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# The New Dawn

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# Al-Hussein Fadiga jailed briefly -On libel charge

# Koffa, others risk re-arrest



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# Continental News

## Caught in the crossfire - the victims of Cape Town's gang warfare

The distraught father lies on the narrow, single bed and points to two small bullet holes in the wall of his house. This is

had already endured unspeakable horror. Davin's older sister, Kelly Amber, was killed two years earlier, also shot as rivals fired at each

gang-related murders in South Africa, according to the police. Officially, this is a policing priority for the government. President Cyril Ramaphosa set up a special unit to combat gang violence in 2018, he also briefly deployed the army to the area the following year, but the problem has persisted, and the killings have continued.

"There's a whole history and generations of people who have been born into these gangs," says Gareth Newham, head of the Justice and Violence Prevention programme at the Institute for Security Studies in Johannesburg. "[They] flourish in areas that have largely been neglected or underdeveloped by the state. The gangs provide a form of social structure that actually provides services to the communities that the state doesn't. They provide food for homes. Money for electricity. Money for transport or funerals. These gangs even pay school fees." They are embedded in the community and "that's why it's so difficult for the police to tackle them... it means that they can use non-gang members' houses to store drugs and store weapons". BBC



Davin was shot dead four months' ago - an unwitting casualty of Cape Flats' gang problem

stark evidence of a moment that shattered his family's life forever.

Devon Africa's four-year-old son Davin was shot dead in February, caught in the crossfire of a shoot-out between criminals. He was a victim of the gang warfare that has plagued the Cape Flats, the townships around Cape Town - a legacy of apartheid, when the non-white population was forcibly moved from the centre of the wealthy city to the under-resourced outskirts. "This is the bullet hole here," he says. "This is where he slept." The family

other. She was 12. Now Devon and his wife, Undean, have only their youngest daughter left. "She asks me: 'Where's my brother?'" says Undean. "So I told her he's with Jesus in daddy's heart and in my heart." These murders took place in an area known as Wesbank, but many other families across the wider Cape Flats area have had to endure similar nightmares, despite assurances by the police of increased patrols. The numbers tell a horrifying story. The Western Cape province - in which the Cape Flats sit - consistently sees the overwhelming majority of

## Joyful Ethiopians and Eritreans embrace at rare border reopening

There have been celebrations at the border between Ethiopia and Eritrea as communities from the frontier villages came together for the first time in five years. Separated by the closed border since the outbreak of the 2020 conflict in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region, and subsequent political tensions, Sunday's coming together was a symbolic moment of peace and reconciliation. The reunion of families and friends took place in the Ethiopian town of Zalambessa in the presence of village elders and religious leaders. The move to re-open a section of the border was organised by local activists and community figures without the official backing of the authorities on either side. But those behind it indicated that they had the blessing from officials in Tigray and Eritrea. Many at the celebration described it as an

emotional and long-overdue gathering. For five years, relatives and friends whose communities straddled the international boundary had not been able to see each other across the militarised border. Many in Zalambessa and the nearby villages had suffered economic hardship and social fragmentation during the two-year war in Tigray that ended in November 2022. People had been forced to flee

their homes, with more than 55,000 people now living in makeshift shelters in Adigrat, 30km (19 miles) south of Zalambessa, relying on relatives for survival. The border has officially remained closed despite the end of the war amid tensions between the two governments. "Enough of the past, let's sit at the table of peace and build a better future," people chanted on Sunday. BBC



Relatives and friends came together for the first time in five years

## Police officers charged with murder of Kenyan blogger

Three police officers in Kenya have been charged with the murder of a 31-year-old blogger who died in police custody earlier this month. Albert Ojwang's death has sparked outrage in Kenya with protests held to demand justice. Mr Ojwang was arrested after Kenya's deputy police chief Eliud Lagat filed a complaint, accusing the blogger of defaming him on social media. Mr Lagat stepped aside last week pending the outcome of investigations into Ojwang's death. He has denied any wrongdoing. The three police officers - Samson Kiprotich, Talaam James Mukhwana and Peter Kimani - were charged along with three civilians.

All six appeared in court on Monday, but have not yet pleaded. Police initially said that Mr Ojwang died of self-

opened fire on crowds protesting against an increases in taxes. During last Tuesday's protests, Mr Kariuki was holding a packet of face masks when he was caught up in a confrontation with two officers in Nairobi as hundreds of protesters clashed with police. One officer, who had concealed his face with a mask, was filmed shooting him in the head as he walked away. "Watching that video of Boniface being shot was heart-breaking. He was just selling masks. How could anyone hurt someone who hadn't done anything wrong? It made me fearful," Jonah Kariuki, the of investigations into vendor's father, told the BBC. Mr Kariuki senior, who is also a hawker, said his son was the family's bread-winner and called for the prosecution of the police officers involved, if they are found guilty of shooting him.

"I was so shocked because my son was not armed with stones or clubs like other protesters who were seen armed. They found him doing his work. It pained me



Protesters have been holding demonstrations in Nairobi to demand justice for the blogger

inflicted wounds, but were forced to retract the statement after an autopsy found that he was likely to have died from assault wounds. A street vendor was shot during a demonstration last week in the capital, Nairobi, over Mr Ojwang's death, sparking renewed outrage from Kenyans who accuse police of using excessive force against protesters. Boniface Kariuki was reportedly selling masks when a uniformed police officer fired a bullet at close range, critically injuring him. Activists have called for a "total shutdown" of the economy on Wednesday as they step up protests against police brutality, and mark a year since the security forces

because my son has never stolen anything," said Susan Njeri, the victim's mother. Boniface Kariuki is being treated at Kenyatta National Hospital, Kenya's largest referral facility, where he remains in critical condition. "Boniface cannot talk. He cannot hear as well. He cannot see us. To be sincere, he can't survive without life support," Emily Wanjiru, the family spokesperson, told the BBC. The case has attracted widespread condemnation, with demonstrators demanding accountability for both the vendor's shooting and Mr Ojwang's earlier death. Foreign embassies and rights organisations have urged the government to ensure transparency in the investigations and to hold those responsible to account. BBC



# EDITORIAL

## In hunt of value for money: The yellow machines may be in sight

A Liberian government delegation headed by Vice President Jeremiah Kpan Koung has been touring Chinese manufacturing companies in the past week in search of yellow machines for road construction programs across the country.

The trip is in fulfilment of the Boakai Administration’s campaign promise and commitment to connect the entire country with desperately needed roads that would promote trade internally thru movement of people, goods and services.

Everywhere they went last week in China, Vice President Koung presented one request to the Chinese: “We need value for money.” The Liberian government has set a ceiling of US\$22 Million for 285 pieces of yellow machines.

The current endeavor indicates a strong commitment from the current administration to deliver on its promise to the people to pave Liberia with quality roads that have eluded the country for centuries despite successive governments since independence in 1847.

Lack of roads in the country has impeded development and stifle socio-economic life, while seriously undermining health care delivery and education.

The Liberian government under President Joseph Boakai wants to reverse this ugly and grime picture with a great relief for its citizens.

President Boakai said recently that he is no longer a race car packed in the garage, when he served as Vice President then, but is now in the race track, as President. This means that he is focus on and in full control of his agenda, ready to deliver.

The government’s initial step with the yellow machines quest had received public criticism and outrage surrounding transparency and evasion of procurement policy. It seems to now have all stakeholders inboard this time around, as indicated by composition of the current delegation in China that includes head of the Public Procurement and Concession Commission, the Minister of Public Works, representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning and the General Service Agency, among others, headed by Vice President Koung.

The Liberian government wants the machines as soonest as yesterday. But it would not trade quantity for quality, and this is what VP Koung has emphasized. “Our aim”, the Vice President said to one of the Chinese companies, Sany Group in Changsha, “is to get value for money. Our aim is to get a fair market value for the money to avoid ambiguity in price.”

“We don’t want cheap items but quality with affordable prices. The country is considering the processes and middlemen/ agents in getting the product to Liberia, which might increase the price. We understand businesspeople aim are to make profit, however, we don’t want to buy and don’t have a real market value,” Mr. Koung underscored. Ordinary Liberians cannot wait, but to see the machines here to create jobs across the country, as the bargaining include training opportunities and long- time benefits for the country.

# COMMENTARY

By Richard Haass

## The Trump Doctrine

NEW YORK - US President Donald Trump’s second administration is barely four months old, but already there are signs of an emerging foreign policy doctrine. And like so much else about his presidency, it represents a striking departure from the past.

Doctrines play an important role in American foreign policy. With the Monroe Doctrine, announced in 1823, the United States asserted that it would be the preeminent power in the Western Hemisphere and would prevent other countries from establishing competitive strategic positions in the region. At the outset of the Cold War, the Truman Doctrine pledged US support to countries fighting Communism and Soviet-backed subversion.

More recently, the Carter Doctrine signaled that the US would not stand by if an outside force sought to gain control of the oil-rich Persian Gulf region. The Reagan Doctrine promised assistance to anti-Communist, anti-Soviet forces and countries. George W. Bush’s Freedom Doctrine, among other things, made clear that neither terrorists nor those who harbored them would be safe from attack.

What these and other doctrines have in common is that they signal to multiple audiences critical US interests and what the US is prepared to do to advance them. Doctrines are intended to reassure friends and allies, deter actual or would-be enemies, galvanize the bureaucracy tasked with national security matters, and educate the public.

Although no Trump Doctrine has been explicitly put forward, one has begun to emerge all the same. You could call it the “look the other way” doctrine, the “see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil” doctrine, or the “none of our business” doctrine.

Whatever the label, the doctrine signals that the US will no longer try to influence or react to how countries conduct themselves within their borders. The administration has refrained from criticizing Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan for arresting his principal political opponent, Israel’s Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu for repeated attempts to weaken the country’s judiciary, or Hungary’s long-serving prime minister, Viktor Orbán, who has steadily undermined democratic institutions there.

While Trump has disparaged the foreign policy of Russian President Vladimir Putin and the economic policy of Chinese President Xi Jinping, he has not made an issue of either leader’s repression of his own people. The Trump administration has also cut back or dismantled many of the instruments, including Voice of America, the Agency for International Development, and the National Endowment for Democracy, long used to promote civil society and democratic movements around the world.

The closest there was to a public articulation of the new doctrine came in Saudi Arabia on May 13. Trump spoke with admiration of what he described as that country’s great transformation, adding it “has not come from Western interventionists ... giving you lectures on how to live and how to govern your own affairs ... In recent years, far too many American presidents have been afflicted with the notion that it’s our job to

look into the souls of foreign leaders and use US policy to dispense justice for their sins.”

Trump’s actions, above all his pursuit of business deals with authoritarian governments in the Gulf and far beyond, underscore these words’ import. Unlike Reagan, Carter, Bush, Barack Obama, and Joe Biden, Trump has made it clear that the US has no interest in advocating for human rights and democracy, speaking out against authoritarian abuses, and pressing for the release of political dissidents.

To be sure, the look-the-other-way doctrine avoids the sort of overreach that characterized Bush’s presidency, when zeal for spreading democracy led to the costly, ill-advised invasion of Iraq. It also makes it easier for the US to work constructively with governments carrying out policies at home that would normally pose an obstacle to commercial ties or cooperation on critical bilateral, regional, or global issues.

But the downsides of the new approach offset these considerations. The Trump Doctrine increases the odds that governments so inclined will double down on domestic repression and efforts to subvert democracy - a form of government often associated not just with greater personal freedom but also with free markets supported by the rule of law and less aggressive foreign policy. Promoting democracy thus benefits US investors and limits the risk that America becomes mired in costly or prolonged foreign conflicts.

The Trump Doctrine also distances the US from many of its traditional friends and allies, most of which, not coincidentally, happen to be democracies. Such estrangement works against American influence.

That said, the ability of the US to conduct a foreign policy that supports freedom abroad depends in no small part on its willingness to practice what it preaches. No country can talk the talk without walking the walk, and the Trump administration’s violation of many of the norms and practices that sustain democracy would undermine its ability to advocate for it elsewhere, were it so inclined.

No doctrine is entirely consistent - during the Cold War, the US often supported anti-Communists who were anything but democrats - and Trump’s doctrine is no exception. There is a self-serving, rightist bias. His administration has been critical of European governments and has made clear its preference for far-right forces, including the nationalist Karol Nawrocki, who won Poland’s presidency. Despite reducing America’s foreign entanglements, Trump has also waged a campaign against Greenland and Canada.

But these are exceptions. The thrust of the Trump Doctrine - not to allow anti-democratic behavior to get in the way of doing business - is clear.

For a long time, the US sought to change the world, annoying some and inspiring others. Those days are gone, in some ways for better, but mostly for worse. The US has changed. It is coming to resemble many of the countries and governments it once criticized. It is as tragic as it is ironic.



# Africa Needs Its Own Financing System

CAPE TOWN - Like many other multilateral forums, this month’s Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) may well produce impressive declarations and laudable promises. But will lofty rhetoric be translated into concrete progress in lowering the structural and systemic barriers to financing development in Africa, including deteriorating debt sustainability, dwindling concessional finance, and declining access to affordable capital?

Africa’s debt crisis did not emerge overnight. It is the result of years of chronic underfinancing, which forced countries to borrow for even the most basic investments. Between 2010 and 2021, the share of Africa’s public external debt owed to private creditors rose from 30% to over 44%. And private loans mean very high interest rates, which run in the 7-10% range, on average, with some countries, such as Ghana and Zambia, facing rates above 12%.

The problem lies partly with credit-ratings agencies, which tend to take a pro-cyclical approach, downgrading countries - and driving up borrowing costs - precisely when they are most vulnerable. Between 2021 and 2023, for example, Moody’s downgraded Ethiopia, Ghana, and Tunisia to “deep junk” status, despite their fiscal-consolidation efforts. Such decisions are not only opaque; they reflect external risk perceptions, rather than empirical criteria. According to the United Nations Development Programme, credit rating agencies’ inflated risk perceptions cost the 16 African countries that issued bonds an estimated \$74.5 billion by 2020.

Global banking regulations, which were tightened in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis, further constraining Africa’s access to finance. The Basel III framework, introduced in 2011 under the auspices of the Bank for International Settlements, increased minimum capital-adequacy ratios, introduced a minimum leverage ratio, and raised liquidity coverage requirements. Such changes diminished international lenders’ appetite for risk - and, thus, their willingness to work with African borrowers.

By 2020, many African countries’ debt burden was so heavy that any unexpected crisis would plunge them into severe debt distress. And then the COVID-19 pandemic arrived. To be sure, the G20 devised interventions to help debt-distressed countries: the Debt Service Suspension Initiative and the Common Framework for Debt Treatments. But the results were mixed. When Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Zambia sought relief through the Common Framework, they faced protracted negotiations, uncertain timelines, and tightened conditionality - all of which heightened perceived risk and deterred market re-entry.

Profit-shifting by multinationals to low- or no-tax jurisdictions, together with illicit financial flows, are an additional drain on African countries’ resources. According to UN Trade and Development, Africa loses over \$88.6 billion to illicit financial flows each year - nearly equivalent to the continent’s annual infrastructure financing gap.

Meanwhile, the promise of official development assistance continues to unravel. According to the OECD, total net ODA to Africa in 2024 was just \$42 billion, representing a 1% real decline in real terms from the previous year. At the same time, donor countries reported \$27.8 billion in “in-donor refugee costs” - up from \$12.8 billion in 2021 - which is counted toward their ODA contributions. Today, high-income countries are cutting their aid budgets further, with the United States the most extreme example.

Many argue that the key to closing the development-financing gap lies in strengthening African representation at institutions like the International Monetary Fund and broadening access to existing debt-relief and development-financing mechanisms. But such reforms can achieve only so much in a system that is structurally misaligned with Africa’s needs.

Rather than fight for incremental global reforms, Africa should focus on building robust regional and continental financing mechanisms that leverage African capital for African needs. The African Development Bank (AfDB), with its clear development mandate and ability to catalyze broad-based action, can act as the cornerstone of such an African financing system. The African Export-Import Bank, with its trade-finance instruments and growing influence, would also have a role to play, as would sovereign wealth funds, national development banks, pension funds, and others.

These institutions should pool resources, co-invest in strategic sectors, and devise new instruments to mitigate risk and enhance credit provision. For example, African-based guarantee schemes that reduce the cost of capital for investments in infrastructure and the green transition would create incentives for lending to small and medium-size enterprises and support the establishment of shared standards - vital to facilitate regional financial integration.

At the same time, African countries must boost revenue by strengthening tax administration, closing loopholes, and reducing exemptions. Regional cooperation, together with new digital tools, can go a long way toward measuring companies’ profits, tracking cross-border flows, and identifying systemic tax evasion.

Multilateral financial institutions still have an important role to play in delivering financing to Africa, but their approach must change fundamentally. For starters, far more lending should take place in local currencies, thereby reducing countries’ vulnerability to exchange-rate volatility. Longer repayment periods and respect for national policy priorities are also essential.

Africa has a young population, vast natural resources, and fast-growing digital networks. But it lacks the financial sovereignty to make the most of these and other assets. African leaders must stop lobbying for access to frameworks that do not serve their countries’ interests, and start asserting control over their own financial future. This means mobilizing capital, building institutions, and defining their own criteria for development success. FfD4 can help to kick-start this process, but only if participants recognize that closing the development-financing gap is a political problem, not a technical one.

# Africa’s Creative Boom

WASHINGTON, DC - In February, Afrobeats singer Tems won the Grammy for Best African Music Performance. Her achievement underscores the genre’s growing popularity, exemplified by more than 15 billion streams on Spotify. It is also part of a broader cultural renaissance, as Africa’s creative industries - from music and film to fashion - rapidly expand their global reach.

African culture’s rise to prominence could play a major role in the continent’s economic transformation, offering significant opportunities for a large and growing youth population. The creative industries are projected to account for 4% of Africa’s GDP and up to 10% of global creative exports by 2030, creating more than 20 million new jobs.

As I highlight in a new report, the growth of Africa’s creative industries is driven by two major forces: digitalization and demographic shifts. But to unlock the sector’s full economic potential, policymakers must make strategic investments and implement targeted reforms.

Digital innovation is rapidly reshaping Africa’s cultural landscape, creating new pathways to economic development. Increased access to emerging technologies is fueling the rise of digital payment platforms, while social media, streaming services, and online marketplaces are lowering entry barriers for creators and entrepreneurs. AI alone is projected to add nearly \$1.5 trillion to the continent’s GDP by 2030, transforming how creative work is produced, distributed, and consumed. Between 2016 and 2022, Netflix invested \$175 million in South Africa, Nigeria, and Kenya, reflecting its confidence in Africa’s creative output.

Demographic shifts are equally transformative, as the rapid expansion of Africa’s middle class and consumer base is driving demand for locally produced creative goods. By 2060, the middle class is expected to comprise more than 40% of the continent’s population. At the same time, Africa’s youth population is projected to double by 2050, making it the only region in the world with a growing working-age population. In addition to expanding Africa’s domestic markets, this demographic dividend is poised to transform the global cultural landscape, with African creators playing an increasingly influential role.

African policymakers must harness this cultural momentum to advance economic, social, and development goals. Notably, creative industries tend to employ a higher proportion of young people than other parts of the economy. With an estimated 11 million young Africans expected to enter the workforce annually through 2030, targeted investment in these industries could be a highly effective strategy for addressing the continent’s youth unemployment problem.

In sectors like fashion, around 90% of micro, small, and medium-size enterprises operate informally. Formalizing these businesses could boost productivity, broaden access to finance, and foster long-term growth. A more structured creative economy could also advance gender equality, especially in countries like Ethiopia, where women comprise roughly 85-90% of the apparel workforce.

To be sure, significant obstacles must be overcome to realize the sector’s full potential. Africa currently accounts for just 1.5% of the global creative economy and 5% of the world’s cultural and creative-industry jobs, and the sector faces persistent funding gaps, chronic underinvestment, and weak regulatory frameworks. Many African governments allocate less than 1% of their national budgets to creative industries.

Intellectual property protections remain a key vulnerability as well, with UNESCO estimating that 50-75% of African film and audiovisual revenues are lost to piracy. To tackle this challenge, governments must bolster anti-piracy laws and improve enforcement mechanisms. The African Union’s Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries is a step in the right direction, but its success will depend on coordinated national implementation, the development of clear IP guidelines, and more robust institutional capacity.

Alongside IP reform, African governments should adopt business-friendly policies tailored to the unique needs of African entrepreneurs and creators. Given the high levels of informality across the sector, these frameworks must be flexible and inclusive. A prime example is Morocco’s rebate system, which attracted international productions and helped the country’s film industry achieve record profits in 2023.

Access to funding is essential. The financial measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic to aid the arts sector provide a useful model for how direct public investment can support creative industries. Strategic investment in digital infrastructure is also critical, especially for creative industries like fashion e-commerce.

National governments should also collaborate with regional and international funders. Encouragingly, the African Export-Import Bank announced last year that it would double its investment - to \$2 billion over the next three years - in the Creative Africa Nexus initiative, which connects creative professionals and investors from across the continent.

More broadly, African governments must develop forward-looking policies that accelerate the growth of creative industries. By tapping into the talent, innovation, and entrepreneurial drive of Africa’s youth, the continent has the potential to position its creative economy as a global powerhouse, driving GDP growth, expanding cultural influence, and shaping a future defined by African-led prosperity.



## FEATURE

## ARTICLE

# ESIA and EPA permits disprove Sen. Twayen's claim

**Yekepa, Nimba County – June 16, 2025**

A detailed environmental assessment and two official permits issued by Liberia's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have debunked recent claims by Senator Nya Twayen that ArcelorMittal Liberia (AML) built its new iron ore concentrator in Toledoh, Nimba County without a proper environmental impact study.

Last week Senator Nya Twayen complained ArcelorMittal Liberia to the Senate enabling the senate Plenary to mandate its Secretary of Senate, J. Nanborlor F. Singbeh, Sr. to communicate with the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA) “to submit copies of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study, report, and the corresponding environmental permit issued in relation to the ongoing construction of a multi-million-dollar iron ore processing plant by ArcelorMittal in Yekepa, Nimba County”.

For weeks now, Senator Twayen has harbored the belief that there was no environmental and safety impact assessment was done prior to the construction of the concentrator.

Contrary to the Senator's assertions, AML conducted and submitted a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the Tokadeh Iron Ore Processing Plant, as required by law. The study was prepared by URS/AMEC Foster Wheeler, an internationally recognized environmental consultancy, in partnership with Earthtime Inc., and was formally submitted to the EPA.

Documents seen also revealed 21 separate reports environmental and social impact assessment reports that covered the concentrator, including a Framework Resettlement action plan, environmental management plan, Noise pollution, Geo mapping, climate change studies, Zoological impact report.

Botanic Grassland report, Forest Botanical Impact report, landscape Character report and even assessments reports submitted by conservation internation that enabled the EPA to renew two environmental permits for the construction and procession of ore from Tokadeh and operations at the Port of Buchanan

The ESIA report specifically states:

“This ESIA has been conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection and Management Law (EPML) of Liberia and EPA guidelines for Category A projects.”

The study classified the concentrator project as a Category A development, meaning it had potentially high environmental and social risks and therefore required full environmental review, public consultation, and official approval prior to implementation.

**What the ESIA Covered**

The ESIA provided an in-depth review of

environmental baselines including air quality, surface and groundwater conditions, biodiversity, noise, and soil in the Tokadeh and Yekepa areas. It also examined social factors such as population density, health indicators, livelihoods, and cultural heritage. The report noted:

“Potential impacts of the project include dust emissions, noise from machinery, sediment runoff into local watercourses, and biodiversity disturbance. Mitigation measures include dust suppression systems, buffer zones, controlled clearing of vegetation, and the implementation of a community health and safety plan.”

Summary of Project Outline from ESIA Report

drainage management, borrow pit locations, and Yekepa township planning, remain at early design stages and will be further assessed as details become available.

Importantly, the ESIA emphasized that **no involuntary resettlement** was necessary, as the project falls entirely within AML's previously authorized mining concession. It further documented that extensive public consultations were held across Nimba County involving local leadership, women's groups, youth, and local government, as part of the approval process.

**EPA Permit Confirms Project Legitimacy**

The EPA issued a renewed environmental permit on **August 10, 2024**, signed by **Dr. Emmanuel K. Urey Yarkpawolo**,

Executive Director of the EPA. The permit reference number is **EPA/EC/ESIA/EMPS/004-0113R** and covers the processing (concentration) ore extraction at Tokadeh, operation of the concentrator in Yekepa, and associated stockpiling and processing activities at the Port of Buchanan.

The permit is explicit:

“This permit is issued pursuant to the Environmental Protection and Management Law of Liberia (2003), Part III, Sections 8 (1), 11 (1), and 13. It authorizes ArcelorMittal Liberia Limited to conduct the Phase II iron ore mining and processing activities within the coordinates specified herein.”

It also warns:

“Any deviation from the approved Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), including misinformation or failure to

comply with monitoring obligations, shall be subject to suspension, cancellation, or prosecution.”

The permit remains in effect until **20 December 2027**, covering AML's current operations and establishing a clear regulatory framework for environmental oversight. It mandates the submission of periodic environmental audit reports, monitoring dust and water quality, noise control, biodiversity protection, and sustained community engagement.

**Conclusion: Senator's Claim Refuted by Facts**

The facts are clear.

A full ESIA was conducted, reviewed, and approved. The EPA granted AML a valid environmental permit grounded in Liberian law. Construction of the concentrator was not only legal but also subject to some of the highest environmental standards applied in Liberia's mining sector to date.

Senator Twayen's claims that “there was no environmental report before the concentrator was built” is directly contradicted by documentary evidence. The public should be guided by verified records, not political statements that risk undermining national regulatory systems and discouraging responsible investment.



(Phase II Expansion – ArcelorMittal Liberia)

According to the ESIA report, the concentrator mining project involves extracting, crushing, screening, and magnetically/flotation-concentrating approximately 15 million tonnes of iron ore annually over 20 years (2015–2034). Mining will occur at Yuelliton (up to 200m deep), Gangra (175m), and Tokadeh (100m), covering a total mining area of about 1,200 hectares, including stockpiles and waste dumps.

“A 303-hectare Tailings Management Facility will be constructed at Tokadeh, and treatment ponds will cover another 146 hectares. The total mine exclusion zone, inaccessible to the public for the life of the mine, spans 2,146 hectares, the ESIA report stated.

“Ore will be concentrated at Tokadeh and transported by rail. There will be new township developments in Yekepa and Buchanan, including housing, sewage, and waste management systems. A temporary camp for up to 1,250 construction workers and a railway maintenance camp at Greenhill in Bong County will support operations”.

This Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) draws from prior studies (2010, 2011) and includes updated physical, biological, and social surveys to reflect Phase II expansion needs of which the concentrator is a part of. Some aspects, like



## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

## MORE HEADLINE NEWS

# Min. Jallah inspires Cuttington University Graduates

**By Edwin N. Khakie**  
Liberia's Minister of Education, Dr. Jarso Maley Jallah, has called on graduates of Cuttington University to become drivers



of national transformation by embracing excellence, integrity, and service as they embark on the next phase of their journey. Speaking as the keynote speaker at the university's 63rd Commencement Convocation over the weekend, Dr. Jallah urged the graduates to use their education as a tool to solve real-world problems, uplift principles," she emphasized. "Be bold in action, generous in spirit, and collaborative in purpose. This is not just the end of your studies—it is the beginning of a lifelong journey to create impact." She challenged the graduates to dream big and plan with purpose, warning that without a clear direction, success becomes elusive. "Whether you're securing your first job or starting a

company, a solid plan is key to achieving your goals," she noted. Dr. Jallah also highlighted the importance of remaining focused and grounded as the graduates venture into a complex and changing world. "The road ahead may not be easy," she said, "but let your purpose be the compass that guides your every step, inspiring your decisions and shaping your legacy." Also addressing the ceremony, Cuttington University President Dr. Romelle A. Horton congratulated the "Nation Builders Class of 2025" and commended their resilience and academic achievements. She reaffirmed the university's mission to develop ethical and capable leaders who will advance Liberia's future. "You are equipped to lead, to serve, and to build a stronger, more resilient Liberia," Dr. Horton stated. "Let your knowledge be a catalyst for

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# Non-State Actors dominate Africa's security

*Africa's security vulnerable to Non-State Actors, expert says.*

**By: Naneka A. Hoffman**  
Monrovia, Liberia; June 24, 2025 - Senator Momo Cyrus, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Defense, Intelligence, Security and Veteran Affairs, has highlighted a critical shift in Africa's security landscape. According to him, the 21st-century African security terrain is increasingly shaped not only by state actors, but by a diverse range of non-state actors (NSAs). These include violent extremist groups, private militias, transnational criminal networks, armed political factions, cyber actors, and even rogue civil groups. Speaking during a visit by a delegation from the National Institute for Security Studies (NISS) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Friday, Senator Cyrus emphasized the pervasive threat posed by these groups. "These groups challenge the very foundations of state authority, undermine public

trust, and erode our collective peace dividends," he stated. He pointed to regions such as the Sahel (encompassing parts of Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and Sudan), the Lake Chad Basin, the Mano River Union, and the Horn of Africa, where sophistication and influence of NSAs are on the rise. He specifically noted that "Especially elected officials, policymakers, civil servants, diplomats and local administrators have become prime targets by non-state actors." Senator Cyrus revealed that he has invested in robust security systems at his Capital Building Office, recognizing the necessity of protecting public officials' workspaces. He further disclosed that he spent approximately US\$20,000.00 to build a security system at the Passport Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, citing a long-standing lack of adequate protection in that vital area. "I did that as part of my social corporate responsibility to my country and its citizens for the forward march of the

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# Nigeria's Institute for Security Studies ends visit here

*The Government of Liberia and its counterpart of Nigeria have shared security concerns and strategies here.*

Monrovia, Liberia; June 24, 2025 - The Director General of the Gabriel L. Dennis Foreign Service Institute (FSI), Reginald B. Goodridge, has applauded a visiting delegation of the National Institute for Security Studies (NISS) of the Federal Republic of Nigeria after holding consultations with Liberian officials. The NISS delegation that was here for a study tour on the theme: "Non-State Actors in security management issues, challenges and prospects for peace and development in Africa," engaged with several key Liberian institutions during their stay. These included the head of the Small Arms Commission, the Security Advisor to President Joseph N. Boakai, and the Foreign Service Institute at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, among others. Director Goodridge expressed profound welcome on behalf of the FSI, acknowledging the historical relationship that exists between Liberia and Nigeria." He likened the bond between the two nations to that of a family, referring to them as "cousins." Goodridge highlighted the FSI's enthusiasm to be involved in the planning and implementation of the study tour, noting that the theme perfectly aligns with the institute's curriculum as they prepare diplomats and Foreign Service personnel for an "ever-changing, often benevolent and uncertain" global environment. "We imbue our students in the academic disciplines such as environmental security in diplomacy, cyber security, conflict resolution and negotiation, and security awareness in the face of the threats of terrorism, sabotage, and cross-border incursions", he said. The former Information Minister added that his team has identified various categories of non-state actors for the purpose of this study tour, with the aim of deepening contemplation on how to mitigate potential threats to peace and development in Africa. He listed a wide array of such actors, including middlemen, arms dealers, drug dealers, the media (both liberal and conservative), civil society groups, NGOs, multinational corporations, rebel groups/armed insurgents, academia, the wealthy class (technology tycoons, millionaires, and billionaires), sports personalities, entertainment personalities, the pharmaceutical industry, and underprivileged youths, among others. He then posed a crucial question: "The issues that we have to reckon with is, what motivates these non-state actors so that their actions may have a negative impact on peace and development in our part of the world?" While acknowledging that not



all non-state actors are inherently negative and many ostensibly act for the good of society, he urged a critical examination of their altruistic motivations. He suggested a need to "examine the connections between legitimate state actors and non-state actors," presuming that many may have indirect or "back-channel connections with state actors to advance whatever designs they may be pursuing for the benefit or deficit of our respective publics, and thereby our continent." Madam Vivian Ifeoma Okpe, head of the NISS delegation, reciprocated sentiments, noting that their visit to Liberia was intended to foster shared understanding of the challenges confronting various security actors across Africa. Editing by Jonathan Browne



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# LRRRC to address asylum requests appropriately

The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission says it is committed to addressing concerns of asylum seekers.

**By Stephen G. Fellajuah** obligations. Monrovia, Liberia; June 24, 2025 - The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) has renewed commitment to strengthen the country's asylum system and civil documentation processes. In a message to mark World Refugee Day here over the weekend, LRRRC Executive Director and Officer-in-Charge, Jackson J. Paye, emphasized that asylum requests will be addressed more appropriately moving forward, acknowledging deficiencies in the current system. "The asylum process requires significant improvement, and we are committed to ensuring that requests are handled with the diligence and fairness they deserve," Paye said. He also reaffirmed Liberia's pledge to provide civil documentation to refugees, stating that such efforts are in line with the country's international obligations. Paye highlighted the importance of World Refugee Day in Liberia's national context, given its own history of civil war and mass displacement. "World Refugee Day is not just a global observance; it is a deeply personal reminder for us as Liberians," he said. "We must continue to stand in solidarity with those fleeing hardship and violence, just as others once stood with us." Delivering the keynote address, Cllr. Abba Gadegbeku Williams, former Executive Director of the LRRRC, urged the nation to create a safer, more inclusive environment for all, particularly refugees. "World Refugee Day highlights the challenges, stigma, and discrimination refugees face. Each year, we honor their resilience, strength, and courage," she noted. Williams called for strengthened support systems and greater solidarity with refugee communities. She stressed a need for actionable commitment to the rule of law, human rights, and good governance. "We must move beyond promises," she urged. "Let us adopt a sustainable and community-driven approach to refugee advocacy. The rights of refugees must be upheld through deliberate and collective action." Williams also encouraged the government to enhance support for the LRRRC to ensure its continued effective operation. A symbolic presentation of civil documents to former Ivorian refugees marked a highlight of the day's events, reinforcing Liberia's dedication to refugee integration and social inclusion. The theme for this year's observance is "Community as a Superpower."



Held on June 20, 2025, the day's celebration included a parade, an indoor ceremony at Monrovia City Hall attended by government officials, partners, and refugee representatives, and community outreach and recreational activities at a local park. According to a UNHCR 2020 report, Liberia previously hosted nearly 19,000 refugees, mostly from Ivory Coast, Mali, South Sudan, and Lebanon; that number has declined in recent years. Still, speakers at the event underscored the ongoing importance of standing with displaced populations.

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## Non-State Actors dominate

country."The Lofa County public or online. He also highlighted that collaboration, particularly intimidation, bribery, and leverage are common tools due to both countries' shared history, peacekeeping cooperation, and democratic aspirations. He called for strengthened institutional linkages, intelligence exchange, harmonized legal frameworks, and the cultivation of a security culture that extends beyond military might to mindsets and habits. "Our collective security depends not just on the might of our armies, but on the alertness of our public servants, the resilience of our institutions, and the strategic vision of our leadership," he underscored. However, he cautioned: "Non-state actors flourish where the state sleeps. Let us never sleep. As public officials, our awareness is not an optional." Editing by Jonathan Browne

# Joint Public Account Committee hosts validation retreat

A Joint Public Account, Audit and Expenditure Committee of the 55th Legislature has ended a two-day retreat to resume public hearings.

**By Ramsey N Singbeh, Jr., in Margibi** Margibi, Liberia; June 24, 2025 - The House of Representatives' Joint Public Account, Audit and Expenditure Committee has ended a two-day retreat at Farmington Hotel in Lower Margibi County. The retreat, which commenced over the weekend, was geared toward validating the Public Account's consolidated report and in preparation for resumption of the 2025 public hearings. In attendance were technical staff, and key institutional stakeholders, including the General Auditing Commission (GAC) represented by its Deputy Auditor General, Winsley S. Nanka. During official opening was characterized by presentation and acceptance of the draft consolidated report, detailed discussions on audit findings, compliance issues, and approval of the pending public hearings. The PAC reviewed several audit reports dating as far back as 2005 and 2006, which appeared to be a reflection of the historical background of their oversight. Grand Bassa County Senator Gbezohngar Milton Findley, a committee member, highlighted the scope of the audits under review: "There are 12 reports; we will be looking at compliance audit retreat is in line with the General Auditing Commission Act of 2014, specifically Section 4 (2g) which mandates the Auditor General to submit audit reports to the Legislature which then conducts public hearings with committee members present to scrutinize the findings. He explained the process, noting that after public hearings conclude, witnesses are given a final opportunity to present evidence that would address the Auditor General's queries. Subsequently, the committee holds retreats like this once to deliberate on the reports, incorporate members' inputs, and prepare the reports for plenary approval before forwarding them to the executive branch for implementation. Rep. Gahr highlighted provisions under the Public Financial Management (PFM) regulation, which empowers the committee to oversee implementation of audit reports. He said the regulation mandates the President to act on audit findings within 190 days, and failure to comply allows the committee to convene and request their respective plenaries to recall the report and instruct the relevant authorities to ensure enforcement. The Chairman acknowledged



report. It supposed to be about 312 and more audits that we'll also be reviewing during this period that we have not had hearing. There are audit reports that date back all the way to 2006 and 2005; we'll also be looking at some of those audits and coming up with a decision." The Chairman of the Committee, Margibi District #5 Representative, Clarence G. Gahr, emphasized the constitutional mandate vested in the committee. "As provided by the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia, this body has the sole authority to appropriate public funds and oversee their proper use," Gahr stated. He expressed gratitude to the legislative leadership for confidence in the committee's entrusting the committee with this critical responsibility. Rep. Gahr elaborated that the retreat aligns with the committee's core functions, particularly the review of audit reports. He further emphasized that the delays in holding the retreat and conducting timely validations, attributing them to recent political impasse within the House of Representatives. "The chaotic environment on the Capitol grounds and the unfortunate burning of the joint chamber used for hearings significantly hampered our ability to summon witnesses and proceed with hearings," he explained. Despite these setbacks, Gahr praised the dedication of committee members, the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the House, and the Senate Pro-Tempore for their unwavering support and the legislative leadership for confidence in the committee's work. Gbarpolu County Senator Amara Konneh, Co-chair of the committee, underscored the significance of the consolidated report, which encompasses all public hearings conducted in 2024.



# Français

## L'ancien président de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa, et d'autres députés risquent une nouvelle arrestation

L'ancien président de la Chambre des représentants du Liberia, Maître Jonathan Fonati Koffa, ainsi que trois autres parlementaires,

insuffisante, voire frauduleuse.

Ce week-end, le juge Roosevelt Willie de la Cour criminelle « A » a ordonné au magistrat L. Ben Barco du tribunal de première

pouvoir être examinée par une juridiction supérieure.

« Cette cour ne peut et ne doit pas connaître une affaire qui ne lui a pas été régulièrement soumise », a précisé le juge Willie. Il a donc renvoyé l'affaire devant le tribunal de la ville pour l'examen exclusif de la caution, en demandant que tous les documents y afférents soient transférés sans délai.

Le magistrat Barco a été prié de rendre un rapport sur la validité de la caution au plus tard le 25 juin.

L'ancien président Koffa et ses coaccusés ont été arrêtés le mois dernier dans le cadre d'une enquête policière sur l'incendie criminel du bâtiment du Capitole. Ils sont inculpés d'incendie volontaire, de complot criminel et de complicité.

Le lundi 23 juin 2025, lors d'une audience à la Cour de la ville de Monrovia, le

▶ CONT'D ON PAGE 9



risquent une nouvelle arrestation après que le parquet a remis en cause la validité de leur caution de 440 000 dollars américains. Selon les procureurs, la garantie immobilière déposée serait

instance de Monrovia de tenir une audience sur les objections soulevées par le ministère public concernant la caution. Le juge a rappelé que la loi exige que toute contestation d'une caution soit traitée en première instance avant de

## Al-Hussein Fadiga brièvement incarcéré pour diffamation

L'ancien directeur adjoint des opérations de l'Agence libérienne de lutte contre la drogue (LDEA), Al-Hussein Fadiga, a été brièvement incarcéré à la prison centrale de Monrovia, suite à une décision de justice l'obligeant à exécuter un jugement pour diffamation. Il a été condamné, avec son frère Hassan Fadiga, à verser 1,5 million de dollars américains de dommages-intérêts à l'ancien directeur de la LDEA, Abraham Kromah.

L'arrestation a eu lieu le lundi 23 juin 2025, après que le tribunal civil de Monrovia a ordonné l'exécution de la décision judiciaire. Si Al-Hussein Fadiga a été appréhendé, son frère Hassan reste quant à lui introuvable.

Dans son jugement, le juge président George W. Smith a conclu que les frères Fadiga avaient tenu des propos diffamatoires à l'encontre de M. Kromah avec un « mépris flagrant pour la vérité ». En plus des dommages-intérêts généraux de 1,5 million de

dollars, le tribunal a infligé une amende punitive de 100 000 dollars pour dissuader toute récidive de comportements similaires.

L'affaire trouve son origine dans une plainte déposée le 6 février 2025 par M. Kromah, qui affirmait que les accusations mensongères et malveillantes diffusées par les frères Fadiga avaient gravement nui à sa réputation, tant sur le plan personnel que professionnel. Selon les documents du tribunal, ces propos avaient été massivement relayés via les réseaux sociaux, entraînant une vive réaction du public et des

perturbations dans ses affaires.

Une assignation avait été émise par le tribunal le 17 mars, demandant aux deux prévenus de comparaître ou de présenter une défense. Leur absence a conduit à un jugement par défaut en faveur du plaignant.

Initialement, M. Kromah réclamait 5 millions de dollars, incluant des dommages spéciaux pour pertes d'opportunités commerciales. Toutefois, la cour a estimé que les éléments fournis ne satisfaisaient pas aux



## Éditorial

Par Jayati Ghosh

### La Conférence sur le financement du développement a-t-elle des chances de succès ?

NEW DELHI – Le pessimisme est aujourd'hui compréhensible en ce qui concerne le multilatéralisme. Les récents rassemblements internationaux – Sommet de 2023 sur les Objectifs de développement durable, Sommet de l'avenir 2024, ainsi que les multiples Conférences des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques – n'ont en effet donné lieu qu'à des promesses non tenues. Le président américain Donald Trump abandonnant actuellement les engagements internationaux des États-Unis, et rejetant les initiatives multilatérales tout en semant le désordre et la confusion dans le commerce mondial, la Conférence sur le financement du développement (FfD4) qui se tiendra à la fin du mois pourra-t-elle produire de meilleurs résultats ?

Certes, il faut s'attendre à ce que les États-Unis jouent les trouble-fête à Séville, ou à ce qu'ils se montrent indifférents aux accords conclus. Cela ne signifiera pas pour autant l'échec de cette conférence. En effet, le retrait des États-Unis de l'accord de Paris 2015 sur le climat durant le premier mandat de Trump – quelques mois seulement après l'entrée en vigueur du texte – n'a pas conduit à sa disparition. Bien que l'action climatique demeure limitée, presque tous les protagonistes admettent que le changement climatique se produirait encore plus rapidement si cet accord n'avait pas été conclu.

Les États-Unis se sont par ailleurs [retirés](#) en avril des négociations sur la décarbonation du transport maritime menées au sein de l'Organisation maritime internationale (OMI) des Nations Unies, menaçant de prendre des « mesures réciproques » si de nouvelles taxes étaient imposées aux navires américains pour leur consommation de carburant. Or, l'OMI est malgré tout [parvenue](#) à convaincre 108 États – qui représentent 97 % de la flotte marchande mondiale en termes de tonnage – d'approuver une nouvelle norme obligatoire concernant le carburant des navires, ainsi qu'un mécanisme mondial de tarification des émissions, dont les recettes sont destinées à soutenir notamment le développement d'infrastructures dans les économies en voie de développement.

Il est clairement possible pour le monde de progresser sans les États-Unis face à des défis communs. Le manque d'implication des États-Unis dans la FfD4 pourrait même s'avérer avantageux, compte tenu de leur tendance habituelle consistant à obtenir des compromis favorables à leurs propres multinationales, pour ensuite refuser de signer ou d'appliquer quelque accord que ce soit – comme l'illustrent les négociations relatives à l'accord fiscal mondial de l'OCDE, finalisé en 2021.

Pour que la FfD4 soit une réussite, il faudra néanmoins que d'autres États viennent combler le manque de leadership mondial, et qu'ils démontrent un engagement crédible en faveur de la coopération multilatérale, qui est essentielle à notre survie. Fort heureusement, la [première version](#) du document final de la FfD4 reconnaît cet impératif, et formule de nombreuses propositions politiques utiles et pratiques, dont plusieurs sont issues du [rapport final](#) de la Commission internationale d'experts sur le financement du développement (dont j'étais membre).

L'un des points clés du document consiste à permettre une plus grande mobilisation des ressources nationales. Un système fiscal international obsolète et des contrôles insuffisants des flux financiers illicites pèsent lourdement sur les budgets des pays à revenu faible et intermédiaire. Des réformes dans ces domaines contribueraient grandement à réduire les inégalités de revenus et d'actifs, ainsi qu'à faire croître des recettes fiscales indispensables pour financer les investissements dans la santé, l'éducation, l'atténuation et l'adaptation au changement climatique.

Il est plus largement nécessaire que les participants au sommet de Séville s'efforcent de remédier à l'absence de filet de sécurité financière mondiale. Une première étape pourrait consister à mettre en place des allocations régulières de droits de tirage spéciaux, l'actif de réserve du Fonds monétaire international. Pour renforcer l'impact de cette démarche, les DTS pourraient être distribués en fonction des besoins – en rupture avec l'approche actuelle, qui alloue les DTS proportionnellement aux quotas du FMI, ce qui signifie que les parts les plus importantes reviennent aux États qui en ont le moins besoin. Le FMI pourrait également introduire des swaps de DTS afin de répondre aux besoins de liquidités immédiats des économies qui ne bénéficient pas des swaps de liquidités de la Réserve fédérale américaine.



# Français

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## L'ancien président de la Chambre, Fonati Koffa, et

magistrat L. Ben Barco a ordonné aux prévenus de présenter leurs garants en personne avant 9 heures du matin le mardi 24 juin, faute de quoi ils seront réincarcérés.

Lors des débats, le parquet a affirmé que les biens et les garants mentionnés dans l'acte de cautionnement n'existent pas ou ne sont pas vérifiables, accusant la défense de tenter de retarder les procédures. En réponse, les avocats de la défense ont rejeté ces allégations, estimant que les objections du parquet étaient désormais sans objet et que le tribunal devait les écarter, car elles ne remettaient pas en cause la compétence de la cour.

Cette audience fait suite à une décision de la cour de circuit ordonnant au tribunal

inférieur d'examiner la caution avant le procès préliminaire.

Dans une brève déclaration à la presse devant le Temple de la Justice à l'issue de l'audience, le procureur général du Liberia, Maître Augustine Faiyah, a exprimé de vives inquiétudes quant à la légitimité de la caution déposée. Il a qualifié le dossier de « manifestement inadéquat et potentiellement frauduleux ».

Selon lui, aucune des propriétés mentionnées dans la caution ne peut être localisée ni authentifiée. Il exhorte donc le tribunal à exiger une preuve de la validité de la caution, faute de quoi, il demande que les prévenus soient de nouveau placés en détention jusqu'à la présentation d'une garantie conforme à la loi.

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## Al-Hussein Fadiga brièvement

exigences probatoires du droit civil libérien en matière de préjudice économique spécifique. La compensation a donc été limitée aux dommages généraux et punitifs. Des experts juridiques considèrent ce verdict comme une étape importante dans l'évolution du droit de la diffamation au Liberia, à une époque où les réseaux sociaux jouent un rôle majeur dans la propagation de la désinformation.

Ancienne figure controversée mais influente du secteur sécuritaire libérien, Abraham

Kromah s'était fait discret depuis son départ de la LDEA. Ce procès le replace sous les projecteurs, cette fois en tant que partie victorieuse.

Si elle est entièrement exécutée, cette condamnation pourrait entrer dans l'histoire judiciaire du Liberia comme l'une des plus lourdes en matière de diffamation, traduisant une volonté ferme du système judiciaire de protéger la réputation à l'ère numérique.

## « Le retour de Weah est irréversible » – déclare l'ambassadeur Kemayah

L'ambassadeur Dee-Maxwell Saah Kemayah Sr., leader politique du Mouvement pour l'Autonomisation Économique (MOVEE), affirme que le retour de l'ancien président George Manneh Weah au pouvoir est « irréversible », en dépit des nombreux défis à relever.

Lors d'une cérémonie de remise de diplômes pour la première cohorte de son programme de formation professionnelle et d'autonomisation des femmes, Amb. Kemayah a exprimé une confiance renouvelée dans la capacité de l'opposition à revenir au sommet de l'État, notamment grâce au soutien populaire grandissant.

« Nous, au sein du MOVEE, sommes en mouvement, et en collaboration avec le Congrès pour le Changement Démocratique (CDC), nous travaillons activement pour garantir un retour inévitable de George Weah à la magistrature suprême », a-t-il déclaré avec assurance.

L'ancien chef de la diplomatie libérienne et proche allié politique de M. Weah, a salué la résilience de l'ex-président, estimant que son engagement constant en faveur du développement national le place naturellement sur le chemin du retour au pouvoir.

Depuis sa défaite serrée lors de l'élection présidentielle de 2023, M. Weah s'est montré optimiste quant à une éventuelle réélection en 2029. Il a récemment déclaré n'avoir « rien fait de mal au peuple libérien » et s'est dit convaincu que les électeurs lui donneront une seconde chance.

Dans ses propos, Amb. Kemayah a insisté sur le fait que le programme de formation professionnelle qu'il a lancé ne vise pas à faire la promotion d'un parti politique, mais à améliorer concrètement les conditions de vie des Libériens. « Nous n'attendons pas d'être de retour au pouvoir pour agir », a-t-il affirmé. « Ce programme est gratuit et accessible à tous les Libériens, indépendamment de leur

appartenance politique. Il s'agit de bâtir une nation plus forte et plus équitable. »

Depuis la défaite électorale de 2023, M. Weah et ses alliés, notamment le MOVEE, multiplient les initiatives pour regagner la confiance du public et préparer le terrain pour une éventuelle reconquête du pouvoir.

Par ailleurs, plusieurs voix au sein de l'opposition expriment leur mécontentement face aux performances de l'actuelle administration dirigée par le Parti de l'Unité, en particulier sur des enjeux clés tels que la lutte contre la corruption, la sécurité publique et la relance économique. Pour eux aussi, un retour de M. Weah en 2029 apparaît de plus en plus plausible.



## Shree Mahant Trading inaugure un centre de pièces détachées pour motos à Paynesville

L'une des marques de motos les plus réputées au Liberia, **Shree Mahant Trading (SMT)**, a officiellement inauguré un **centre moderne de vente de pièces détachées** pour motos à **Paynesville**, marquant une étape importante dans le secteur automobile du pays.

Situé dans l'enceinte de **Cocola Factory**, ce nouveau centre commercialise des pièces de rechange pour motos **TVS** et propose également divers **services techniques** destinés aux motards.

Selon **M. Dhaval Korat**, directeur général de SMT, ce nouveau centre de pointe vise à **révolutionner le marché des pièces de motos TVS** à l'échelle mondiale tout en **créant des centaines d'emplois** pour les Libériens.

« Aujourd'hui marque un tournant pour le paysage automobile au Liberia. Ce projet contribuera de manière significative à la création d'emplois pour les Libériens », a-t-il déclaré lors de la cérémonie de lancement.

M. Korat a expliqué que la création de SMT au Liberia répond à un besoin pressant : l'indisponibilité des pièces détachées TVS sur le marché local. Il a exprimé son inquiétude quant aux nombreux motards contraints de parcourir de longues distances jusqu'en Sierra Leone pour se procurer des pièces, une situation qu'il a qualifiée d'inadmissible et pénalisante.

Selon lui, l'arrivée de SMT sur le marché libérien constitue une avancée majeure pour les conducteurs de motos TVS, en leur garantissant **un accès plus facile, rapide et local** aux pièces et aux services.

Dans une perspective ambitieuse, M. Korat a révélé que **SMT envisage d'implanter une unité locale d'assemblage de motos d'ici**



**trois ans**, renforçant ainsi la contribution de l'entreprise à la croissance économique du pays et à l'autosuffisance du secteur automobile libérien.

Actuellement présente dans les **comtés de Montserrado et Nimba**, SMT prévoit d'élargir ses services à d'autres régions afin de répondre à une demande croissante.

Le lancement de ce centre ne représente donc pas seulement l'ouverture d'une boutique, mais **l'amorce d'une nouvelle ère pour la communauté automobile libérienne**.

Par ailleurs, plusieurs conducteurs de motos commerciales ont salué cette initiative, soulignant l'impact positif sur leurs activités.

« Nous sommes heureux de l'ouverture de ce centre. Cela va nous permettre d'acheter nos pièces ici, sans avoir à nous rendre en Sierra Leone ou en Guinée », a témoigné **Patrick Mason**, un motard professionnel.

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## 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.

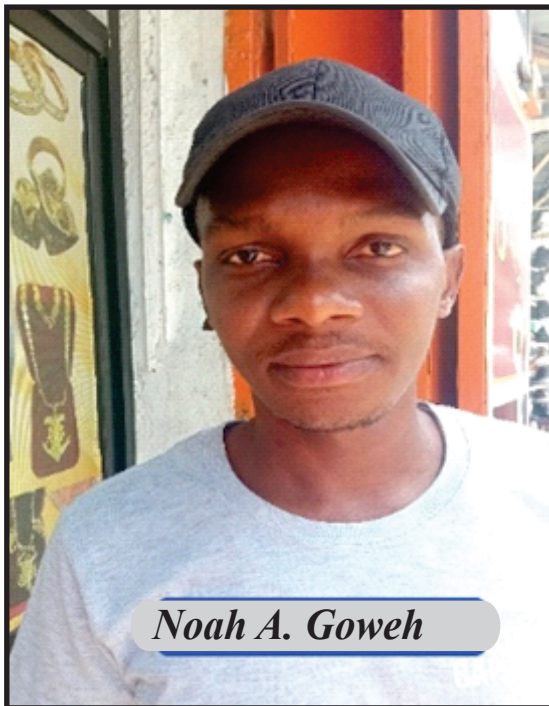


Philip Tweh

"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."



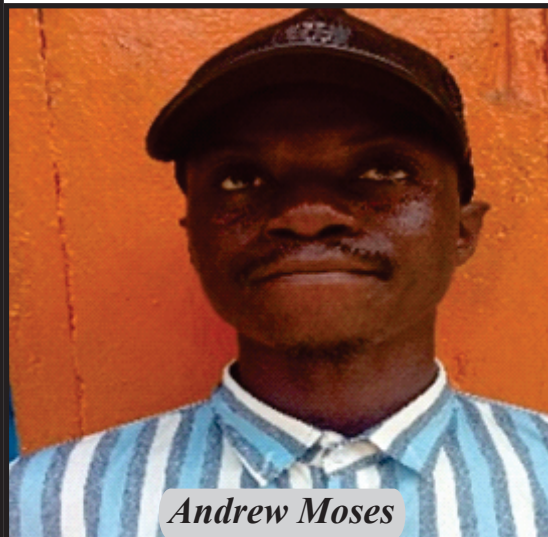
Noah A. Gowe

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."



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



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



Al-Hussein Fadiga Jailed brieflyKoffa, others risk re-arrest

**L**iberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA's) former deputy director for operations, - Al-Hussein Fadiga, tastes prison life briefly here, following a sentence by the Civil Law Court, for US\$1.5 million in general damages for defamation.

By Stephen G. Fellajuah

Monrovia, Liberia; June 24, 2025 - Al-Hussein Fadiga has been arrested and remanded at the Monrovia Central Prison



following a court-ordered enforcement of a libel judgment filed by former Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) Director Abraham Kromah, who is seeking US\$1.5 million in damages. The arrest and subsequent incarceration took place on Monday, June 23, 2025. The libel case involved both Al Hussein and his brother Hassan Fadiga, though Hassan remains at large. The court's action stems from the brothers' failure to comply with a judgment issued by the Civil Law Court, which awarded Kromah US\$1.5 million in general damages for defamation.

In a landmark ruling, Presiding Judge George W. Smith found that the Fadiga brothers made defamatory statements against Kromah with "reckless disregard for

the truth." In addition to general damages, the court awarded \$100,000 in punitive damages, intended to serve as a deterrent against similar defamatory conduct in the future. The case originated from a February 6, 2025, complaint filed by Kromah, alleging that false and malicious statements made by the Fadiga brothers severely harmed his reputation both personally and professionally. These statements, reportedly circulated widely via social media and other platforms, triggered public backlash and disrupted Kromah's business engagements.

According to court documents, the Civil Law Court issued a summons on March 17, requiring both defendants to respond. However, they failed to appear or file a defense, prompting a default judgment in favor of the plaintiff. Kromah had initially sought \$5 million in total damages, including special damages for lost business opportunities. However, the court held that he did not provide sufficient legal evidence to support those specific losses under Liberian civil procedure. Consequently, the final award was limited to general and punitive damages. Legal observers called the ruling a significant precedent for defamation law in Liberia, particularly in a time when social media amplifies the spread, and consequences, of misinformation.

Abraham Kromah, once a controversial yet high-profile figure in Liberia's law enforcement community, has largely kept a low profile since departing the LDEA. This case, however, has brought him back into the public spotlight, this time with vindication. The judgment, if enforced, may go down as one of the largest libel awards in Liberian legal history, signaling a bold stance by the judiciary against reputational harm in the digital age.

Starts from back page "Weah's return is irreversible"

Liberians. "We're not waiting to return to power before we empower our young generation," he said. "This initiative is free of charge and open to all Liberians. It's about building the nation." Amb. Kemayah added. Since losing the election narrowly, Mr. Weah and supporting political alignments, including the Movement for Economic Empowerment (MOVEE), have been rolling all cylinders to

convince the public that they should return to Power. Meanwhile, some members of the opposition community who have expressed their dissatisfaction with the performance of the current Unity Party Administration, especially in cardinal areas of fighting corruption, tackling insecurity, and revamping the economy, are also hopeful of Mr. Weah's return in 2029.

Starts from page 6 Min. Jallah inspires Cuttington

positive change in your communities and beyond." She encouraged the graduates to hold fast to integrity, noting that moments of decision can define both destiny and legacy. As head of Sub-Saharan Africa's oldest private, coeducational university, Dr. Horton urged the graduates to always rise to the occasion with character and purpose. During the June 21 convocation, a total of 707 students graduated from Cuttington University across its three campuses. The

breakdown includes: 46 graduates from the Junior College in Kakata, Margibi County, 254 graduates from the Undergraduate Program in Suakoko, Bong County, 343 graduates from the School of Graduate and Professional Studies in Monrovia and 64 graduates awarded Post Graduate Diplomas in Education (PGDE) The ceremony marked a significant milestone for both the institution and its graduates, reinforcing Cuttington University's enduring legacy in shaping Liberia's next generation of leaders.

Bail bond filed by former Speaker Fonati Koffa and other lawmakers have been described as insufficient by prosecution, putting the accused men at the risk of rearrest.

By Lincoln G. Peters

Monrovia, Liberia; June 24, 2025 - Former Speaker, Cllr. Jonathan Fonati Koffa and three of his colleagues' risk rearrest and imprisonment, following alleged fraud in the lawmakers' bail bond, as raised by prosecutions.

Over the weekend, Criminal Court "A" Judge Roosevelt Willie ordered the Monrovia City Court Magistrate L. Ben Barco to conduct a hearing on the prosecution's objection to the defense's \$440,000 property bond. Judge Willie in his ruling said that the law requires that bond justification be addressed at the magisterial level before proceeding to circuit court. He clarified that his court, Criminal Court "A", lacks the authority to handle the matter unless it comes through an appeal or legal transfer. "This court cannot and will not hear a matter that is not properly before it," Judge Willie said. He added that the

Stipendiary Magistrate of the Monrovia City Court, L. Ben Barco issued the warning during a bond hearing on Monday, warning that failure to justify the bond or make it sufficient would lead to its cancellation and rearrest of the defendants. However, during the arguments, prosecutors claimed the sureties listed in the defendants' \$440,000 bond are non-existent and accused the defense of trying to delay proceedings. But the defense countered argued that the prosecution's objections are now moot and urged the court to dismiss them, saying they do not challenge the court's jurisdiction. The hearing follows a mandate from the circuit court for the lower court to examine the bond before the preliminary trial. Meanwhile, Liberia's Solicitor General, Cllr. Augustine Faiyah, on Monday, June 23, 2025, in a brief interview with Journalists on



case would be returned to the magistrate court only for a hearing on the bond issue. Judge Willie directed the clerk forward all bond-related documents to Magistrate Barco and ordered a report on the bond's validity by June 25. Koffa and co-defendants were arrested last month. They face charges including arson, criminal conspiracy, and facilitation following a police probe into the Capitol Building fire. Consequently, On Monday, June 23, 2025, the Monrovia City Court ordered ex-Speaker Koffa and his colleagues to produce their bond sureties by 9:00 a.m. today, Tuesday, June 24, 2025, or risk being rearrested and prison. The

the ground of the Temple of Justice following the conclusion of the hearing, raised serious concerns over the bail bond filed by former Speaker Koffa and several other lawmakers, calling it both inadequate and potentially fraudulent. According to the Chief Prosecutor, the properties and sureties listed in the \$440,000 bond cannot be located or verified. He called on the court to demand proof of the bond's legitimacy. Failing that, he is urging the court to order the lawmakers back to prison over their alleged involvement in the Capitol Building attack, until a valid and lawful bond is presented.



## ***-Amb. Kemayah rallies for hope***

mood.Mr. Weah has been upbeat about his return to the country's top seat, after narrowly relinquishing power during the 2023 Presidential poll.He has recently expressed optimism about second term, stating he has done nothing wrong to

According to him, the former President has demonstrated resilience and his commitments to Liberia's development put him on an irreversible path.

Amb. Kemayah insisted that the Vocational Empowerment training program is not about Political parties' alignment or affiliations, but to elevate the lives of

Amb. Kemayah, believes with huge support, the opposition can turn the page, on an irreversible

In support of Mr. Weah's comment, Amb. Kemayah, a Political ally and former Foreign Affairs Minister at Vocational Education Ceremony, said Mr. Weah's return to the Liberian

