decoene

Insurers Must Promote the Blue Economy

PARIS - Covering more than 70% of the Earth’s surface, the ocean is indispensable for global health, climate regulation, and, crucially, economic stability. It absorbs about 30% of the world’s greenhouse-gas (GHG) emissions and hosts diverse ecosystems that sustain countless livelihoods. Pursuing a sustainable blue economy thus creates an opportunity to harmonize ocean conservation with economic growth in critical sectors like fisheries, tourism, and renewable energy.

Achieving this requires striking a delicate balance between using the ocean’s resources and respecting its natural limits, especially amid the escalating climate crisis. Degradation caused by human activities poses significant ecological and economic risks. Rising sea levels, increasingly intense storms, and coastal erosion threaten to damage infrastructure and devastate communities. Biodiversity loss and ocean warming and acidification disrupt marine ecosystems, hinder carbon sequestration and oxygen production, and diminish fisheries and the tourism industry. More than ever, a sustainable approach to ocean management is needed to safeguard economic interests and marine health.

In this context, insurance companies have both the responsibility and the tools to support clients involved in blue-economy activities, which are becoming less insurable as ocean health deteriorates. Extreme weather events - particularly increased flooding - result in higher claims and can even make it prohibitively expensive to cover certain assets. Exacerbating this trend is the destruction of marine ecosystems, which weaken natural coastal protection. To ensure that blue-economy businesses can secure affordable insurance and navigate the escalating risks associated with declining ocean health, insurers must adapt their risk-assessment models and make marine protection a priority.

For starters, these firms must recognize nature’s importance for disaster-risk management and climate adaptation, particularly in more vulnerable places. Coral reefs and mangroves, for example, reduce flooding and mitigate storm surge in coastal communities, in addition to their many other benefits, from sequestering carbon to supporting local industries. To protect these natural assets and the livelihoods that depend on them, insurers can offer parametric insurance policies that allow for the rapid deployment of pre-agreed funds after an extreme weather event, rather than indemnifying against actual loss.

Such a program protects the Mayan fishing community responsible for the restoration and conservation of Mexico’s San Crisanto mangrove forests. If a hurricane hits, compensation of up to \$100,000 is automatically triggered, although the amount varies according to the wind strength and proximity to the protected area, and is intended to cover the cost of repairs. This will ensure the sustainability of the carbon credits that finance the community’s activities and allow it to pay for insurance in the first place.

Another innovative method is the use of debt-for-nature swaps, whereby countries can reduce their debt obligations in exchange for committing to marine conservation. A good example of this approach is The Bahamas debt-conversion project, for which a private investor and a multilateral development bank are acting as co-guarantors, and AXA XL - a subsidiary of AXA, where I work - is providing credit insurance. By de-risking these swaps, insurers can help alleviate economic pressure on governments, providing them with the fiscal space to safeguard marine ecosystems and foster local economies built on sustainable tourism and fisheries.

Of course, insurance companies should also address the other critical problems that threaten ocean health, such as plastic pollution and GHG emissions. That could mean engaging with their clients to promote sustainable practices and investing in efforts to reduce the climate impact of maritime transport, tourism, and other high-emitting sectors.

Insurers have other tools at their disposal to drive sustainable growth in the blue economy. They can offer tailored products, such as aquaculture insurance, to safeguard fish-farming operations from disease outbreaks, changing water conditions, and other environmental risks, and insurance for closed aquaculture farms that prevent harmful residues from polluting marine environments. Similarly, insuring innovative clean technologies like wind-assisted propulsion systems, which have demonstrated significant potential to reduce CO2 emissions and fuel consumption, can accelerate the shift to a greener maritime future.

Developing a thriving, sustainable blue economy requires meaningful, coordinated action backed by science-based recommendations. To that end, insurance firms should invest in research focused on coastal living, fisheries, aquaculture, blue carbon, and climate change, as well as efforts to develop new technologies for marine conservation, as we do with the AXA Research Fund.

Momentum is building behind the blue economy. At this week’s United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, insurers and investors must harness this momentum and bring climate and economic imperatives into closer alignment. To secure a sustainable future for our oceans and the communities that depend on them, marine protection and economic growth must go hand in hand. Ulrike Decoene is Group Chief of Communications, Brand, and Sustainability at AXA.

OPINION

By Kevin Watkins

Rebuilding the Aid Consensus

LONDON - In 2015, the United Kingdom’s then-prime minister, David Cameron, stood before the United Nations General Assembly and challenged other donor countries to follow the UK’s lead and back the newly-minted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for eradicating poverty with their aid money. “We haven’t just achieved the UN’s 0.7% [aid-to-GNI spending] target, we’ve enshrined it in law,” he declared.

That was then. As heir to an extraordinary bipartisan consensus forged under the post-1997 Labour government, Cameron’s Conservative government had established Britain as the most generous aid donor in the G7, and one of just four countries to meet the 0.7% aid target. Now, a Labour government has torn up the remnants of that consensus, joined a global attack on aid, and set a course that will leave the UK among the world’s least generous countries.

The fact that a UK government led by the Labour Party, with its long tradition of internationalism and solidarity, has all but abandoned its leadership role on an issue encoded in its DNA illustrates the political forces shaping a new world order, notably US President Donald Trump’s view of international cooperation as a zero-sum game played by losers. But it also challenges development advocates in the UK to focus on strategies aimed at minimizing harm and rebuilding the case for aid.

British Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced the decision to cut foreign aid and channel the savings to an expanded defense budget ahead of a meeting with Trump. The aid budget is set to fall from 0.5% to 0.3% of GNI - the lowest level since the late 1990s. After removing the roughly one-quarter of the official development assistance spent on refugees in the UK, Britain will slip from ninth to 22nd in a ranking of countries’ ODA as a share of GNI.

While there has been opposition to the aid cuts, a new consensus has taken root. Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch applauded the decision to convert ODA into defense spending. The far-right Reform UK party’s election manifesto called for the aid budget to be halved. When Jenny Chapman, Britain’s development minister, delivered ODA’s death warrant, she told a parliamentary committee in May that “the days of viewing the UK government as a global charity are over.” Some two-thirds of Britons, including most Labour supporters, support increased defense spending at the expense of overseas aid.

The UK is hardly alone. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which accounted for more than 40% of all humanitarian aid in 2024, has been dismantled. In Germany, the world’s second-largest donor, Chancellor Friedrich Merz’s new government will reduce an already-diminished aid budget. France is set to slash ODA by 40%, while the recently collapsed right-wing government in the Netherlands, a longstanding member of the 0.7% club, has decreased aid spending by more than two-thirds.

The human toll of the cuts is already starting to emerge. The demolition of USAID has left acutely malnourished children without food, HIV/AIDS patients without antiretroviral drugs, and clinics unable to treat deadly diseases like childhood malaria. According to a recent study, Trump’s suspension of aid could result in 14 million additional deaths, including 4.5 million children under five, by 2030. Cuts by the UK and other donors will inevitably add to these human costs. An already chronically under-financed humanitarian aid system now confronting famine threats and food emergencies from Sudan to Gaza and the Sahel has been pushed to the brink of collapse: less than 10% of the 2025 UN appeal is funded.

The political currents fueling the attack on aid vary across countries. In the US, nihilistic anti-multilateralism has been a driving force. In Europe, fiscal pressures have interacted with right-wing populist narratives linking aid to migration, pressure on public services, waste, and corruption.

What is striking in the British case is the speed with which the aid consensus crumbled. That consensus was forged above all by Gordon Brown, first as Chancellor and then as Prime Minister. It was under Brown’s leadership that the UK set the 0.7% aid target, supported the development of global health funds - Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria - and led debt-relief efforts for Africa.

After 2010, when the Conservative government’s Chancellor George Osborne launched a series of austerity budgets slashing public services and welfare spending, the aid budget was off-limits. While overseeing a surge in child poverty in the UK, Cameron co-chaired the UN committee that produced the SDGs and the pledge to “leave no one behind.”

Cracks began to appear during Boris Johnson’s premiership. After making the ill-judged decision to fold the Department for International Development into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Johnson “temporarily” reduced foreign aid to 0.5% of GNI, citing the COVID-19 crisis. Starmer now cites Russian security threats to justify deeper cuts.

But the claim that there was no alternative strains credibility. After promising not to increase taxes, Labour entered office donning a voluntary fiscal straitjacket and has had to make avoidable public-spending cuts. But decimating the aid budget - described by Foreign Secretary David Lammy as an exercise in “progressive realism” - was also a case of political opportunism. Weak public support for aid linked to skepticism about its efficacy made ODA an easy target.

So, what can be done to rebuild an aid consensus? The first priority is to minimize harm. Maintaining the UK’s £1.9 billion (\$2.6 billion) commitment to the World Bank’s International Development Association is critical because every dollar contributed can leverage \$3-4 of financial support for the poorest countries. The UK could also make the most of a shrinking aid budget by channeling more humanitarian aid through local actors, rather than bureaucratic UN agencies.

Still, tough choices must be made. There is a strong argument to protect spending on life-saving programs, such as child nutrition, vaccinations, and HIV/AIDS, and for minimizing cuts in areas where the UK is a global frontrunner, like girls’ education and social protection.

Even with a diminished aid budget, the UK could exercise greater leadership. With debt-service costs now crowding out spending on essential services in many low-income countries, Starmer’s government could demand comprehensive debt relief at this month’s UN International Conference on Financing for Development.

Ultimately though, the case for aid must be fought and won in a public square increasingly dominated by right-wing populists. Political leaders in the UK and across the West need to communicate the hard truth that global challenges like climate change, war, and poverty require international cooperation. And they need to tap into the deep reservoirs of generosity, solidarity, and moral concern that define public sentiment even in the midst of our troubled times.

Starts from back page

"We Will Complete Ganta- Yekepa Road Pavement"

scheduled to begin in late 2013 with completion anticipated by 2015 or 2016. However, the project faced considerable setbacks, including the outbreak of the Ebola virus and a global collapse in iron ore prices, which forced delays. In 2018, ArcelorMittal reaffirmed its full commitment to the project, maintaining its funding pledge and targeting phased completion over subsequent dry seasons. By June 2023, the paved road had reached Sanniquellie, delivering visible improvements in travel time, road safety, market access, and the overall ease of movement in Nimba County. A Lifeline for Nimba Communities

Mr. Mittal's renewed promise brings hope to thousands of residents along the unfinished stretch toward Yekepa, where the road remains largely unpaved and treacherous, especially during the rainy season. For communities in northern Nimba, a completed Ganta Yekepa Road will mean far more than improved transport. It will enable mothers to access healthcare more easily, ensure students can attend school year round, and allow farmers and small businesses to transport goods to market without delay or damage. The road is a critical artery for local economic growth and social inclusion. A Message of Trust and Accountability

Beyond the physical infrastructure, Mr. Mittal's remarks were widely seen as a statement of accountability to the people of Nimba County. For nearly two decades, the county has hosted one of Liberia's largest and most strategic mining operations. Yet, residents have often expressed frustration over unmet development expectations. This latest assurance, delivered publicly and directly by ArcelorMittal's top executive, is being welcomed as a step toward restoring public trust. It demonstrates that major companies can keep their promises and contribute meaningfully to national and community development. A Path Forward

Once completed, the Ganta Yekepa Road will stand not only as a symbol of ArcelorMittal's corporate responsibility but also as a model of partnership between government and private investment. In a country where many remote communities feel excluded from national development gains, the road project represents fairness, dignity, and opportunity. Mr. Mittal's pledge, if fulfilled, could turn a long-standing source of frustration into a legacy of tangible progress, showing that responsible investment can uplift lives and connect people to the promise of a better future.

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

NIR & LCC launch database

-To crackdown on fraudsters


By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; June 10, 2025 -

The Liberia Chamber of Commerce (LCC) and the National Identification Registry (NIR) have taken a robust step here, cracking down on business fraudsters in an effort to create a conducive business climate, enhance business accountability, transparency and domestic revenue generation. Over the weekend, both institutions officially launched the "National Identification Enrollment Center", which cataloged and enrolled all businesses in the country into a comprehensive database system for tracking and monitoring. The ceremony which was held at the headquarters of the Liberia Chamber of Commerce in Monrovia, seeks to factor every member of the Liberian business community into the database of the National Identification Registry, while fostering transparency and accountability and ensuring more revenue generation for the advancement of the Country. The ceremony was attended by an array of government officials and members of the Liberian business community, including the

fourteen (14) centers in Montserrado, two in Nimba, two in Lofa and one in each of the other counties while there are several mobile enrollment teams, some of which are stationed at various government ministries and agencies, and at Lonestar and Orange offices. Your people can also go to any of these centers to do their cards" Mr. Peter urges. He described the launch of the Center as a step in the right direction for enhanced economic growth.

In remarks, the President of the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Natty Davis, thanked the Executive Director of the National Identification Registry for the level of cooperation and collaboration demonstrated, to help the Government and policymakers in making informed decisions for the future of Liberia. Mr. Davis said the Liberia Chamber of Commerce remains committed to working collaboratively with relevant stakeholders and institutions to create a fair, transparent and accountable business community for Liberians and foreign businesses to thrive. He said the launch of the National Identification Registry center at the Chamber of Commerce was triggered by



National Registry and Chamber of Commerce partner to fight fraud.

President of the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, Mr. O Natty B. Davis, and the Executive Director of the National Identification Registry, Andrew Peters. Executive Director Peters said the Liberian government's quest to enroll every Liberian and foreign resident in the database of the National Identification Registry is well on course, disclosing that several mobile teams have already been dispatched to various government ministries and agencies to implement the policy. In March 2025, President Joseph Nyuma Boakai, issued Executive Order #147, mandating the compulsory usage of National Identification Card for all services, a mandate that charged the NIR to ensure every Liberian and foreigner are factored into the entity's database. According to Mr. Peters, the Liberian Leader's mandate is progressing well, evidenced by the launch of the National Identification Center at the Liberia Chamber of Commerce, and the ongoing collaboration between the National Identification Registry and Lonestar Cell MTN along with Orange-Liberia, to ensure every Sim Card User is factored in the NIR database.

challenges faced by members of the business community to process banking transactions due to lack of a National Identification Card. He is optimistic the Center will amicably address challenges faced by members of the business community over the years and hugely contribute to the country's revenue generation for the implementation of government's development drive. "I am on my way to Nimba; I will also share the information with the business community there about the ongoing collaboration between the Liberia Chamber of Commerce and the National Identification Registry, to allow businesspeople access NIR ID Card without hindrance", Mr. Davies added. A representative of the Liberian business community, Dominique Nimely, pledged the body's commitment to work along with the Liberian Government for the growth and development of the country. Mr. Nimely, however, called on the Chamber of Commerce and the National Identification Registry to prioritize the mobile money payment system and improve texture of the National Identification Card to ensure it meets current-day realities. Editing by Jonathan Browne



Office of the Corporate Secretary

June 5, 2025

CITATION

Our Esteemed Shareholders,

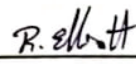
Please be informed that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Shareholders of the Liberian Bank for Development and Investment (LB DI) is slated for Tuesday, June 17, 2025, at 9:30 A.M at the CORINA HOTEL, located on Tubman Boulevard, Sinkor, Monrovia.

You may attend in person or by proxy. The proxy form will be forwarded to you via email. Below is the Agenda for the meeting for ease of reference:

AGENDA

- Invocation
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes No. M-SH-62-04-2024
- Matters Arising from the Minutes
- Presentation of 2024 Audited Accounts
- Presentation of 2024 Annual Report
- Ratification of the Appointment of the External Auditors
- Elections of the Board of Directors
- Any Others Business
- Adjournment

Documents for the AGM can be picked up from the Office of the Corporate Secretary of the Bank. For further information/clarity, kindly contact the Corporate Secretary's Office via cell numbers: +231886568968/+231770000725 or email: regina.elliott@lbd.net/josephus.barnard@lbd.net.

Signed: 
Regina T. Elliott (Cllr.)
CORPORATE SECRETARY

HEAD OFFICE
9th Street Sinkor, Tubman Boulevard
P.O. Box 10-0547
1000 Monrovia, Liberia
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BRANCHES

Buchanan	Ganta	Paynesville
Bushrod	Gardnersville	RIA
Central Monrovia	Gbarnga	Sinkor
Congo Town	Gbah	Yekepa
Duala	Harbel	Zwedru
	Kakata	

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Koffa & colleagues released

-On US\$ 440,000 property bond

Four lawmakers facing multiple charges in connection with the December 8, 2024 arson attack on Capitol have been released from prison on a US\$440,000 property bond.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; June 10, 2025 - Amid three days pretrial detention, former Speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa and three of his colleague

presiding Magistrate of the Monrovia City Court, L. Ben Bacon on Monday, June 9, 2025, following heated argument.

The defendants were charged and indicted by the

connection with the burning of the Capitol Building.

Over the weekend, the lawmakers were invited by the Liberian National Police for questioning and immediately detained following release of investigative report into the Capitol Building fire incident which linked them to the crimes based on jailed defendants' testimonies and digital recording evidence, Police Inspector General Gregory O. W. Coleman told a press conference.

The lawmakers' legal team in their property bond filed 8:30 A.M on Monday, pleaded with the court to release the defendants; while vowing to ensure they are brought before the court when required to face trial.

"The defendants are free holders and householders within the Republic of Liberia, do hereby bind ourselves, legal representatives, assign and successors in interest, jointly and severally, unto the said defendants Dixon W. Seboe, Abu B. Kamara, J.

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

Doe Family rejects Weah's money and food

Relations between Ex-president Weah and family of late former First Lady Nancy B. Doe goes from bad to worse here, with the aggrieved family returning a consolation package donated by Mr. Weah.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; June 10, 2025 - Sources within the Doe Family disclosed here that they have decided to return a condolence package offered by former President George Weah during a courtesy visit on June 8, 2025 for the death of former First Lady, Nancy B. Doe.

The gesture, intended to express sympathy following the passing of Ms Doe at her Sinkor, Monrovia residence on May 21, 2025, included US\$5,000 cash, 50 bags of rice valued at approximately \$1,000, and two cows. The package was returned by family members led by daughter of the deceased, Veronica Mamie Doe. The rejected items were returned

observers suggest the move may signal deeper political or personal grievances.

Veronica Mamie Doe, daughter of slain President Samuel K. Doe has come under public scrutiny for injecting politics into what many say should have remained a solemn and private period of mourning.

Critics argue that the grieving process has been clouded by political undertones, with various actors accused of using the situation for partisanship or personal gain.

Some Liberians, particularly from the Southeastern region, blamed Veronica for "stirring unrest" around her parents' legacy.

However, others came to her defense, noting that she has



at the headquarters of Mr. right to speak out and act on Weah's Congress for matters concerning her family's Democratic Change (CDC) on dignity and the national Tubman Boulevard in Congo remembrance of her father. Town on Monday, June 9, 2025. As tensions persist, the episode The family's unexpected underscores the complex and rejection of the gesture has often sensitive intersection of stirred speculation and raised politics, tradition, and grief in questions about underlying Liberia's public life. Editing by tensions or unease surrounding Jonathan Browne Weah's condolence visit. Some

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 7

National Bar calls for calm, due process

-In Capital arson case**By Stephen G. Fellajuah**

Monrovia, Liberia; June 10, 2025 -The Liberian National Bar Association (LNBA) has acknowledged the recent arrest and formal charges brought by the Liberia National Police (LNP) against several members of the House of Representatives, including Representatives J. Fonati Koffa, Abu Kamara, Dixon W. Seboe, and Jacob C. Debee. These developments, which stem from ongoing investigations into the burning of the Joint Chambers of the Capitol Building, have generated significant public and political attention.

National Bar President, Cllr. Bornor M. Varmah in a statement issued on Monday, June 9, 2025, called for calm, restraint, and strict adherence to the rule of law by all stakeholders, including political institutions, supporters, and the general public.

"The LNBA emphatically

reminds all that under the laws of the Republic of Liberia, the accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of competent jurisdiction," the statement reads.

The LNBA stressed that the burden of proof lies solely with the State, through the Ministry of Justice, to establish the guilt of the accused in accordance with legal standards. The Bar underscores that no individual, regardless of title, political affiliation, or status, is above the law. Equally, every citizen is entitled to due process and

equal protection under the law.

The Bar urges the Ministry of Justice to take full control of the investigation and prosecution, and to handle the matter with utmost professionalism, impartiality, and legal integrity. It emphasized that the process must be transparent, credible, and aligned with constitutional guarantees, particularly the right to a fair and impartial trial.

The statement also calls on political parties and other stakeholders to refrain from



MORE HEADLINE NEWS

MORE HEADLINE NEWS

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Koffa & colleagues released

Fonati Koffa, and Jacob C. Debbie of the City of Monrovia, Republic of Liberia, herein, in the amount of US\$440,000) (United States Dollars Four Hundred Forty Thousand). The Condition of the Bond that the Defendants will appear before the Monrovia City Court, Temple of Justice, Republic of Liberia as and when required, until the case may be removed, to answer to the changes", the bond reads. Accordingly, the lawmakers' legal representation further states that Jonda Janet Koffa and Marjan Mona Koffa are owners of the properties herein offered as Security for said criminal appearance bond.

"The defendants will appear before this court to answer to the charges of arson, criminal mischief, criminal conspiracy, criminal solicitation, criminal intent to commit murder, aggravated assault, illegal possession of firearms, release of distribution of forces and theft of property, and will remain under the jurisdiction of the said court until duly discharged, and if convicted of said charge, will surrender ourselves unto the custody of the Sheriff of said Court to undergo the full sentence of the law", they committed. Editing by Jonathan Browne

Starts from page 6

National Bar calls for calm, due process

any actions or rhetoric that could incite the public, interfere with the judicial process, or threaten national peace and stability.

"Any attempt to politicize, manipulate, or exert undue influence on this process poses a serious threat to the independence of the judiciary and the rule of law," the LNBA warned.

The Bar further cautioned the public against spreading unverified, false, or malicious information, stating that misinformation only serves to distort public perception and potentially inflame tensions.

Describing this as a pivotal moment for national reflection and unity, the LNBA called on Liberians to rise above

partisanship and emotion. "We must all rise above partisanship and emotion and allow the legal process to take its full and fair course."

The statement concluded with a reaffirmation of the Bar's unwavering commitment to the rule of law, judicial independence, and the fair administration of justice.

"The courts must be allowed to adjudicate this matter free from intimidation, threats, or external pressure. Justice must not only be done but must be seen to be done."

It continued, "Let it be firmly stated: There can be no peace without justice, and no justice without the rule of law." Statement

Bishop Brown frowns at current state of affairs

By: Naneka A. Hoffman

Monrovia, Liberia; June 10, 2025 -The former President of the Liberia Council of Churches (LCC) and General Overseer of New Water in the Desert Assembly Apostolic Pentecostal International Church, Bishop Dr. Kortu K. Brown, has expressed disappointment over government's abrupt interruption of national celebrations surrounding recent positive developments in the country.

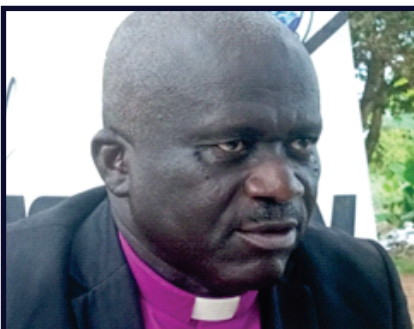
According to Bishop Brown, several events last week were reasons for national celebration, including news of Liberia securing a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council; the country's removal from the U.S. travel restriction list; President Joseph N. Boakai's signing of Executive Order No. 150, extending the suspension of import tariffs on rice and inauguration of ArcelorMittal's new plant in Nimba County. "These are significant achievements for our country. I have never imagined that the government would cut short these celebrations by arresting opposition

lawmakers and placing them behind bars", Bishop Brown said in a press conference over the weekend in Brewerville, Montserrado County. Last week, the Liberia National Police, through Inspector General Col. Gregory O. W. Coleman, cited "credible links" between the detained lawmakers and an alleged conspiracy dating back to November 2024.

Former Speaker Jonathan Fonati Koffa was officially charged with criminal conspiracy under Chapter 10, Section 10.4 of Liberia's Revised Penal Code. Representative Abu Kamara of Electoral District #15 and Representative Jacob C. Debee of Grand Gedeh County District #3 were reportedly involved in planning meetings and coordinating logistics. Representative Dixon Seboe of Montserrado County District #16 was accused of distributing cash to individuals allegedly contracted to carry out the act. All four lawmakers were released on Monday after spending two nights in detention at the Monrovia Central Prison.

They are currently facing multiple charges, including arson, criminal mischief, reckless endangerment, attempted murder, criminal facilitation, and criminal solicitation. Bishop Brown emphasized that while he is not opposed to the legal prosecution of the lawmakers, the government must ensure a fair and transparent trial. He further urged both the government and opposition political parties to avoid creating unnecessary tension in the country, especially if Liberia is to move forward in peace and unity.

"We must reflect on our past; the pains and devastation of the 14-year civil conflict. No one should even think of disturbing the peace our people have enjoyed in recent years," Bishop Brown warned. Editing by Jonathan Browne



AME University pays off medical bills

-To relieve 24 babies' mothers at JFK Hospital

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia; June 10, 2025 -The African Methodist Episcopal University (AMEU) has cleared out medical bills for 24 babies' mothers at John F. Kennedy Maternity Hospital in Monrovia. The gesture to pay off over \$600,000 Liberian dollars overdue medical bills for all 24 babies' mothers at the Liberia-Japanese Maternity Center on Friday came as part of the University 30th anniversary. Speaking during the wipe out of babies' mothers' overdue bills that brought out a great sense of relief, excitement and thanks, Reverend Dr. Alvin Attah, President of the AME University stressed the University commitment to community care. He expressed the institution's dedication to fostering compassion and support as a faith-based entity.

(MOU) to cover 30% of burden medical bills, around 600,000 Liberian Dollars for 24 patients, while the hospital shoulders 70% and allow the babies mothers, who have been discharged but unable to leave the facility due to financial constraints, to now go home and take care of their children.

Over twenty baby mothers and other patients had been constrained due to high medical bills at the John F. Kennedy Medical hospital after being discharged.

Dr. Attah stated that the gesture is a pivotal moment in the university's anniversary celebrations, adding, "We are pleased to make this contribution to help you go home with smiles on your faces as you reunite with your families and communities."

For her part, Davidetta Parker-Sirleaf, Administrator of the JFK-



"We have come to set you free, Maternity Ward, lauded AMEU for and after here you will be going its goodwill, affirming the home to take good care of your significant impact this act of children. We heard some of you kindness will have on patients have been here for long time and staff alike.

after being discharged and no Madam Sirleaf acknowledged means to foot your bills, no challenges faced by the means to go home, but you've maternity ward in taking care of given birth to wonderful patients and expressed openness children, who might be great to further collaboration to help leaders of our country, incoming patients.

Presidents, Ministers, At the same time the gesture was lawmakers, senators and so on, met with gratitude, as the but unfortunately, life has had its mothers thanked the University own toil on you. And these babies for relieving them of burdens and are going through what they are now able to unite with their should not be going through, and families.

you too are going through, what "We are happy to go home; it has you should not be going been six months now, and through", Dr. Attah lamented. difficult for us, some of us have He said all is over now, as the been here, taking care of our University has intervened to children, no support, but thanks "wipe out your bills and ensure to JFK, that has been by our side that you go home and take good always, and everyone", Miatta A. care of our future leaders." Kromah, said on behalf of her

According to Dr. Attah, the colleagues. Editing by Jonathan University has agreed thru a Browne memorandum of understanding

Français

Boakai et Mittal inaugurent un investissement de 1,8 milliard de dollars au Liberia

Le président de la République du Liberia, Son Excellence Joseph Boakai, et le président exécutif

présence d’ArcelorMittal dans le secteur minier libérien. Le nouveau concentrateur, à la pointe de la technologie, est désormais l’une des plus



d’ArcelorMittal, M. Lakshmi Mittal, ont procédé jeudi à l’inauguration officielle d’un concentrateur de minerai de fer d’une capacité de 20 millions de tonnes, situé à Tokadeh, dans le comté de Nimba. Cette cérémonie intervient peu après la célébration du 20e anniversaire de la

grandes installations de valorisation de minerai de fer en Afrique. Ce concentrateur constitue le cœur du projet d’extension d’ArcelorMittal au Liberia, d’un montant total de 1,8 milliard de dollars américains, portant les investissements cumulés de la société dans le pays à environ 3 milliards de dollars. Ce projet prévoit une augmentation

significative de la production annuelle de minerai de fer, qui passera de 5 à 20 millions de tonnes, avec une amélioration notable de la qualité du produit, désormais axée sur un minerai de haute teneur et de plus grande valeur. L’expansion comprend également des investissements majeurs dans les infrastructures connexes. La ligne de chemin de fer reliant Tokadeh au port de Buchanan est en cours de modernisation, tandis qu’un nouveau quai a été construit dans le port, accompagné d’un système de manutention des matériaux dernier cri.

En tout, près de 5 000 ouvriers ont été mobilisés pour soutenir ce projet, en complément des 2 000 employés permanents d’ArcelorMittal au Liberia. Prenant la parole lors de l’inauguration, le président Boakai a déclaré :

« Un tel niveau

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Affaire de l’incendie du Capitole : Le député Frank Foko dénonce une "chasse aux sorcières"

Le député de la neuvième circonscription du comté de Montserrado, Frank S a a h F o k o , a vigoureusement dénoncé ce qu’il qualifie de « chasse aux sorcières en plein jour », suite à l’arrestation de l’ancien président de la C h a m b r e des représentants, Maître J. Fonati Koffa, et de plusieurs autres personnalités politiques de l’opposition. Il affirme que la police n’a retenu aucun élément incriminant à son encontre. S’exprimant devant la presse peu après sa libération, le député Foko s’est déclaré innocent des accusations liées à l’incendie survenu le 18 décembre 2024, qui a gravement endommagé les chambres réunies et plusieurs ailes du bâtiment du Capitole. « Ils n’avaient rien contre moi », a-t-il déclaré. « C’était ma deuxième convocation, et les questions posées étaient les mêmes que lors de ma première comparution. Aucune preuve ne m’implique dans cet acte.

On m’a dit que je pouvais rentrer chez moi, et qu’ils me recontacteraient si nécessaire. » Foko a été mis sous le feu des projecteurs après la diffusion d’une vidéo dans laquelle certains ont cru percevoir des propos suspects à la suite de l’incendie. Il maintient toutefois son innocence, affirmant que l’enquête est entachée de motivations politiques. Il a particulièrement critiqué l’arrestation récente de l’ancien président de la Chambre, J. Fonati Koffa, qu’il qualifie de figure respectée et pacifique, accusant le gouvernement du président

Joseph Boakai de cibler les membres du parti d’opposition CDC.

« C’est une honte d’inviter et de détenir un homme comme le président Koffa dans une affaire qu’il ne connaît même pas. Cela démontre clairement que le gouvernement s’attaque aux figures de l’opposition, en particulier les membres du CDC », a martelé Foko.

Le 7 juin 2025, le député Foko ainsi que cinq autres personnalités, dont Fonati Koffa, Dixon Siebo, Jacob Debe, Abu Kamara et Priscilla Cooper, ont été convoqués par la police nationale dans le cadre de l’enquête

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Éditorial

La doctrine Trump

NEW YORK – En à peine quatre mois de deuxième administration du président américain Donald Trump, les premiers signes d’une doctrine en matière de politique étrangère apparaissent d’ores et déjà. Comme bien d’autres aspects de la présidence Trump 2.0, cette doctrine marque une rupture majeure par rapport au passé.

Les doctrines jouent un rôle de premier plan dans la politique étrangère américaine. À travers la doctrine Monroe formulée en 1823, les États-Unis ont affirmé qu’ils s’imposeraient comme la puissance prééminente sur le continent américain, et qu’ils empêcheraient tout autre pays d’établir des positions stratégiques concurrentes dans la région. De même, au début de la guerre froide, la doctrine Truman a promis un soutien des États-Unis à tous les pays qui lutteraient contre le communisme et la stratégie de subversion soviétique. Plus récemment, la doctrine Carter a énoncé que les États-Unis ne resteraient pas spectateurs si une force extérieure cherchait à prendre le contrôle de la région du golfe Persique, riche en pétrole. La doctrine Reagan a promis assistance aux mouvements et pays opposés au communisme. Celle de George W. Bush, axée sur la liberté, a notamment adressé le message selon lequel ni les terroristes, ni ceux qui les protégeraient ne seraient à l’abri d’une intervention armée.

Point comme entre ces doctrines, elles font toutes savoir à différents destinataires quels sont les intérêts fondamentaux des États-Unis, et ce que le pays est prêt à faire pour les promouvoir. Les doctrines visent à rassurer amis et alliés, à dissuader ennemis réels ou potentiels, à galvaniser les agences en charge des questions de sécurité nationale, ainsi qu’à informer les citoyens.

Non formulée explicitement pas Trump, une nouvelle doctrine américaine émerge pourtant actuellement, que l’on pourrait qualifier de doctrine des « yeux fermés », du « rien vu, rien entendu », ou du « cela ne nous regarde pas ».

Quelle qu’en soit l’appellation, cette doctrine semble énoncer que les États-Unis ne chercheront plus à influencer ni à réagir à la manière dont les autres pays se comporteront à l’intérieur de leurs propres frontières. C’est ainsi que l’administration américaine s’est abstenue de condamner l’arrestation arbitraire d’un opposant politique de premier plan par le président turc Recep Tayyip Erdogan, les manœuvres répétées du Premier ministre israélien Benjamin Netanyahu pour affaiblir le pouvoir judiciaire dans son pays, ou encore la manière dont le Premier ministre hongrois de longue date, Viktor Orbán, ne cesse de malmenier les institutions démocratiques en Hongrie.

De même, Trump dénonce certes la politique étrangère du président russe Vladimir Poutine, ainsi que la politique économique du dirigeant chinois Xi Jinping, mais ne s’indigne en aucun cas de la répression que mènent l’un et l’autre contre leur propre population. L’administration Trump a par ailleurs décidé d’affaiblir voire de démanteler bon nombre des instruments – Voice of America, Agence des États-Unis pour le développement international, ou encore Dotation nationale pour la démocratie – employés depuis longtemps pour promouvoir la société civile et les mouvements démocratiques à travers le monde.

Ce qui se rapproche le plus d’une [formulation](#) publique de cette nouvelle doctrine a eu lieu en Arabie saoudite, le 13 mai dernier. Trump a en effet exprimé son admiration pour ce qu’il décrit comme une formidable transformation du Royaume, ajoutant que cette évolution n’était pas le fruit des efforts « d’interventionnistes occidentaux [...] qui vous donnent des leçons sur la manière de vivre et de gouverner vos propres affaires [...] Ces dernières années, trop de présidents américains ont considéré à tort qu’il était de notre devoir de sonder les âmes des dirigeants étrangers, et d’user de la politique américaine pour absoudre ou non leurs péchés ».

Les agissements de Trump, notamment sa recherche d’accords commerciaux avec plusieurs gouvernements autoritaires du Golfe et d’ailleurs, soulignent le poids de cette déclaration. À la différence de Reagan, de Carter, de Bush, de Barack Obama et de [Joe Biden](#), Trump adresse ici clairement le message selon lequel les États-Unis n’ont plus l’intention de défendre les droits de l’homme et la démocratie, de condamner les méfaits de dirigeants étrangers autoritaires, ni de faire pression pour la libération d’opposants politiques.

Cette doctrine du « rien vu, rien entendu » évite certes aux États-Unis une dérive caractéristique de la présidence Bush, durant laquelle le zèle dans la propagation de la démocratie avait conduit à une invasion irréfléchie et coûteuse de l’Irak. Elle facilite par ailleurs pour les États-Unis un travail constructif auprès de gouvernements appliquant chez eux des politiques qui, en temps normal, constitueraient un obstacle aux relations commerciales ou à la coopération sur des questions bilatérales, régionales ou mondiales essentielles.

Ce sont néanmoins les retombées négatives de cette approche qui l’emportent. La doctrine Trump accroît la probabilité que les gouvernements engagés sur cette voie redoublent d’efforts de répression intérieure et de subversion de la démocratie – régime politique caractérisé par davantage de liberté pour les individus, mais également par des marchés libres, soutenus par l’État de droit, et par une politique étrangère généralement moins agressive. La promotion de la démocratie est par conséquent bénéfique pour les investisseurs américains, et limite le risque que l’Amérique s’enlise à l’étranger dans des conflits coûteux ou prolongés.

Richard Haass, président émérite du Conseil des relations étrangères, conseiller principal chez Centerview Partners, et chercheur universitaire émérite à l’Université de New York, est l’auteur de la newsletter hebdomadaire Substack [Home & Away](#).

Français

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Boakai et Mittal inaugurent un investissement

d'investissement témoigne de la confiance croissante dans la sécurité, la stabilité et l'orientation économique du Liberia. C'est un véritable soulagement pour notre économie, notamment en matière de création d'emplois. Nous avons été informés que plus de 5 000 postes ont été générés durant la phase de construction, et que 1 000 emplois permanents verront le jour à l'achèvement du projet.

Une expansion de cette ampleur renforcera également la responsabilité sociétale de l'entreprise, avec des retombées positives attendues dans les domaines de la santé, de l'éducation, du commerce et de l'emploi. Nous félicitons ArcelorMittal Liberia pour ce pas audacieux, et l'encourageons à poursuivre ses investissements, notamment dans l'extension du réseau ferroviaire, l'amélioration du port et l'installation de centrales électriques. »

De son côté, M. Lakshmi Mittal, président exécutif d'ArcelorMittal, a déclaré :

« C'est un honneur d'être à nouveau au Liberia pour célébrer cette étape majeure dans l'histoire minière du pays. Nous avons travaillé pendant de nombreuses années pour concrétiser ce projet, et la présence du président Boakai rend ce moment encore plus spécial. Je le remercie sincèrement d'avoir fait le déplacement jusqu'à Nimba.

Ce concentrateur de pointe garantit l'avenir du secteur minier libérien. Il permettra de quadrupler notre capacité, de 5 à 20 millions de tonnes par an, tout en continuant à offrir des emplois à des milliers de Libériens et en contribuant de manière significative à la prospérité économique du pays.

Nous sommes fiers de la contribution que nous avons apportée au Liberia au cours des deux dernières décennies. Nous sommes profondément attachés à cette communauté et prenons très au sérieux notre responsabilité envers le pays et ses habitants. Nos investissements dans les infrastructures, y compris les routes, les cités et la production d'énergie, visent également à générer un impact positif plus large sur l'économie locale.

Ce projet est le fruit d'un effort collectif. Je tiens à remercier chaleureusement toutes les personnes qui y ont contribué. Vous jouez un rôle crucial pour l'avenir de votre pays. » ArcelorMittal envisage une augmentation progressive de sa capacité de production au Liberia, avec des projets en cours visant à atteindre une capacité annuelle de 30 millions de tonnes. La société étudie également des options pour produire du concentré de qualité DRI (Direct Reduced Iron).

Les améliorations actuelles ont été conçues dans cette perspective de croissance future, notamment avec une modernisation du réseau ferroviaire permettant désormais de transporter jusqu'à 30 millions de tonnes de minerai de fer par an.

À propos d'ArcelorMittal

ArcelorMittal est l'un des leaders mondiaux de la sidérurgie et de l'exploitation minière, présent dans 60 pays et doté de sites de production d'acier primaire dans 15 pays. L'entreprise est le premier producteur d'acier en Europe, parmi les plus grands dans les Amériques, et étend sa présence en Asie via sa coentreprise AM/NS India.

En 2024, ArcelorMittal a généré un chiffre d'affaires de 62,4 milliards de dollars, produit 57,9 millions de tonnes d'acier brut et 42,4 millions de tonnes de minerai de fer. L'entreprise fournit une large gamme de secteurs, notamment l'automobile, la construction, l'ingénierie et la machinerie.

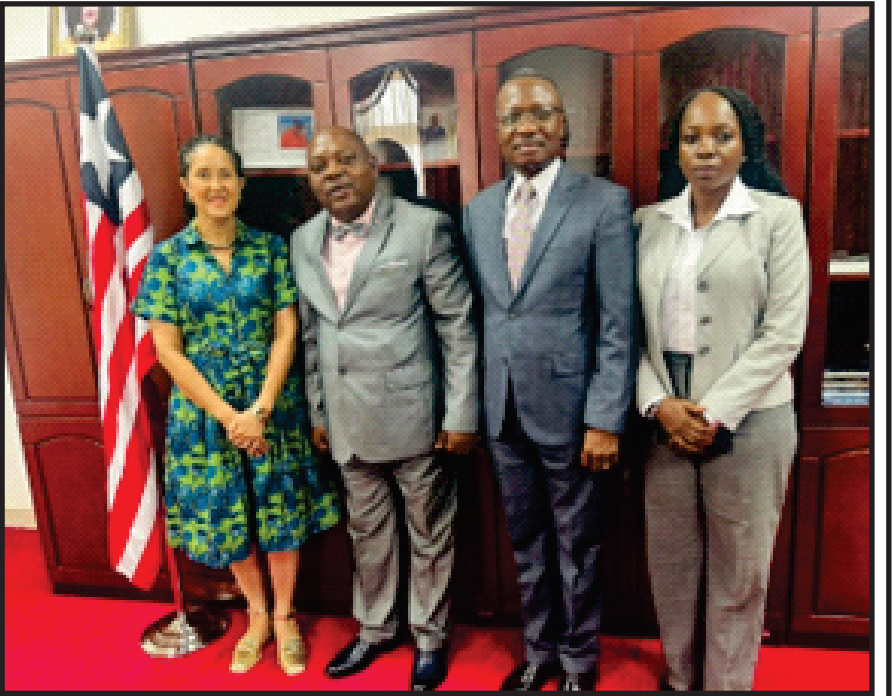
Sa mission : produire des aciers plus intelligents pour les personnes et la planète – des aciers plus propres, plus résistants et réutilisables, fabriqués selon des procédés innovants consommant moins d'énergie et émettant moins de carbone. Grâce à son expertise, à ses talents créatifs et à une culture entrepreneuriale forte, ArcelorMittal s'engage à accompagner la transformation durable des sociétés.

L'entreprise est cotée aux Bourses de New York (MT), Amsterdam (MT), Paris (MT), Luxembourg (MT) et sur les marchés espagnols de Barcelone, Bilbao, Madrid et Valence (MTS).

L'Association du Barreau plaide pour la relance du programme d'échange international à l'Université du Libéria

L'Association nationale du barreau du Libéria (LNBA) a appelé à la relance du programme d'échange international à l'Université du Libéria (UL), notamment à travers la réactivation de partenariats comme celui qui existait auparavant avec la faculté de droit de l'Université de l'Indiana. Cette collaboration avait permis la formation de plusieurs avocats libériens, revenus au pays pour contribuer de manière significative à l'enseignement juridique et au développement national.

La LNBA a également insisté sur la nécessité de préserver et de renforcer l'autonomie partielle de la faculté de droit, en lui permettant



notamment de rechercher de manière indépendante des financements et de gérer ses ressources, tout en restant soumise à une supervision administrative de l'université.

Cette position a été exprimée lors d'une visite de courtoisie effectuée récemment par la direction de la LNBA, conduite par son président national, Maître Bomor M. Varmah, auprès de la nouvelle présidente de l'Université du Libéria, Dr Layli Maparyan, récemment nommée par le Président de la République, Joseph Nyuma Boakai.

Dans un communiqué publié le mercredi 4 juin 2025, la LNBA a félicité la Dr Maparyan pour sa nomination et lui a adressé ses vœux de réussite dans l'accomplissement de son mandat à la tête de la principale institution d'enseignement supérieur du pays, à un moment jugé critique de son histoire.

L'Association a réaffirmé son soutien indéfectible à la nouvelle présidence de l'UL et a salué l'engagement de la Dr Maparyan à transformer l'université en un centre d'excellence et d'innovation.

La LNBA a également félicité l'administration universitaire pour les mesures disciplinaires prises récemment à l'encontre des pratiques académiques frauduleuses, notamment la suspension et le renvoi d'étudiants et de membres du personnel impliqués dans des comportements contraires à l'éthique. Elle a qualifié ces actions de pas courageux vers la restauration de l'intégrité académique.

Par ailleurs, la LNBA s'est réjouie de l'invitation de l'université à participer au comité de sélection du futur doyen de la faculté de droit, qualifiant cette sollicitation d'honneur. L'Association s'est engagée à désigner ses représentants au sein du comité dans les prochains jours.

En réponse, la Présidente de l'UL a exprimé sa gratitude à l'endroit de la LNBA pour sa visite et son appui, réaffirmant sa volonté de repositionner l'université afin de répondre aux standards internationaux.

Elle a reconnu l'ampleur des défis à relever et a exprimé sa détermination à les affronter avec célérité et rigueur. « Elle a mis en lumière les efforts en cours pour résoudre les problèmes chroniques tels que l'accès fiable à l'eau et à l'électricité, la réhabilitation des bâtiments existants et la construction de nouvelles infrastructures pour accueillir une population étudiante en constante croissance », peut-on lire dans le communiqué.

La présidente a également salué l'offre de collaboration de la LNBA, notamment en ce qui concerne la faculté de droit, et a indiqué qu'elle continuerait à solliciter l'expertise technique et les conseils de l'Association lorsque nécessaire.

La LNBA, pour sa part, dit aspirer à un partenariat solide et productif avec la direction de l'Université du Libéria, dans le but de promouvoir une éducation de qualité, de préserver les standards académiques et de favoriser l'excellence juridique dans le pays.

Starts from page 8

Affaire de l'incendie du Capitole : Le député Frank

est en cours sur l'incendie du Capitole.

Foko, tout en reconnaissant le droit de la police à interroger les citoyens, estime que la procédure est désormais instrumentalisée à des fins politiques.

« Je ne céderai ni à la pression ni à l'intimidation politique », a-t-il affirmé avec fermeté. « Nous avons été élus pour défendre les intérêts du peuple, et je continuerai à dire la vérité, quoi qu'il en coûte. »

Il a également accusé le gouvernement de mauvaise gouvernance et de corruption, pointant du doigt des propriétés du président Boakai, notamment un véhicule de luxe et un duplex en construction à Lofa, qu'il considère comme des tentatives de détourner l'attention.

« Je ne vais pas insulter qui que ce soit, mais je ne me tairai pas face à l'injustice », a-t-il

déclaré. « Je suis prêt à défendre ce qui est juste, même au péril de ma vie. »

En conclusion, le député Foko a lancé un avertissement direct au président Boakai et à son administration :

« Nous ne dormirons pas. Nous resterons éveillés et vigilants, pour dénoncer la corruption, les assassinats et toute dérive autoritaire. »

Il a réaffirmé son engagement à tenir le gouvernement responsable devant le peuple libérien :

« Ce régime sera exposé. Les abus, les dérives, les violations des droits humains... tout sera mis en lumière. »

Cette affaire continue de susciter un débat passionné sur la transparence, l'équité et l'usage du pouvoir dans le Liberia post-conflit.

LIBERIANS

DEBATE

Topic: **The arrest of four lawmakers**

By Naneka A. Hoffman

Some Liberians give their views on the arrest and charge of former Speaker Fonati Koffa and four other lawmakers in connection with the December 2024 fire at the Capitol. Read their comments below.



Philip Tweh

"I think what the government did by placing traveling ban on Fonati Koffa and others is a good idea, until the

investigation can be completed. Secondly, placing traveling ban on Koffa and others, if it is not a political witch-hunt, and the government is going to do everything to bring up sufficient evidence, I will fully support it. But if this government wants to score political goal by getting rid of Cdcians, then we need to stop this because Liberia's jobs belong to all Liberians, no matter your region, status or background, we are all Liberians."

"We know God first, and government second in life, and going by the law and Supreme Court ruling, if Koffa and others are not traveling and he loves his country and citizens, he should go by the law until the investigation can be completed. And if he is not found guilty, he will be set free, so let him go by the law."



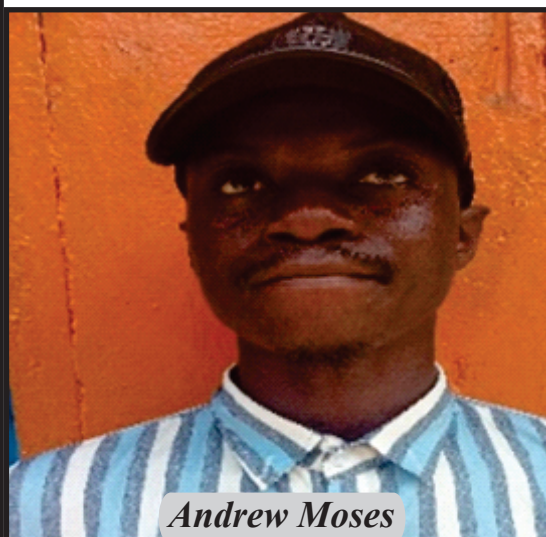
Noah A. Gowe



Stanley Dunbar

"Well, it is a fine thing. You know the issue that has to do with crime at the Capitol Building is a serious one. It has to do with arson. You know that place, the Liberian government spent huge money from our taxpayers to build that building but, to just wake up one night and burned the Capitol, I think it is very bad. So, to see the Liberian government and security to call back Fonati

Koffa and others, I think that they did their background investigation and they got to know that they have sufficient evidence. I think it is a fine thing because they talked about the rule of law is a part of the arrest agenda, so if the government comes up to say that they want to investigate, it is a right thing to impose ban on them, until the process can go through. If they are not found guilty, they will be set free but, if they are guilty, they should bear the full weight of the law; they are not above the law. The constitution is for everybody, so everything that they did and government got to know that they did that thing by burning the Capitol Building, they must go to jail and bear the punishment."



Andrew Moses

"I think the government is on a serious joke, because some of thought that the reason these guys were arrested is because the government has collected sufficient evidence that they have in their hands to prosecute these guys. But on the contrary, we later understand that it is just on the basis of mere witch-hunt and hate. We will not take this government serious, because I am a Liberian, I

believe that anybody destroys any part of this society, they should be held reliable, and they should bear the full weight of the law but, it should be on evidence basis, because you catch two pekin them, and carried them to NSA headquarter, put fear in them to call people's names that they not supposed to call, than you went and arrested the people and put them in jail, at the end of the day you can't inform the public with the sufficient evidence that they want to see how those guys were prosecuted, but you did you own thing just to score political goal. I think this is the Unity Party, for us, we can't get another Unity Party; this Unity Party, for us, they are people that can just use power any way."

"The government is acting in the rightful direction, for the fact that those people, who were arrested over the weekend and placed behind bar have been set free on bail this morning and are all honorable people. They have money; some of them have served in the legislature for the past 12 years, and some of them have spent six years and this is their second term, going as representatives for their various districts, so the crime levied against them, they could find opportunity to leave the country. It is a good decision from the government for people to not escape justice."



Emmanuel Baxter

Koffa is a sitting lawmaker. I don't think he will leave his people in this country and just run away; he is representing people, so government doesn't have any right to come up with such a law when he is not guilty; he is just accused.

It is political witch-hunt in the sense that this government wants to sideline all Cdcians, because since ascendancy of this government, anything that has to do with CDC, they make sure to go for it, even in this government, nobody is working in it as a born Cdcians. If I am lying, let them bring the proof."



Augustine S. Zulu

"For me, it is very wrong because the democracy we fought for, I don't think this is what we fought for. The law doesn't say when somebody is accused, that means the person is guilty and more especially, Fonati

Doe's family divided over Weah's gift

The family of former President Samuel Doe appears to be divided over a condolence gift presented by former President George Weah—two cows, rice, and LRD1 million in a show of sympathy for the loss of former First Lady Nancy B. Doe.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

The division comes amidst debate over the acceptance of the



gifts, hours after it was returned by one of the daughters of the late president. The bereaved Family had scattered the condolence gifts as some members had resisted the return of the gift to its owner, calling for peace during their time of bereavement, while others had rampage that they didn't need such a gift from an individual who had neglected their mother when she was alive. Mr. Weah, on Sunday, June 8, 2025, led an array of former officials to pay homage and sympathize to the bereaved family, while presenting a gift of 50 bags of rice, two cows, and 5,000 United States dollars as a gesture and sympathies to the bereaved Family, through their sadden time. Mr. Weah had overcome weeks of criticism and mustered the courage to go and console the family, extending an olive branch, while calling for unity among southeasterners. Mr. Weah had come under the spotlight as he was smashed by Doe's daughter, Veronica Mamie Doe, for what she describes as hypocrisy shown by Mr. Weah and the neglect of her mother when she needed him most. Veronica had vowed that the former President, who was once touted as a son of Doe, should come nowhere near her mother's funeral activities. But Weah, in the aftermath, had extended peace and said there is no reason to justify his relationship with the

falling former Liberian First Lady. "Do not let People divide us, we are one family, and every Liberian is my family. So, do

not let people deceive you to cause confusion among us. We are all one family. And there is no need to justify how I treated our mother, but I know I treated her with respect and honor," Mr. Weah said in his console, while presenting a gift to the bereaved family. But the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) leader's gift was met with a counter reaction early Monday, after being immediately returned to his party's headquarters by Veronica. In her aggression, Mamie Doe reiterated that the family does not need the gift from the former President. "Don't pretend to care about her in death when you didn't listen to her in life," Ms. Doe implied in a strongly worded statement, while returning the gift at the CDC compound, a situation that has triggered a social media and inflamed long-standing political tension. But a few hours after the emotional twist on the return of the gift to the former President, some family members extended apologies to Mr. Weah, asking that the gift be returned to the home of the bereaved family. Dr. Isaac Nyenebo, liaison between Doe's family and visiting sympathizers, expressed regret and formally accepted the gift on behalf of the family. "In every given situation, there is misunderstanding,

but this under resolution already, you know, when a leader dies, there's this form of misunderstanding. But at the end of the day, we all come together to have a befitting burial of our mother," Dr. Nyenebo said after the gifts were returned. He gave assurance that despite the pulling and hauling between rejection and acceptance of the condolence package from Mr. Weah, the Doe's family had resolved to accept the gift. "You know all of us are disturbed by the departure of our mother. But in every family, you have elders, and people listen to their elders. We are resolved to give our mother a befitting burial," he added. But in a late drama, Veronica has asked that the gift be returned for the second time. "I'm the elder daughter of this family, and in consultation with my siblings, we have agreed that the gift be returned to Mr. Weah. During his presentation, there were choice of words he made that didn't go down well with us, plus all that he has done to our mother. I personally returned the gift, and I'm not aware that these items have been brought back," she said. "And right now, as I speak, it will be taken away. It doesn't belong here," Mamie Doe said. "Mr. Weah never showed concern for our mother when she was alive. Now that she's gone, he wants to make a gesture. We see that as dishonest and ungrateful," Mamie Doe continued. The family has long maintained that the late Nancy B. Doe, widow of former President Samuel K. Doe, was denied her rightful benefits as a former First Lady during Mr. Weah's administration, a matter they say remains unresolved. Meanwhile, the rejected cows have since been accepted by some family members and taken to Grand Gedeh. -Edited by Othello B. Garblah.

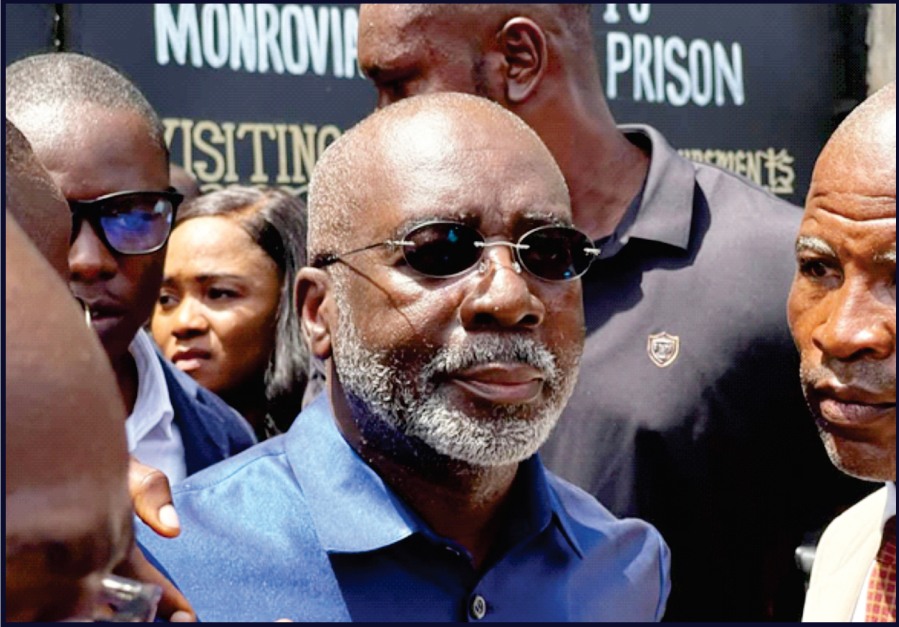
We'll deconstruct those lies

Following his release on bail along with four other lawmakers charged by Police in the December 8, 2024, Capitol fire, for Speaker J. Fonati Koffa vows to challenge his charges head-on in court.

By: Emmanuel Wise Jipoh

Monrovia, Liberia; June 10, 2025 - Former House Speaker Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa breaks silence here, after he was bailed out of prison along with three other lawmakers on Monday, June 9, 2025, in connection to the Capitol Building arson attack. Cllr. Koffa, and three other Liberian Lawmakers, including Representative Dixon Seboe of Montserrado County District #16, Abu Kamara of Montserrado County District #15, and Grand Gedeh County District#3 Representative Jacob Debee, were jailed last Friday in connection to the case. Police Inspector-General Coleman Gregory Coleman had said "credible links" suggested that Koffa was "strategically involved" in the incident. IG Coleman said the

hunt. "In the next few weeks when we begin the preliminary hearings, we will deconstruct the lies by the Police and defend our character that is worthy", he said. He noted that the case against him and others that led them to sleep behind bars, were all made-up accusations by the Police Inspector General Gregory Coleman without facts. "You Know, what the Police IG Gregory has said in his interview that this case is highly political, so you don't take the partisans word for it; you take the IG word for it. He had made-up a basket full of innuendos, lies and miss statements, but in the next weeks, as we go through this preliminary hearing, we will deconstruct these lies", Cllr. Koffa added. "Justice will prevail," he concluded, while thanking supporters for standing with



lawmakers have been charged with a string of offences, including arson, criminal mischief, endangering other people, and attempted murder on former Speaker Koffa. Former President George Weah filed a property bond using one of Cllr. Koffa's houses. But speaking briefly after his release from the Monrovia Central Prison on criminal appearance bond of US\$440,000, Cllr. Koffa described the case against him as a basket of innuendos, lies and political witch-

him. When asked what life was like in prison, the former speaker responded: "It's a place for human beings unfortunately that's the best the state can offer to all Liberians, and I'm not better than those there." Koffa and the three others were incarcerated at the Monrovia Prison Compound or South Beach for three nights, before being bailed out, after mounting pressure. Further reports said they will appear in court today, Tuesday, June 10, 2025. Editing by Jonathan Browne

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- Mr. Mittal Commits at AML Concentrator Dedication

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