



REFERRAL
By
THE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE GROUP (IJG)

To

THE PROSECUTOR
INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC)

Pursuant to Articles 13(c) and 15(1) & (2) of the Rome Statute

CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

Committed by the Government of Liberia

10 January 2020

Washington, DC

**Referral for Investigation
Crimes Against Humanity Committed by the Government of Liberia**

**To: Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda
 International Criminal Court
 The Hague, Netherlands**

1. Key Perpetrator Information



Full Legal Name of Perpetrator: Jefferson T. Koijee

Country: Liberia

Title or Position: Mayor of Monrovia, Liberia (since January 2018); current member and officer of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) Party (2005 to present) and de facto Chief of Security and Law Enforcer for President George Manneh Weah; former bodyguard of Chuckie Taylor, who was the Commander of the former notorious Liberia Anti-terrorism Unit (ATU) (from 1997 to 2003) and also convicted of Torture in 2009 in the US and is currently serving a 97-year sentence. Chuckie is also the son of former Liberia President Charles Taylor a convicted war criminal serving a 50-year sentence in the United Kingdom.

Date of Birth: 09/07/1985

Other Known Personal Identifiers (passport number, address, etc.): works and resides in Monrovia, Liberia.

Jefferson T. Kojee is the current Mayor of the capital city of Liberia Monrovia. Kojee is the first Mayor to be confirmed by the Liberian Senate since the end of the civil war, being confirmed unanimously by the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs and Good Governance. Prior to this, he was the National Youth Chairman for the Revolutionary National Youth League of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC), where he worked as the leader of the young people of over One million around the country. Kojee worked between 2008 and 2010 as County Coordinator, Montserrado for the Federation of Liberian Youth, the umbrella organization for all youth groupings in Liberia. He is a candidate for Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Management of the Stella Maris Polytechnic and also a candidate for Bachelor of Science (BSC) in Political Science of the University of Liberia.

<https://www.weforum.org/people/jefferson-kojee>

As Perpetrator- In- Chief, Mayor Koigee has power, influence, and authority, answerable to Mr. Weah alone. He uses the security outfit (Monrovia City Police) at the Monrovia City Corporation, which enforces city and sanitation ordinances in the City of Monrovia, as the subterfuge for the nefarious recruitment and training of President Weah private security forces as mentioned herein, supervised and resourced by The Office of the President through the offices of the Honorable Nathaniel Mcgill, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs.

Background

The International Justice Group is a US-based Non-governmental Organization based in Washington, DC area chartered to perform five primary functions:

- A). To research, investigate, documents for war crimes, individual and group of individuals that receive support from institutions through the commission of such crimes that violate the human basic standard of life;
- B). Create a mutual public awareness and respect for the principles of universal rule of law that is es established for perpetrators of war crimes and violators against humanity;
- C). Seek opportunities through which our human dignity, the spiritual, moral and social norms of our society can be advanced;
- D). Seek ways and means through which our understanding for the need to live in peached with no limit to our geographic location that determined our collective growth and development;
- E). Encourage global involvement for the purpose of promoting peace, stability, equality, justice under the rule of law, with opportunities for our individual, advancement to our one world;
- F). To create a forum through which society can be resolved to live in harmony, to practice fraternal love, tolerance, and understanding as a people and being fully mindful of our obligation to adhere to the rule of law for the promotion of human dignity;

The IJG has been focused on Liberia for the past two years because of the significant number of reported human rights violations. The IJG Executive Director is Mr. Jerome Verdier and he was the former Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Liberia and as a human rights lawyer, he is uniquely aware of the situation in Liberia and very familiar with the law pertaining to human rights violations and Crimes Against Humanity.

Since January 2018 to the present, the current Government of Liberia led by President George Manneh Weah has been engaged in wide-scale and systematic attacks on the civilian population committing Crimes Against Humanity, such as murder and attempted murder, rape, unlawful arrests and imprisonment, enforced disappearance, torture, and other inhumane acts such as having persons eat their own excrement. Although many government officials have been engaged in committing Crimes Against Humanity the key perpetrator is Jefferson Kojjee, the Mayor of Monrovia who reports directly to President Weah and receives orders from him as well.

Since Liberia is a signatory to the International Criminal Court (ICC) and as a State Party the court has jurisdiction to investigate and prosecute those government officials committing Crimes Against Humanity under various articles listed below of the Rome Statute. This referral documents numerous published media accounts and open source information confirming the atrocities committed by the Weah administration and Jefferson Kojjee. There is a clear pattern of civil rights violations and human rights violations committed by the Government of Liberia.

Article 4

Legal status and powers of the Court

1. The Court shall have international legal personality. It shall also have such legal capacity as may be necessary for the exercise of its functions and the fulfillment of its purposes.
2. The Court may exercise its functions and powers, as provided in this Statute, on the territory of any State Party and, by special agreement, on the territory of any other State.

Note: Liberia is a signatory to the ICC and a State Party.

Article 7

Crimes Against Humanity

1. For the purpose of this Statute, "crime against humanity" means any of the following acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack:

- (a) **Murder;**
- (b) Extermination;
- (c) Enslavement;
- (d) Deportation or forcible transfer of population;

(e) **Imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty in violation of fundamental rules of international law;**

(f) **Torture;**

(g) **Rape**, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity;

(h) Persecution against any identifiable group or collectivity on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, gender as defined in paragraph 3, or other grounds that are universally recognized as impermissible under international law, in connection with any act, referred to in this paragraph or any crime within the jurisdiction of the Court;

(i) Enforced disappearance of persons;

(j) The crime of apartheid;

(k) **Other inhumane acts of a similar character intentionally causing great suffering, or serious injury to body or to mental or physical health**

2. For the purpose of paragraph 1:

(a) **"Attack directed against any civilian population" means a course of conduct involving the multiple commission of acts referred to in paragraph 1 against any civilian population, pursuant to or in furtherance of a State or organizational policy to commit such attack;**

(b) "Extermination" includes the intentional infliction of conditions of life, inter alia the deprivation of access to food and medicine, calculated to bring about the destruction of part of a population;

(c) "Enslavement" means the exercise of any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership over a person and includes the exercise of such power in the course of trafficking in persons, in particular women and children;

(d) "Deportation or forcible transfer of population" means forced displacement of the persons concerned by expulsion or other coercive acts from the area in which they are lawfully present, without grounds permitted under international law;

(e) **"Torture" means the intentional infliction of severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, upon a person in the custody or under the control of the accused;** except that torture shall not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to, lawful sanctions;

(f) "Forced pregnancy" means the unlawful confinement of a woman forcibly made pregnant, with the intent of affecting the ethnic composition of any population or carrying out other grave violations of international law. This definition shall not in any way be interpreted as affecting national laws relating to pregnancy;

(g) "Persecution" means the intentional and severe deprivation of fundamental rights contrary to international law by reason of the identity of the group or collectivity;

(h) "The crime of apartheid" means inhumane acts of a character similar to those referred to in paragraph 1, committed in the context of an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group or groups and committed with the

intention of maintaining that regime;

(i) **"Enforced disappearance of persons" means the arrest, detention or abduction of persons by, or with the authorization, support or acquiescence of, a State or a political organization, followed by a refusal to acknowledge that deprivation of freedom or to give information on the fate or whereabouts of those persons, with the intention of removing them from the protection of the law for a prolonged period of time.**

3. For the purpose of this Statute, it is understood that the term "gender" refers to the two sexes, male and female, within the context of society. The term "gender" does not indicate any meaning different from the above.

Article 13

Exercise of jurisdiction

The Court may exercise its jurisdiction with respect to a crime referred to in article 5 in accordance with the provisions of this Statute if:

- (a) A situation in which one or more of such crimes appears to have been committed is referred to the Prosecutor by a State Party in accordance with article 14;
- (b) A situation in which one or more of such crimes appears to have been committed is referred to the Prosecutor by the Security Council acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations; or
- (c) The Prosecutor has initiated an investigation in respect of such a crime in accordance with article 15.

Article 15

Prosecutor

- 1. The Prosecutor may initiate investigations proprio motu ("**on his/her own impulse**") based on information on crimes within the jurisdiction of the Court.
- 2. The Prosecutor shall analyze the seriousness of the information received. For this purpose, he or she may seek additional information from States, organs of the United Nations, intergovernmental or **non-governmental organizations**, or other reliable sources that he or she deems appropriate and may receive written or oral testimony at the seat of the Court.
- 3. If the Prosecutor concludes that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation, he or she shall submit to the Pre-Trial Chamber a request for authorization of an investigation, together with any supporting material collected. Victims may make representations to the Pre-Trial Chamber, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence.
- 4. If the Pre-Trial Chamber, upon examination of the request and the supporting material, considers that there is a reasonable basis to proceed with an investigation and that the case appears to fall within the jurisdiction of the Court, it shall authorize the commencement of the investigation, without prejudice to subsequent determinations by the Court with regard to the jurisdiction and admissibility of a case.
- 5. The refusal of the Pre-Trial Chamber to authorize the investigation shall not preclude the

presentation of a subsequent request by the Prosecutor based on new facts or evidence regarding the same situation.

6. If, after the preliminary examination referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2, the Prosecutor concludes that the information provided does not constitute a reasonable basis for an investigation, he or she shall inform those who provided the information. This shall not preclude the Prosecutor from considering further information submitted to him or her regarding the same situation in the light of new facts or evidence.

Additionally, the U.S. Department of State issued a scathing Human Rights Report in 2018 highlighting the seriousness of ongoing human rights violations including extrajudicial killings by the National Security Forces, Rape, Sexual Assault, Torture, Human Trafficking, and Child Labor Violations. So, there is more than enough information to initiate an investigation into the allegations of Crimes Against Humanity against the Government of Liberia Pursuant to Articles 13 (c) & 15 (1) & (2). The current administration is acting with impunity and terrorizing the innocent civilian population of Liberia and it must cease immediately and those involved must be held accountable.

As a result, the International Justice Group (IJG) as a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) chartered to seek justice for those who are victims of serious human rights violations and Crimes Against Humanity we seek your immediate intervention in Liberia by conducting an investigation and prosecuting those Government of Liberian officials engaged in such criminal activities as well as civil rights violations including suppression of freedom of speech and freedom of peaceful assembly.

This is not the first time the actions of Weah and Kojee have surfaced and been brought to the attention of the International Criminal Court, Office of the Prosecutor for Crimes Against Humanity. On August 5, 2019, the Global Afrique reported on their actions – **Weah, Kojee Risk Prosecution by the International Criminal Court for Election Violence** <https://globeafrique.com/weah-kojee-risk-prosecution-by-the-international-criminal-court-for-election-violence/>

Other Reports of Human Rights Violations

U.S. Department of State – Liberia 2018 Human Rights Report

According to the U.S. Department of State Liberia 2018, Human Rights Report the human rights issues included the following:

- Extrajudicial killings by police;
- Arbitrary and prolonged detention by government officials;
- Harsh and life-threatening prison conditions;
- Undue restrictions on the press; criminal libel despite progress to enact legislation decriminalizing press offenses;
- Official corruption;

- Lack of accountability in cases of violence against women due to government inaction in some instances, including rape, domestic violence, and female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C);
- Trafficking in persons;
- Violence targeting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) persons;
- Child labor, including its worst forms.

Impunity for individuals who committed atrocities during the civil wars, as well as for those responsible for current and continuing crimes, remained a serious problem; the government made intermittent but limited attempts to investigate and prosecute officials accused of current abuses, whether in the security forces or elsewhere in the government. Corruption at all levels of government continues to undermine public trust in state institutions, not excluding the Judiciary. He is given also to excessive drinking and leading a lascivious and cavalier lifestyle especially since becoming head of state.

<https://www.state.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Liberia-2018.pdf>

According to the Economist in an article dated August 10, 2019, the economic crisis and corruption could lead to violence. Coupled with horrendous ongoing human rights violations the country is on the brink of disaster and there has been absolutely no accountability by the international community.

In 2017 Liberians elected a former football star, George Weah, as president. Mr. Weah promised to help the poor and give corruption the boot. He is doing neither. Scandals have blighted his first 18 months in office and soaring inflation, which peaked at 29% in December, is hurting the poor in a country where more than half the population lives on less than \$2 a day.

The president's conduct has not helped. He has built about 50 luxury houses, by Liberian standards, in a compound in the capital. He says he used money he had earned during his days of football stardom. But citizens cannot be sure of this since he has refused to publicly declare his assets. "It raises eyebrows," says Anderson Miamen of Transparency International, a corruption watchdog.

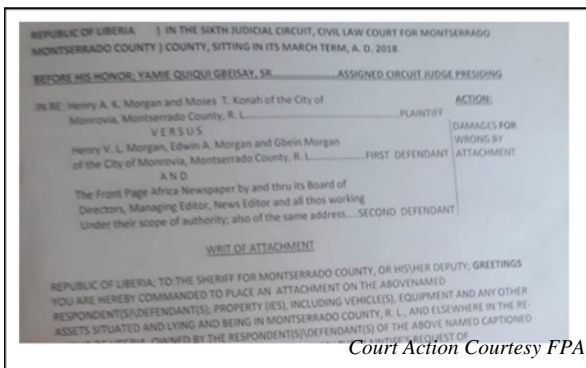
Governing a country as poor and fractious as Liberia is an unenviable task. But Mr. Weah is simply not up to the job. He is said to forget key facts, bungle media interviews and drift off in meetings. He has a short attention span and is not given to details; he doesn't have a mind of his own according to a western diplomat then in Liberia during pre-election activities that saw Mr. Weah to power.

St Peter's Lutheran Church in Monrovia, the capital, is filled with children and worshippers. But its windows, pockmarked by bullet holes, hint at a dark history: in 1990 government soldiers massacred 600 people here. Isaac Dowah, the pastor,

points at two white stars marking the mass graves and frets: “We’re at a breaking point.”

Summary of Evidence Chronicled in Multiple News Accounts range from suppressing free speech by the government of Liberia to attempted murder and at the center of the violence and human rights violations is Mayor Jefferson T. Kojjee as depicted below:

<https://www.economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2019/08/10/liberias-economic-crisis-and-corruption-could-lead-to-violence>



3. Summary of Evidence & Information Chronicling the Human Rights Violations by the Government of Liberia

On January 6, 2020, during a peaceful protest the Liberia National Police was excessive in teargassing the protesters and using water cannons to disperse the crowd with hot water injuring several persons as depicted in the link below:

https://frontpageafricaonline.com/amp/front-slider/liberia-police-use-teargas-hot-water-to-disperse-peaceful-protestors/?_twitter_impression=true

On January 7, 2020 The Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the Civil Society Human Rights Advocacy Platform News Conference Condemning the Excessive Force by the Liberia National Police

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=767622927067256&id=825127364310009

Newspaper reports further that ex-combatants recently remobilized by the Weah regime were seen in the midst of peaceful protestors.

<https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/ex-rebels-generals-vividly-seen-at-protest-on-jan-6/>

On December 30, 2019 – allafrika.com - Liberia: Is Liberia in Terror and President Weah Does Not See It--or Doesn't Care?

<https://allafrica.com/stories/201912300172.html>

On December 28, 2019, Jefferson Koijee speaks to his CDC Youth Militant Wing at a Rally in Monrovia Chants Against the Protesters ahead of the scheduled December 30, 2019, nationwide protest against President George Weah

<https://www.facebook.com/SamTvLib/videos/533984837188494/>

Liberia: Ruling Party Headquarters Turn to Detention Center?

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-ruling-pary-headquart>



Monrovia – Five persons have accused the ruling Coalition of Democratic Change (CDC) of beating and jailing them on the orders of Mayor Jefferson **Koijee**, who is also the leader of the party's youth wing.

The alleged victims claim they were detained in a dark room in the building housing the headquarters of the ruling party in Congo Town.

The incident happened a couple of weeks after the Deputy Police Chief for Operations, Marve Sackor was manhandled by some members of the CDC.

The victims told FrontPage Africa that they were arrested, beaten and jailed by a unit within the party dubbed “**Zebra Unit**,” which they alleged takes orders from Monrovia City Mayor **Koijee**.

Solomon Boe, Sam Harris, Olive, and Emmanuel Kpagbor, in separate accounts, told this paper that they were all arrested on Monday, September 8, 2019, at about 1 AM and taken to the party headquarters and incarcerated for two days without food or water.

The four victims are employees of an entertainment center located a few blocks away from the compound of the CDC.

Solomon Boe, who sustained wounds on his finger and head after allegedly being flogged, said his belongings including his phone were all taken away.

He explained that he and his workmates were leaving work when they were confronted by people, they claimed were partisans of the CDC.

Solomon explained: “We walked near the road not far from our working place waiting for our other friend that we all planned to go and enjoy ourselves somewhere when we saw Olive running and two guys behind her attempting to take her bag when they noticed our group, they left from behind her. After few minutes we saw another two guys holding a cutlass and stick with nails all on it, though the guys that ran behind Olive ran back in the same direction the other two guys came from, I cannot tell whether or not [they] were the same two that were after Olive.”

He furthered explained that, “When the two guys with the weapon in their hands approached where we were standing, they engaged us and asked us what were we doing around the road at that hour of the night, we too asked them what were they doing out with cutlass and sticks with nails all around it at the same hour of the night and one of them said they were told by their boss Jefferson Koijee to man trees being planted along the streets by the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC).

“While in the bitter argument, one of them left the scene and ran into the party headquarters and before we could make up of our mind we saw a white pick full of huge men calling themselves **Zebra Unit** and they collected us and took us to the party headquarters, that’s how our beating started.”

Solomon said Mayor **Koijee** was present at the party headquarters when they were arrested. He noted that it was on the Mayor's instruction that promoted their incarceration.

“What got me angrier was when the Mayor told them that they should lock us up and not release us until he says so; the guys took us at the back of the building where there are two old bathrooms with pupu (toilet) all inside, there where they put us,”

he explained.

“When they took us there and we saw the mayor I was happy a bit, thinking he was going to tell his boys to release us but he instead told them to hold us.”

Meanwhile, Mayor **Koijee** told FrontPage Africa that he has no idea of what transpired at the party headquarters.

The victims, some of whom, are said to be CDCians insist that they saw Mayor **Koijee** at the party headquarters the night of the incident.

Another victim, Sam Harris, said his clothes were taken off him and he was thrown in the cell.

“Myself I am a CDCians we all used to be in that compound day and night but they all acted like they never knew me from anywhere, even the pekin who was manning the cell door is someone I know and he knows me well,” Harris said while denouncing his membership from the CDC.

“Let be clear, with the heartless action these guys took against us on the instruction of Jefferson **Koijee**, I am no longer a CDCian, let CDC stay on their lane and I will stay on my lane, even my mother or father or any of my relatives join CDC will not be supported by me.”

For victim Olive, she claims her phone was stolen while she was allegedly beaten by another female identified as “CDC female Giant.”

Victim Emmanuel Kpagbor also alleged that his US\$20 and LD\$1,500 were allegedly taken from him and his clothes were taken off him as well.

There have been a series of allegations of brutality leveled against the ruling party.

In October 2014, the former Deputy National Secretary of the CDC Gbeh Salinto Montgomery accused Koijee and CDC current Chairman Mulbah Morlu of stripping him naked and flogging him.

Montgomery, at the time, alleged that **Koijee** and Morlu harmed him because of his support for the party’s former chairman, Mr. George Solo.

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/news/liberia-ruling-pary-headquarters-turn-to-detention-center/>

The African Exponent

When a Nonentity takes to Notoriety: the Gangsterism of Monrovia City Mayor, Jefferson T. Koijee

November 20th, 2018

By Alfred P. B. Kiadii & Moses Uneh Yahmia

A madhouse with dullards and perverts scrambling for quick fortune in the face of a frontal assault on the living standards of the masses of the people, the erosion of the fundamental superstructure institutions, compounded by the wholesale defenestration of decent compatriots from the public sector and replacement by despicable CDC faithful, have been the modus operandi and modus vivendi of the wretched CDC government for the last months.

These gory anomalies echo a chilling foreshadowing of the disaster that lurks on the horizon, a downward ebb of governance, and the disruption and reversal of basic gains the homeland made over the years. All the symptoms of a dying administration in all of its manifestations have occurred with striking exactitude, making critical compatriots to conclude that Liberia is in the throes of a putrid crisis. This spells doom for the country and places it not on the cusp of the abyss but at its lowest rungs.

On closer examination of the tragic farce, although we have been treated to the hollow rhetoric of ‘this government will succeed’ from the rabid ‘dat our time boys’, such whipping of opportunistic demagoguery from fanatics run in stark opposite to the widespread anarchy and the scandalous bankruptcy that pervade governance.

<https://www.africanexponent.com/bpost/5076-all-the-symptoms-of-a-dying-administration>



MEDIA UNDER ASSAULT IN LIBERIA, KOIGEE ATTACKS FPA EDITOR

April 5, 2018

Barely a month after President George M. Weah branded British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) stringer Jonathan Paye-Layleh as “one of those who were against” his peace advocacy, Monrovia City Mayor, Jefferson Koijee, has upped the ante, with a blistering attack on the Managing Editor of the FrontPage Africa newspaper in Monrovia. Koijee is one of the staunch (loyal) members of the governing Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) and also Youth League chair of CDC. Mayor Koijee lambasted Rodney D. Sieh for what he termed as unprofessional attacks on the presidency and the denigration of initiatives by the government, including negotiations of about US\$536 million needed for a proposed coastal highway, among others.

Mayor Koijee said it was unfortunate for Mr. Sieh to present himself as a champion of the cause, adding, “Do not use the media to launch your selfish, cruel agenda, because Liberia needs to be developed and this is the best moment.”

According to the Monrovia City Mayor, the media and the government remain strong partners and will continue to support President Weah in the development of Liberia, noting, “The media and civil society, including the religious community, are a vital force in building Liberia.” Mayor Koijee said the Weah-led administration is not against the press and cannot be against the media. However, he said it was unfortunate for few “redheads” within the media to continue to send negative statements or messages against the President of Liberia.

“We have great media practitioners in Liberia, including journalists Frank Sainworla, Dr. Kenneth Y. Best, the late Tom Kamara and many others who we continue to respect. You have a man, Rodney D. Sieh, who is currently presiding over or is [the] owner of a residence that costs close to US\$600,000, which requires investigation,” Mayor Koijee said. “But there are people beginning to launch senseless attacks on President Weah’s reign. For instance, since President Weah talked about the building of a new Monrovia, fake media practitioners, who are pretending to be serious people, continue to give a negative information about the initiative,” Mayor Koijee said.

He indicated that there are polluted and contaminated elements within the media, who pretend to be media practitioners and called on the media not to fall prey to such situations. He said the real enemies against the media are those trying to use the media to propagate ugly or bad messages.

However, he said they will not be tolerated by the people of Liberia, including the

government. Mayor Kojee said the CDC-led administration will not repeat the mistakes of the past government. But at the same time, media practitioners must continue to be very cool and sensitive, in order to rid themselves of those “bad elements,” among which, he said, is *FrontPage Africa*.

“We intend to bring forth a popular government, a government that cares for the people, and the government that will secure the survival of the people, looking at the 62 percent mandate given to President Weah by the people of Liberia,” he said. According to him, the Weah-led government is prepared to change the living conditions of the people and give them the opportunity for a better hope. But against this backdrop of scathing attacks on journalists and the media, beginning with President Weah’s recent attack on journalist and BBC stringer Jonathan Paye Layleh, there appears to be a growing sense of apprehension among journalists and the public at large. Many now wonder what lies ahead for the media, as well as for Liberia, under George Weah’s presidency.

And this latest outburst from Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojee against journalist Rodney Sieh, appears to signal what some have described as growing intolerance on the part of this government regarding freedom of expression and all its ramifications (results). Moreover, the appointment to high positions of trust of key figures closely linked to war criminal and convicted ex-President



Charles Taylor, in the eyes of observers signals a bad omen for the country and its future, particularly regarding freedom of expression. According to a longtime observer of Liberian politics and former professor of economics at the University of Liberia, Dr. Fred Vanderkraaij, President George Weah is either naive or calculated, judging by the appointments he has made in Government. Professor Vanderkraaij made reference to Charles Bright, whose appointment made him virtually a super minister, raising eyebrows far and wide.

Dr. Vanderkraaij fears that the rule of law under President Weah may be undermined by individuals whose records do not inspire confidence in attaining the goals of fighting corruption, ending impunity and promoting national reconciliation, as well as transparency, in public management. He further opines that with the very weak separation of powers, weak rule of law and wrong people appointed, the country risks going down a slippery path, which may lead to a plunge into the abyss. Given such a disposition, and judging from experience, journalists and the media, first in the line of fire, maybe in for a very rough ride, given the torrent of vitriolic attacks against media practitioners.

Rodney Sieh, /www.newnarratives

But journalist and managing editor of the *FrontPage Africa* newspaper, Rodney Sieh, appears unperturbed by Mayor Kojjee's outbursts. When asked by the *Daily Observer* why he did not prod Mayor Kojjee to produce evidence of his wild claims against him, the Frontpage Africa editor said, "I am not going to say a word to Kojjee and we will continue to do more investigative reporting," which suggests, in other words, that Kojjee's outbursts are but a storm in a teacup. Meanwhile, Mayor Kojjee also lauded the World Bank and other partners for the level of support to the Monrovia City Corporation (MCC) since he took over as Mayor.

Mayor Kojjee said the World Bank and partners have been instrumental in ensuring that the waste management is successful. He said despite the enormous challenges faced by the City of Monrovia, the World Bank and partners have been ensuring that those challenges are addressed. "This coming first Saturday of April, we will be launching the second phase of the Weah for Clean City. We want to appreciate all of those who have been helping to ensure that this city does not remain like this," he said. According to him, the Armed Forces of Liberia has also committed itself in helping to carry on the cleanup campaign on Saturday. "This phase will begin at the Freeport of Monrovia to Duala and to New Kru Town. We want to call on all business people and partners to give their cooperation as the campaign will commence at 7 a.m.," he said.

According to him, the cleanup team will also visit Clara Town and its environs as a way of inspiring residents of the area and ensuring they form part of the process. "We want them to take ownership of the ongoing initiative. We will also be collaborating with Paynesville City due to huge challenges in terms of cleaning the area," he said.

Source/liberianobserver/Alvin Worzimainpic/www.allafrica.com
<https://www.liberianlistener.com/2018/04/05/media-under-assault-in-liberia->

Bush Chicken Reporter Suffers Chest Injury After Being Detained in Police Holding Cell

News

June 27, 2019, by Arrington Ballah

MONROVIA, Montserrado – After being arrested and detained by Monrovia City police, a Bush Chicken reporter is now suffering from musculoskeletal pain resulting from physical assault, according to a medical report.

Zeze Ballah was arrested on June 13 for interfering with city police operations, Monrovia City Corporation’s public relations officer Pekeleh Gbuapaye said in an interview.

Gbuapaye said Ballah interfered with police, who were trying to clear Broad Street of suspected criminals on the night of June 13.

Ballah is also the producer of a crime watch nighttime radio show on Hott FM and was near the radio station’s studio on Broad Street on the night of the incident. He questioned the authority of the city police officers to ask a group of individuals on the street to disperse, according to Gbuapaye.

The MCC public relations officer said police were responding to complaints from citizens of petty theft and harassment from individuals believed to be tricycle riders near the UBA Bank on upper Broad street.

“Zeze was outside, too. And that’s how he said it was not the function of the city police to be telling people to leave the street,” Gbuapaye said.

He said the reporter encouraged the individuals to resist, which created tension for the police. As a result of Ballah’s words, Gbuapaye said the cyclists resisted the police and formed a circle around the officers to prevent them from leaving the scene.

“So, the city police managed to get hold of two of the guys who were involved in the process, who wanted to instigate chaos at the time, by causing violence. And they started to call Zeze’s name, telling him that they were arrested,” Gbuapaye added.

Gbuapaye said, this, in addition to Ballah’s earlier comment, led the head of the city police to ask him to provide his identity, but Ballah initially refused to identify himself, but later said he was a journalist, although he did not disclose which institution he worked for.

Gbuapaye said Ballah's refusal to identify himself prompted his arrest and detention. He was then charged with obstruction of justice, simple assault, and disorderly conduct.

However, MCC's public relations officer said following the intervention of the Press Union of Liberia's vice president, Octavin Williams, the matter was amicably resolved, and MCC dropped the charges.

"There was a charge sheet, and we wanted to go to court; but we don't see reason that MCC as an institution and a journalist [to] go to court," he noted.

"We decided to resolve this and he [Ballah] did a communication that the issue with him and the police officers have been resolved—he did it, and the records are in my office."

However, Ballah denied that he had interfered with police operations, as claimed by the MCC official.

According to Ballah, he had watched officers arrest two individuals and after the arrest, an officer walked to him and asked him to identify himself.

"I told him Zeze Ballah. He again asked who am I and where do I work. I again told him that I am Zeze Ballah and work for myself," he added.

Ballah said following his response, the officer ordered his arrest, alleging that he had ordered individuals to attack the city police officers. Ballah says MCC police falsely accused him and began flogging and kicking him in his chest and other areas on his body.

"When we reached the MCC headquarters, I was asked to write a statement. My money and other belongings were taken from me and my shirt [was] taken off me. I was also denied [the chance] to make calls to family members, friends, and loved ones," Ballah said.

"I was treated like a criminal and later placed into a holding cell."

He described the MCC police holding cell as being 'very dirty with feces and urines all over the floor.

Ballah said his three phones were taken away from him by the officers, but only one was returned following his release. However, Gbuapaye has denied this claim, noting that Ballah had not indicated such in his formal statement to the police.

Ballah identified what he said were several contradictions from the officers who wanted him implicated. He said one account of the officers claimed that he was photographing the incident.

"I insisted that MCC provide evidence on the allegation that I did photo or instigated violence. The scene did not show any evidence of damage on vehicle or stone to

indicate that indeed there was a violent act carried out in the area,” Ballah added. He admitted to the MCC official’s claim of signing a statement to amicably resolve the matter following the intervention of the Press Union’s vice president.

When contacted, the Press Union’s Williams said his role in Ballah’s release was to avoid a commotion between members of the media and state security actors.

“I am a witness of state security actors and journalists having issues,” he said, “even if they want to pick false on you, they have many ways they can do it, and as journalists, at [a] certain level, you must settle down. But, basically, I wanted the issue to be resolved.”

At the same time, one of the two individuals previously arrested by the Monrovia City Police, Sunny Chea, has denied that the reporter ever interfered with the officers’ operation or instigated any violence.

Chea also accused the *city police of attempting to coerce them to falsely testify* against the reporter in order to secure their release.

An independent investigation of the scene of the reported violence and interviews with individuals residing in the area did not point to proof of any physical damage on any vehicle or any evidence of stones or objects on the street as the result of violence on June 13.

Meanwhile, *Ballah believes that his arrest and subsequent detention were as a result of a radio show he held two nights prior to his arrest when citizens expressed their views about the stockpiles of garbage in Monrovia, which they believe poses serious threats to their health and security. During that show, callers also called for the Monrovia mayor, Jefferson Koijee, to be dismissed.*

Featured photo by Lloyd Massah

<https://www.bushchicken.com/reporter-suffers-chest-injury-after-being-detained-in-police-holding-cell/>

Liberia: Probe Ordered Into Ruling Partisans Attack on Police Deputy, Trying to Curb Opposition Election Victory Celebration

By Rodney Sieh

Last updated Aug 3, 2019

Rodney D. Sieh, rodney.sieh@frontpageafricaonline.com



POLICE UNDER FIRE: Deputy Inspector General of Police for Operations, Marvin Sackor was allegedly beaten by CDCians based on his intervention that CDC partisans should remain in the premises of the party to avoid a clash with partisans of the Liberty Party who had gone to celebrate the victory of Mr. Abraham Darius Dillon in the recent Montserrado County Senatorial By-Elections.

Monrovia – Liberia’s Ministry of Justice has ordered an immediate investigation into the recent attack on the Deputy Inspector General of the Liberia National Police Mr. Marvin Sackor, who came under attack Wednesday after a speech by the Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojjee riled partisans of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change to raid a by-elections victory celebration of Mr. Abraham Darius Dillon in this week’s Montserrado County Senatorial By-elections.

In a statement released late Friday, the MOJ without naming the city mayor says it categorically condemns and denounces the deteriorating trend of lawlessness in the country heightened by attacks against the persons of police officers. “While the MOU has consistently cautioned the police to respect the rights of the citizenry and refrain from the use of unreasonable force, the recent wave of attacks against the police is unacceptable,” the statement said.

11 Reportedly Wounded



The melee at the headquarters of the Liberty Party reportedly wounded eleven persons.

The melee at the headquarters of the Liberty Party reportedly wounded eleven persons.

Mr. Benoni Urey, Chair of the four collaborating political parties, alleged that the police fired live bullets which allegedly resulted in one person being shot in the leg by the riot police officers, who tried to restore calm between the rioters.

While the MOU has consistently cautioned the police to respect the rights of the citizenry and refrain from the use of unreasonable force, the recent wave of attacks against the police is unacceptable.”

Statement from the Ministry of Justice

FrontPage Africa has however gathered that the Deputy Inspector General of Police for Operations, Sackor was allegedly beaten by CDCians based on his intervention that CDC partisans should remain in the premises of the party to avoid a clash with partisans of the Liberty Party who had gone to celebrate the victory of Mr. Dillon. The partisans reportedly refused and marched on to the LP headquarters to disrupt Mr. Dillon’s celebration.

After the raid on the LP headquarters this week, Mr. Urey accused partisans of the CDC for instigating the violence. “We were here at our party headquarters jubilating and merry-making when some thugs of the CDC came and started throwing stones and fighting our partisans when the violence broke out, the riot police came and fired live bullets and some of our people got wounded, 11 of them while one of our partisans got shot in the leg,” he explained.

Accusing Mayor Koijee



Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojee has been accused of riling up ruling CDC partisans to attack Mr. Abraham Darius Dillon’s By-Election’s victory celebration.

The accusations have been bolstered by comments made by an enraged Jefferson Kojee, Mayor of the City of Monrovia, and also head of the ruling party’s youth league, who threatened Wednesday that his party will trade fire for fire with anyone staging a protest against the government.

Said Mr. Kojee: “The youth league will protect our democracy, we will be on the front burner, we will lead our people like we led them before. Any day that would be announced here by anyone, we want to say to you that similar day would be announced by us. And wheresoever they are, we would also be there and we would meet in flesh and blood.”

Mr. Kojee explained that the decision has met the consensus of the party’s youth league. “Make no mistake to think that because we bear certain titles or bear certain space in government, that position has taken from us our true identity. What we fought for, we will not sit here as spectators and watch it come under attack. Those who believed that nothing good could ever come under our watch, we want to say moving forward when there is any called demonstration – as lawmakers lead, we want to say in our official capacity, whether you call me mayor or you call me youth chairperson, we want to assure the public and the international community that we will be protectors of our democracy, we would lead such forces also.”

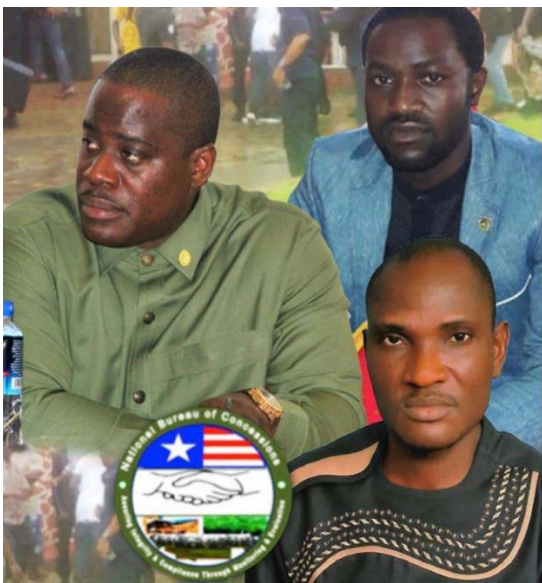
Mr. Kojee said no one person or group has a monopoly over violence. “Unless we are not in this corridor. We have the capacity to rubble the peace of this country.”

Although Police spokesman Mr. Moses Carter rubbished the claims by Mr. Benoni Urey that shooting occurred during the clashes between partisans of the CDC and the opposition collaborating parties, some observers are beginning to draw comparison to an attack on the District No. 15 headquarters of Telia Urey at the weekend during which no arrests were made by the LNP.

The MOJ says it views with disdain recent attacks against the persons of the Deputy Inspector General of Police for Operations, Marvin Sackor, while in the process of separating stone-throwing supporters of the Collaborating Opposition Political parties and the Coalition for Democratic Change, during the violence which ensued on Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

The MOJ warns that anyone attacking the police and/or inciting individuals to attack the police will be arrested and duly prosecuted. “Consistent with the above, the MOJ has ordered the Liberia National Police to launch an immediate investigation into the violent incident of Wednesday, July 31, 2019, including attacks on the person of Deputy Inspector General Sackor. All Parties and persons and persons of interest are urged to cooperate with the investigation.”

Physical Attack on Coleman



Mr. Gregory Coleman, head of the National Bureau of Concessions (NBC) had to be smuggled out of his office through the backdoor by way of a rarely-used gate of the compound of the Bureau as the main entrance and exit had been blocked to avoid the attack from his two deputies — Daddy Gibson, Deputy Director-General for Administration (DDGA) and Nathaniel Bracewell, Deputy Director-General for Concession (DDGC) on the bureau’s 19th street office.

In a related development, the MOJ also says it has taken cognizance of a complaint of threats, physical attack and felonious restraint file by the Director-General of the National Bureau of Concessions, Hon. Gregory O.W. Coleman. The MOJ has directed the Liberia National Police to investigate the incident and report its findings the soonest.

Mr. Coleman was at the center of a major storm which escalated into a physical altercation with two of his deputies, who are said to be die-hard members of the ruling party.

The NBC boss had to be smuggled out of his office through the backdoor by way of a rarely-used gate of the compound of the Bureau as the main entrance and exit had been blocked to avoid the attack from his two deputies — Daddy Gibson, Deputy Director-General for Administration (DDGA) and Nathaniel Bracewell, Deputy Director-General for Concession (DDGC) on the bureau’s 19th street office.

On Friday, President Weah, facing criticisms that he sanctioned the assault on Coleman took a decision to suspend the pair from the NBC.

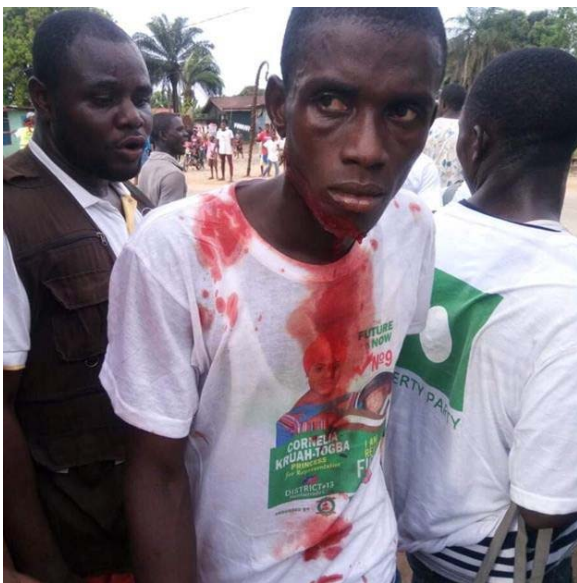
NBC Pair Suspended Indefinitely

In a statement Friday, the Executive Mansion announced that the President has suspended with immediate effect two deputies at the National Bureau of Concession (NBC) for time indefinite. “Daddy Gibson, Deputy Director-General for Administration and Nathaniel Bracewell, Deputy Director-General for Concession at the National Bureau of Concession are suspended for Administrative misconduct.”

Their suspension was announced early Friday. Critics are however concerned that the President’s action falling short of dismissal could trigger more of such actions against others named on a purported blacklist making the rounds on Facebook, WhatsApp and in inboxes amongst Liberians both at home and abroad.

The attack on the LP headquarters this week marks the second success incident during a by-election.

District No. 13 Redux



A similar violent turn took place during the 2018 District No. 13 By-Elections leading to several persons being wounded. supporters of Cornelia Kruah-Togba, representing the tripartite arrangement between Unity Party, Liberty Party, and the Alternative National Congress in District No. 13 By-Elections came under attack from supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change led by Koijee.

Last November, similar clashes led to several being wounded when supporters of Cornelia Kruah- Togba, representing the tripartite arrangement between Unity Party, Liberty Party, and the Alternative National Congress in the District No. 13 By-Elections came under attack from supporters of the ruling Coalition for Democratic Change led by Koijee.

Kruah was contesting the District 13 electoral seat on the Liberty Party ticket. She’s the daughter of Liberia’s Post and Telecommunication Minister, Cooper Kruah.

During that melee, Kojjee, Representative Solomon George and a team of militants who were to launch the campaign of the CDC candidate, John J. Weah, in Iron Factory, reportedly invaded the camp of Cornelia in Gardnersville where she was also having her campaign activities ongoing, thereby causing a commotion.

Ms. Kruah filed a complaint to the LNP and an investigation was reportedly ordered but nothing has been



Mr. n Myers, Chairman of the ANC Youth Congress heard of since.

Kojjee and his group of CDC youths in a militant mood

A MOJ official speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak on the matter told FPA Saturday that Kruah did issue a complaint but did not present a written one until recently.

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/politics/liberia-probe-ordered-into-ruling-partisans-attack-on-police-deputy-trying-to-curb-opposition-election-victory-celebration/>

ANC Youth Descends On CDC Govt. -Wants Kojjee & ‘Sabu Unit’ Brought to Book

By
The Analyst News
August 21, 2019

Calling on the National Security to contained violence of the Coalition of Democratic Change’s Jefferson Kojjee and the Sabu Unit of the Party, the leadership of the National Youth Congress of the Alternative National Congress (ANC) says “the dealings of President George Manneh Weah and nearly all officials of his government and institutions including Kojjee are so pervasively marked by violence and corruption, to an extent where the CDC-led government resembles a criminal empire than a democratic government.”

The ANC’s National Youth Congress, therefore, calls on national security forces to go beyond partisanship and bring **Kojjee** and his Sabu Unit to book, while telling them to be cognizant of the fact that millions of dollars from Liberia’s international partners was spent to professionalize the vital institutions they work for, noting, “This will boost the confidence Liberians have in-state security institutions and proportionally

decrease the growing tension in the country.

Addressing a press conference at the Headquarters of the ANC in Monrovia last Friday, August 16, the ANC Youth Wing Secretary-General **Mulbah Kesselley** read the Youth Wing's statement which frowned on what they considered "President George Manneh Weah's support for attacks and violence against peaceful opposition supporters by his CDC men", saying that "the wave of violence the ruling party has been perpetrating in the society is directly responsible for the degenerating state of affairs, fear and hopelessness in our country, particularly the decaying Liberian economy".

The statement said the enviable success of governance achieved in Liberia by the past government is under serious threat and maybe derailed by President Weah and his handful of "semi-educated, skilled-looters and self-seeking officials."

The level of destructive violence, characteristic of **Jefferson Koijee**, and his reckless tendency to inflict harm, waste the blood of innocent women and children who are associated with the opposition bloc, as well as stack wounds on people he disagrees with, is heart wrecking, alarming, threatening, but not surprising, the group said.

"Jefferson Koijee lived with and was trained in military gangsterism by Chucky Taylor, the brutal son of Liberia's dictator Charles Taylor. Mr. Kesselley further said Koijee who lived most of his childhood life as [a] lackey of Chucky, was Chuckie's car washer, janitor, and laundryman.

"Later, because of Koijee's loyalty and proclivity to violence and cruelty to human beings, he was later promoted by Chucky as the chief custodian of arms and ammunition and other deadly substances in the possession of Chucky. As a killing apprentice of Chucky, **Koijee** often spearheaded most of the violence and torture of young girls," the group alleged.

ANC Youth's statement further said it was, therefore, no surprise but shocking that **Koijee**, on Wednesday, July 31, 2019, led a band of thugs, hoodlums, and hooligans to attack the Deputy Police Inspector General for Operations of the Liberia National Police, and launched a bloody unprovoked attack on peaceful partisans, members and well-wishers of the four Collaborating Political Parties who had gathered to celebrate the election of Senator Abraham Darius Dillon at the Liberty Party Headquarters.

"Till date, little or nothing has been done by George Weah's state security apparatuses to bring **Koijee** and his men to book. President Weah is simply telling the nation that the likes of Koijee and others in his inner circle are beyond reproach, above the laws of the land, or are better than other Liberians," the ANC Youth Wing said, noting that it was not Koijee's first time to launch mob violence against opposition supporters."

The statement recalled that in 2018 during the by-election in District 13 in Montserrado County, **Koijee** led a band of CDC-trained hoodlums to attack and wound opposition supporters, with impunity.

"Since Jefferson Koijee made a statement against Mrs. Jestina Taylor, a partisan of the Alternative National Congress, in which he attempted to draw Mr. Cummings, the lady has been facing some serious life-threatening medical complications. Interestingly, this is happening after she was taken by men alleged to be plain-clothes Liberian security officers to an unknown place and tortured," the statement said.

The ANC Youth said the president's support for attacks and violence against peaceful opposition supporters by his CDC men is directly responsible for the degenerating, fear and hopelessness in our country, particularly the decaying Liberian economy. They pointed out that Liberians, who critique actions of the executive, provide directions that must be pursued for the good of the state, are now living in constant fear for their lives and those of their families – this is totally unacceptable.

“Our local and international partners must help to curb the increasing belligerence of the failing president and the warlike attitude of his gangsters led by Koijee, who now see the state as their personal property that they can abuse anyhow,” he said.

The group accentuated that while Liberia is mired in a crisis of poor governance caused by people who are focused on stealing from the country and attacking opponents, citizens are left neglected to die in abject poverty; rejected to perish in some of the world's worst slums; dejected by the reckless abandonment of the man they once trusted with the presidency; and, sadly, Liberians have been denied a fair share in the distribution of the national cake.

The ANC Youth's statement said the women down Waterside Market, Duala, Red-light and in other parts of Liberia are simply wishing that their president will stop living like a bluff-boy, while the rest of the country suffers from the menacing hands of poverty, insecurity, hike in the prices of commodities and services, depreciating value of the Liberian Dollar, etc.

They are of the opinion that all Liberians want is a government that will be concerned about changing the terrible condition of the economy, so that they can work hard and make ends meet for their families. Unfortunately, President Weah lacks the intellectual capacity to discern any solution to arrest the crumbling economy, much less the leadership ability to lead a country in search of direction, and his team is largely incompetent to offer any serious help – most of them are focused on devising means to short-change the Liberian people.

Hear the ANC Youth, “The fathers who have no means to feed their families or send their children to school are not lazy. The mothers and young babies who are dying from curable and preventable diseases are Liberians just like Weah and the likes of Koijee. But while the value of the Liberian Dollar has depreciated to an all-time low, our president and his boys are focused on rigging an election in District 15. What will a representative who confessed to stealing do better than his head, George Weah? This is sad. This is despicable. This is wicked. And this is heartlessness that only Satan should do.”

The statement noted that despite poverty, intractable social problems, mind-boggling corruption and dire failures of planning and infrastructure, the Mayor of Monrovia sees wearing luxurious and expensive suits as a measure of the success of his office.

“Monrovia is not a place for the fainthearted. From the first wallop of steamy air on alighting from a plane, Monrovia is a plunge pool of intense exhilaration, jumbled with measures of shock, frustration, rage and boredom. A man like Koijee, who could not even afford to buy a wheelbarrow, can now purchase [and] live in a US\$250,000.00 home just 18 months after coming to power; just [a] few months after \$16bn disappeared and \$25m squandered,” the ANC Youth statement said.

Liberians are living with worsening failure of their government to provide leadership and infrastructure, and so they have been coerced to adapt to living in despicable filthy conditions. The city is visual anarchy, with

piles of uncollected trash, mountains of jumbled dirt, abandoned car skeletons, tires, and the list goes on. Filth par excellence, nastiness, per se, characterize many of our streets; dirt, stagnant water, puddles of scummy pestilential oozing's can be seen in hundreds of localities, while smells strong enough to affect the heavens, and putrid enough to destroy a population, permeate the sanctities of our homes, and render uninhabitable whole blocks of our tenements.

The current political structure in Liberia, the ANC Youth said, is built on the foundation of corruption – its officials are recruited by measures of deceit, ethnocentrism, chicanery, etc. “And until this structure is theoretically, politically, legally, and psychologically dismantled, no fight against any societal vice in this country will ever succeed. The towering stance Liberians have taken to ensure that Weah is constantly reminded that Liberia belongs to every Liberian must never be abated”, they said.

<https://liberiananalyst.com/2019/08/21/anc-youth-descends-on-cdc-govt-wants-koijee-sabu-unit-brought-to-book/>

Abduction, Rape & Attempted Murder of Jestina Taylor – She alleged was carried out by Jefferson Koijee & Others

Below are YouTube videos of Jestina Taylor, a former CDC Press Officer publicly documenting her public criticism of President Weah and the subsequent abduction and unspeakable torture and attempted murder allegedly carried out by Jefferson T. Koijee and other assailants affiliated with the Liberian government:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYX2ZpUNE_8&has_verified=1 (YouTube video of Jestina Taylor outside the National Election Commission publicly making comments about President Weah & Jefferson Koijee)

<https://theworldnews.net/lr-news/police-denies-death-news-of-justina-taylor-the-lady-who-publicly-criticize-gov-t-via-social-media> (Global National News Article regarding Jestina Taylor and a picture of her as she arrived at the Catholic Hospital Emergency Room severely tortured and raped)

Drugged, Raped and Left for Dead

By

Joaquin M. Sendolo – Liberian Observer

August 28, 2019



Jestina on her sickbed: "I don't want the police here."

Under heavy police protection, no sign yet of an investigation of who might have wanted Jestina Taylor dead

Jestina Kumba Taylor Ghartey, the 48-year old woman who was attacked and drugged by some unknown men hours after she appeared in a live Facebook video, accusing the Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojee of murder and knowledge of the whereabouts of a stash of weapons and ammunition, is lying in sick bed with her right leg paralyzed at the St. Joseph's Catholic Hospital. No investigation has established who may have harmed her to the point that she became unconscious at one time and now paralyzed. However, her being at the Catholic Hospital, which she says was not facilitated by the government, is characterized by an unusual police presence that makes her afraid to even communicate with her relatives and friends who come to visit her.

At the Catholic Hospital compound, a female police officer is seen at the main entrance of the building and a male officer at another entry point inside. At the door of Jestina's private ward, there are three officers sitting and screening (questioning) those who come to visit Ms. Taylor. While in her room one of the officers is present to monitor the activities of visitors.

Adama Dempster, Secretary of the Civil Society Human Rights Platform, said he does not mind seeing the police investigating the issue surrounding the attack on Jestina; however, he remains in defense for the victim because she needs protection as far as human rights protocols are concerned.

According to him, the surveillance of the police outside and inside her room at the hospital suggests more of an intent to monitor her conversations than to protect her for further danger.

"The police have not conducted any investigation into what caused me to be in this condition, but police officers are all here, even coming into my room and sitting all over in the room. I do not want them here; let them go and investigate what happened to me. I feel intimidated by their presence," said Jestina in tears.

Jestina, who spoke to journalists on Monday, August 26, 2019, from her hospital bed, said she that, at around 2:00 a.m., she spotted four men, who she could not identify, loitering around her house. However, an elderly man from her community, who she did not name, told her that the men were officers of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) who sometimes raid ghettos.

According to her, she went out to inquire further about the men and, in the process, she noticed that one of them injected her on the back, causing her to fall unconscious.

"The next day I remember we were near the sea because the sound was close to us in the upstairs house that they took me in. The whole time they had masks on their faces and would take small, small needles from a cloth and juke [inject something into] me under my feet and I would get weak," Jestina recounted.

In one instance, she said that when her attackers saw that the injection under her foot could not make her weak and unconscious right away, they injected her in the neck and on her left hand. "One of them during this time said he wanted to have something to do with me, and they took a syringe and injected me on my hand as you can see the mark here. The only thing I knew was someone was having sex but, meanwhile, I cannot feel it," she added.

Jestina, who allowed her medical record to be quoted, is recorded to have received "abrasions and multiple lacerations

of the vagina” as a result of intercourse presumed to have been perpetrated by the men. Doctors found “signs of needle pricks on her neck at the right side, under the breast and at the soles of her feet.” She was also diagnosed with trauma, two-degree assault, and drug intoxication. The drug tests performed on her showed positive of Benzodiazepines (BZO),



Morphine (MOP 300) and Opiate (OPI 200), while she was diagnosed negative of Amphetamine (AMP), Cocaine and Marijuana (THC), respectively.

She recalls that the unidentified men planned the next day to “get rid” of her, and they tied her face with a black cloth indicating that she would be killed at any moment.

After a period of unconsciousness when she was injected, she said one of the men decided to help save her life, for “saving others through talks,” and when she regained her senses, she saw herself around Duazohn, behaving like a drunkard.

“I stopped a taxi and explained to the driver that I was not drunk, but that they injected me and I needed to go to the hospital. I gave the driver Costa’s number and that of my daughter, and he called both of them. That is how Costa told him to bring me to the hospital, who eventually paid my first hospital bill,” Jestina said in tears.

In order to do her lab to establish causes of problems affecting her, Jestina said Benoni Urey was one person who paid the US\$650 she was due to pay.

She could not explain exactly what went wrong that she was targeted by the unknown men and that, officers of the LNP will come to guard the hospital room where she is admitted.

However, she said, as a former member of the Congress for Democratic Change (CDC) who served as a Public Relations Officer for the Women’s Wing, she had advised partisans of the CDC at the National Elections Commission Headquarters, on August 16, 2019, to stop the violence and not see the CDC of today as CDC of yesterday, when they were in opposition.

“This is all I can remember talking,” she said, adding that after her remarks at the National Elections

Commission (NEC) on August 17, she found herself in the condition that she cannot walk on her right leg anymore.

She said the doctor has advised her to be flown out of the country or she would lose her memory.

In a video recording at the NEC headquarters, Jestina is heard saying that **Jefferson Kojee**, Thomas Fallah and Saah Joseph have their men led by ‘Mulbah Kesselly’ to kill her. She said, “The opposition has your clip; everywhere you have your weapons we know it already, but because we don’t want the Liberian people to rise against you, this is why we do not want to expose you.”

She is heard accusing Monrovia City Mayor Jefferson Kojee of being a part of the Liberian civil war assigned with Chuckie Taylor (also known as *Charles MacArthur Emmanuel*), the convicted and incarcerated son of ex-President of Liberia, Charles Ghanky Taylor. She alleged that Kojee was responsible for the killing of a handicapped child born by a Mulatto woman for Chuckie Taylor.

In the video, she advised Police Inspector General Patrick Sudue to be careful because he is sitting on a “time bomb” and that he could be assassinated [at] any time. She also confessed knowing more about the history of the war and that she would feel comfortable testifying before an established United Nations-backed tribunal for Liberia.

Jestina Taylor’s allegations were followed by a press conference by Jefferson Kojee, wherein he distanced himself from the allegation and called for the establishment of a war crimes court, which his government has reneged on approving.

It was after her remarks that Jestina went missing the following morning and later found herself on a roadside in Duazohn, having been injected with narcotics.

<https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/drugged-raped-and-left-for-dead/>

Below are the medical records documenting the diagnosis and treatment of Jestina Taylor and the actions of her assailants, sticking of needles, injections of drugs, aggravated assault, including sexual assault.

Catholic Hospital
Box 512
Monrovia-Liberia

No:

X-RAY & ELECTRODIAGNOSIS DEPT.

On ¹⁶ Aug 2019

ISend

MR./MRS.

JESTINA TAYLOR

a)

- 1- Pelvis x-ray (AP)
- 2- lumbar spine LAT/ AP

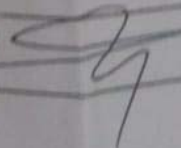
b)

- 3- CXR (AP)

Dr.

Roman

Signed:



RADIOLOGIST'S REPORT

NAME: TAYLOR JESTINA
AGE: 49YRS
SEX: FEMALE
HISTORY: CONVULSION, NECK, CHEST, LOWER BACK & PELVIC PAIN. AFTER
ATTACK ON HER
TYPE OF EXAM: HEAD CT SCAN
DATE: 8/21/2019

FINDINGS

Serial axial (coronal and sagittal reconstruction) pre- and post-contrast CT scan images of the head show normal brain parenchyma, gyri, sulci and ventricles. Grey/white matter differentiation remains intact. No midline shift or hydrocephalus seen. No focal mass noted. Normal meningeal spaces. The cerebellum, pons, medulla, midbrain, pituitary gland, basal cisterns, orbits, mastoid aircells, petrous bones, scalp and vault all appear normal. No facial bone fractures noted. Normal paranasal sinuses.

IMPRESSION

Normal brain CT scan.


DR E.K. BRAKOHIAPA
CONSULTANT/RADIOLOGIST

RADIOLOGIST'S REPORT

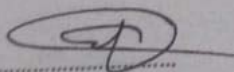
NAME: TAYLOR JESTINA
AGE: 49YRS
SEX: FEMALE
HISTORY: CONVULSION, NECK, CHEST, LOWER BACK & PELVIC PAIN. AFTER
ATTACK ON HER
TYPE OF EXAM: CT SCAN OF THE CERVICAL SPINE
DATE: 8/21/2019

FINDINGS

- Normal bony alignment, vertebral body heights, pedicles, laminae, transverse and spinous processes.
- The intervertebral discs show no significant posterior herniations.
- The neural foraminae are normal in appearance.
- The spinal canal is normal and without significant stenosis.
- Normal paravertebral soft-tissues.

IMPRESSION

Normal CT-scan of the cervical spine.



DR E. K. BRAKOHIAPA

CONSULTANT/RADIOLOGIST

RADIOLOGIST'S REPORT


NAME: TAYLOR JESTINA
AGE: 49YRS
SEX: FEMALE
HISTORY: CONVULSION, NECK, CHEST, LOWER BACK & PELVIC PAIN. AFTER
ATTACK ON HER
TYPE OF EXAM: CT SCAN OF THE LUMBAR SPINE
DATE: 8/21/2019

FINDINGS

- Normal bony alignment, vertebral body heights, pedicles, laminae, transverse and spinous processes. Mild marginal osteophytosis noted.
- The intervertebral discs exhibit mild posterior herniations from L3-4 to L5-S1.
- The neural foraminae exhibit bilateral stenosis at L4 & L5.
- The spinal canal exhibits relative stenosis from the L3-4 to L5-S1 intervertebral disc levels.
- No facet joint disease noted.
- Normal paravertebral soft-tissues.

IMPRESSION

Mild lumbar spondylosis with relative spinal canal and neural foraminal stenosis due to posterior intervertebral disc herniations as described.



DR E. K. BRAKOHIAPA

CONSULTANT/RADIOLOGIST

RADIOLOGIST'S REPORT

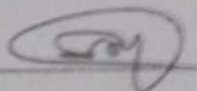
NAME: TAYLOR JESTINA
AGE: 49YRS
SEX: FEMALE
HISTORY: CONVULSION, NECK, CHEST, LOWER BACK & PELVIC PAIN. AFTER
ATTACK ON HER
TYPE OF EXAM: CT SCAN OF THE THORACIC SPINE
DATE: 8/21/2019

FINDINGS

- Normal bony alignment, vertebral body heights, pedicles, laminae, transverse and spinous processes. Mild marginal osteophytosis is noted in the lower thoracic spine.
- The intervertebral discs are generally but mild herniations are noted at T2-3, T9-10 and T10-11.
- The neural foraminae are normal in appearance.
- The spinal canal exhibits relative stenosis at the T2-3, T9-10 and T10-11 intervertebral disc levels.
- No facet joint disease noted.
- Normal paravertebral soft-tissues.

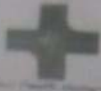
IMPRESSION

Mild thoracic spondylosis with relative canal stenosis due to mild posterior disc herniations as described.



DR E. K. BRAKOHIAPA

CONSULTANT/RADIOLOGIST



RADIOLOGIST'S REPORT

NAME: TAYLOR JESTINA
AGE: 49YRS
SEX: FEMALE
HISTORY: CONVULSION, NECK, CHEST, LOWER BACK & PELVIC PAIN. AFTER
ATTACK ON HER
TYPE OF EXAM: CT SCAN OF THE PELVIS
DATE: 8/21/2019

FINDINGS

Serial axial and reconstructed sagittal and coronal, pre-contrast CT scan images of the pelvis (without oral contrast in the bowel lumen) show the distended urinary bladder is normal in appearance and devoid of calculi, masses or wall abnormalities. The uterus is slightly enlarged measuring (8.1x6.7x4.8)cm. There are bilateral circumscribed, cystic, adnexal lesions suggestive of ovarian cysts, and a tubular, right, adnexal lesion likely due to hydrosalpinx. No suspicious pelvic lymphadenopathy, masses or bone lesion seen.

IMPRESSION:

1. Slightly bulky uterus.
2. Bilateral cystic pelvic lesions ? due to bilateral ovarian cysts and right hydrosalpinx.
3. Ultrasonography is recommended for further evaluation.

DR. E. K. BRAKOHIIAPA

(Consultant Radiologist)



SOS Clinic Congo Town
 P. O. Box 1924
 Monrovia, Liberia
 Tel: (+231) 770 551 551

4840/F

Name: Jabria D. H. Dr./PA: LENE
 Date: 8-21-19 RN/CM: _____

Laboratory Report
Multi-Drug Screening Report Form

<u>Drug Category</u>	<u>Reaction</u>	<u>Drug Category</u>	<u>Reaction</u>
Amphetamine (AMP):	<u>Negative</u>	Methamphetamine (MET):	_____
Barbiturates (BAR):	_____	Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA):	_____
Benzodiazepines (BZO):	<u>Positive</u>	Morphine (MOP 300):	<u>Positive</u>
Cocaine (COC):	<u>Negative</u>	Opiate (OPI 200):	<u>Positive</u>
Marijuana (THC):	<u>Negative</u>	Phencyclidine (PCP):	_____
Methadone (MTD):	_____	Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCA):	_____
Signature: <u>Paulina</u>	Technician	Date: <u>Aug 21, 2019</u>	

X-RAY FILM
PLEASE DO NOT BEND







JAHMALE
MEDICAL SOLUTIONS
A NASCORP INITIATIVE

I.D. Number: 154780 Date: 21/08/2024

Patient's Name: JESTINA TAYLOR Age: 49YRS Gender: FEMALE

Examination: BRAIN, CERVICAL + THORACIC + LUMBAR SPINES AND PELVIC CT SCANS

Medical Officer (please print in block letters): MO'LE

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 www.jahmalemedical.org |  info@jahmalemedical.org

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HOSPITAL

REFERRAL SLIP

DATE August 24, 2019 TIME 7 AM

NAME OF PATIENT Justina Taylor AGE 48yrs SEX F

SHORT HISTORY: she patient allegedly c/o neck pain, difficulty in walking, pain in the feet. According to the patient she was taking by unknown person on August 13, 2019 in the night and traumatized with needles.

PHYSICAL FINDINGS Nuchal pain, difficulty in turning the neck, signs of needle pricks on the neck at the right side, under the breast, seeing signs of needles at the soles of the feet.

- DIAGNOSIS: 1. Trauma 2° Assault & UTI
 2. Herniation of thoracic & lumbar disc
 3. Abrasions and Multiple lacerations of the vagina.
 4. Drugs intoxication.

TREATMENT GIVEN IV fluids (N/S & RL), Ceftriaxone, Flagyl & gentamycin ~~intra~~ intravenously, ~~stathe~~ intravenous diazepam (diluted), 250% IV. Orally: Ibuprofen and Acetaminophen

REASON FOR REFERRAL

Adequate Neurologic Management.
Adequate Orthopedic Management.

REFERRED BY

Rosalyn Massa
NAME & TITLE
OB-W. Specio



Liberia: Kojee Dispels Allegation of Being Chucky Taylor Associate

FrontPageAfricaOnline -
By J.H. Webster Clayeh (0770745986)-
websterclayeh@frontpageafricaonline.com
Last updated Aug 16, 2019



Mayor Jefferson Kojee

Monrovia – Jefferson T. Kojee, City Mayor of Monrovia, has dispelled allegation linking him to Chucky Taylor, the jailed son of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor.

In recent days, there has been a video of a lady making rounds on social media (Facebook) alleging that Kojee was assigned to Chucky Taylor.

Speaking to journalists at the Monrovia City Hall Thursday, August 15, Kojee called on National Security actors to invite the lady who has made the allegation to substantiate what he termed as “unfounded allegations” against me.

According to Mayor Kojee, the lady making the allegation in the video is a member of one of the opposition political party, Alternative National Congress (ANC).

He then called on ANC’s political leader Alexander Cumming and the entire party to distance themselves from the lady who is making the allegation.

“I have no relationship with any warring factions lest to mention participating in one,” Kojee said.

Mayor Kojee added: “During our civil unrest, I was just a kid who knew nothing about killing a chicken lest to say human being.”

He continues: “At no point in time do I have any relationship with Chucky Taylor; he does not even know me.”

According to Mayor Kojee, his political life can only be traced during the Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf regime.

“My history as a young advocate can speak for me. Check the records; I have no regret of standing up to Madam Sirleaf for the past twelve years”.

Kojee added: “We have assembled our lawyers to take this unfounded allegation to the letter.”

Kojee Congratulates Dillon

Meanwhile, Mayor Kojee has congratulated the winner of the just-ended Montserrado County by-election Abraham Darius Dillon.

Dillon won the Coalition for Democratic Change’s candidate Paulita C.C. Wie after a heavily challenging campaign.

“We want to officially congratulate Abraham Darius Dillon on his victory. I think we did politics, we engaged him and that he put out a better fight and put out his case. And we want to say to our people you have spoken loud and clear,” Kojee said.

He added: “We say thank you because the way you have spoken have provided the opportunities for us as leaders and all we can do is to hear you and readjust the way we conduct our activities.” Mayor Kojee continues: “We want to assure you that you are our people and we cannot disappoint you. There are lots of challenges we are confronted with and we want to say to you that make no mistake we will never forsake you.”

<https://frontpageafricaonline.com/politics/liberia-kojee-dispels-allegation-of-being-chucky-taylor-associate/>

Jefferson Kojee threatened opposition lives during a live Press Conference in Monrovia, Liberia on July 31, 2019

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9D8A24HULU&app=desktop>

Liberian Newspaper Sued But Not Silenced

Published: Thursday, 12 April 2018 16:53 Written by Jelter Meers

FrontPage Africa has been sued US\$ 1.8 million for defamation in the latest attempt to silence the Liberian newspaper – another reason to change Liberia’s libel laws, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) said Thursday.

FrontPage Africa said it has been subject to harassment for reporting critically on successive governments for a long time. In this case, the paper was sued for running an ad, although two other outlets ran it too but were not sued.

Rodney Sieh, the newspaper’s owner and Editor said they will not cave and accused the country’s President George Weah and his inner circle of harassing his paper.

“The government’s actions today will not keep us from doing our investigative work but will only strengthen us to do more,” Sieh told OCCRP.

“President Weah’s failure to keep his supporters from raining threats on the media falls on his record and his presidency,” he said. “Should anything happen to me or any member of my staff, our blood will be on his hands.”

Using suits and harassment are a part of Liberia’s history, according to CPJ’s Africa Program Coordinator Angela Quintal.

“Liberia has a troubling history of libel lawsuits where applicants ask for exorbitant damages simply to harass and intimidate journalists, resulting in their imprisonment or the closure of news outlets,” Quintal said. “The government should move swiftly to reform Liberia’s libel laws to guard against their abuse in this way.”

The lawsuit is centered around a land administration notice published in March. One of the plaintiffs is Henry Morgan, who has ties to the President’s party, the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC).

Other papers also published the notice but were not sued. FrontPage Africa already received two summonses to appear in court. Sieh thinks that the arrests were unnecessary and feels that they are being singled out.

“Contrary to what the ministry of information has stated, we are strongly convinced that the government is definitely behind what happened today and the Presidency is in the know,” Sieh told OCCRP. “Several other newspapers published the same land announcement as we did but only our newspaper was singled out. Was it really necessary to arrest and shut down our premises?”

A week before the summons, CDC member Jefferson Kojjee – the mayor of Monrovia, where the paper is based – condemned the newspaper for its critical reporting on the government.

Kojjee attacked Sieh, who is also a member of CPJ, personally for his “unprofessional attacks on the presidency,” FrontPage Africa said.

At the same time, Sieh and the paper were being harassed by anonymous social media users who claimed that the newspaper was anti-government.

One of the social media posts showed a picture of Sieh’s home and threatened with arson, Sieh told CPJ.

Sieh thinks that Facebook threats are ploys of the government.

“We are aware that government operatives have been using fake social media accounts to attack our credibility and issue threats against me and my staff - with some suggesting arson,” he said.

The summons was delivered on April 9 by court sheriffs who detained seven journalists for three hours and temporarily shut down the office, FrontPage Africa’s editor Lennart Dodoo told CPJ.

Dodoo said that they were released after their lawyer negotiated for a \$ 350,000 bond to be paid the next day. They started publishing again the same day.

The depiction by government officials of the paper as anti-government is not fair as the paper ran a lot of positive stories as well, according to Sieh.

Liberia's Information Ministry denied any connection between the government and the lawsuit in a statement released on the same day as the summons.

“The government’s denial is the oldest trick in the book – as we have seen in other countries across Africa, they hide behind civil lawsuits to strike and suppress the press,” Sieh said.

FrontPage Africa was asked to retract the advertisement by the lawyers of the now-plaintiffs in March, after which the paper published a clarification on the notice.

<https://www.occpr.org/en/27-ccwatch/cc-watch-briefs/7928-liberian-newspaper-sued-but-not-silenced>

4. Referral for Criminal Investigation of the Government of Liberia

We are not aware of any contradictory, countervailing, or exculpatory evidence concerning the alleged responsibility of President Weah and Mayor Jefferson Koijee and his collaborators for acts of torture committed by him and members under his command. While the Government of Liberia has routinely denied that members of his government commit torture, we find these claims wanting in credibility given the extensive documentation of such acts by credible bodies, as referenced throughout this submission.