

SMG Condemns US Provocative Action Over Taiwan



Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa



JEAN MENSA, EC Boss

The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) has condemned last Wednesday's visit to Taiwan by United States (US) House Representative Speaker, Nancy Pelosi as unwarranted, unjustified and highly provocative. A statement issued by the SMG signed by its General Secretary, Comrade Kwesi Pratt Jnr. said, "The SMG is therefore appalled by the latest provocation by the United States of America in its desperate efforts to contain China and rebuild its faltering neo-colonial empire".

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Alleged Plot To Rig 2024 Election Over...

NEW VOTER REGISTER

Ablakwa Warns EC To Stop Playing With Fire

The Member of Parliament for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa, has warned the Electoral Commission against taking decisions that will disenfranchise Ghanaians in the 2024 elections.

According to the legislator, the new bill tabled before parliament by the

Electoral Commission for consideration and passage apart from aiming to disenfranchise Ghanaians also seek to rig the 2024 polls.

The EC in July placed before Parliament a draft CI titled: Public Elections (Registration of Voters) Regulations, 2021, which is

expected to regulate continuous voter registration.

Per the new C.I, which would become law after 21 sitting days of Parliament, the EC is seeking to make the Ghana Card the sole form of identification for eligible voters who want to get

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Finance Minister Eats Humble Pie At Last!

...Admits Things Are difficult For Ghanaians



Ken Ofori-Atta, Finance Minister

Finance Minister, Ken Ofori-Atta has finally admitted that things are difficult under prevailing economic conditions.

He explains that the hard times are also not unique to Ghana alone but rather a global occurrence that has been brought on by the impact of the Russia-Ukraine war and aftershocks of the COVID-19 pandemic. In an interview on the Hard Truth show on Accra-based Joy News, Ofori-Atta also cited the cost of crude oil and inflationary spikes as

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL —

THE PIRACY THREAT

Recent concerns by Textile Workers to the effect that piracy is forcing them out of business is very disturbing and needs to be addressed by the government.

Even worrying is the inaction on the part of the task force set up to check the illicit practice.

Clearly, there is the need for an urgent action to stem any possible tide of industry collapse with its attendant job losses.

Already, the banking sector turmoil, the corona virus pandemic and the general economic challenges which have resulted in thousands of job losses within the past few years are still fresh in the minds of the majority of the people as they continue to have a telling effect on the peace and stability of the nation.

It is in this vein that The Insight is of the view that Ghana cannot risk another collapse of a sector as crucial as the textile industry which employs thousands of people.

There is definitely an urgent need for government to act to salvage the situation.

The time to act is now and the concerns of the workers need not be handled with the business as usual approach and shelved under the carpet.

Something definitely has to be done and it has to be fast.

Finance Minister Eats Humble Pie At Last!

...Admits Things Are difficult For Ghanaians



Ken Ofori-Atta, Finance Minister

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indicators of a global downturn not unique to Ghana.

"Let's acknowledge that there is no question that things are difficult, but things are difficult globally. And I am sure if you are reading, you know whether it is the US, the UK or wherever, I mean inflation has increased about four-fold. "The truth of the matter is that when you have US\$70 per barrel crude and goes as high as 133 and is now averaging about 105, it is problematic. When our import content is much higher than our neighbours, that is problematic," he submitted.

Asked about who to blame for the economic downturn, Ofori-Atta said it was a structural problem more than anything else, "How can that be anybody's fault when it is structural and the question is how can you change the structural element within a certain period?"

He also defended the banking sector cleanup stating that doing so saved the banking system from collapse. He cited the introduction of Consolidated Bank Ghana as a way the government still ensured that a local solution had been

proffered to the issue.

"We created CBG and put all of them in there," he lamented the situation where people just opened banks without following rules and regulations, "we have to be in a nation of rules...Those are hard decisions (we took)," he stressed.

Ghana on July 1 announced it was approaching the Washington-based outfit for a rescue programme.

An IMF team has since had initial contact with major stakeholders during a one-week visit to Accra between July 6 – 13, 2022.

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Alleged Plot To Rig 2024 Election Over... NEW VOTER REGISTER Ablakwa Warns EC To Stop Playing With Fire

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onto the electoral roll. The EC also claimed that the decision had been taken at an IPAC meeting with representatives of all political parties including the opposition NDC. However, speaking on Metro TV's Good Morning Ghana after it was revealed that the NDC was not invited to that meeting, Mr. Ablakwa stated that it was obvious that there was a grand agenda to rig the 2024 elections in favour of the NPP.

"There is a clear agenda to rig [the elections]...but the EC must be told in clear terms that they are playing with fire."

Meanwhile, a former Chairman of the EC, Dr. Kwadwo Afari-Gyan has also slammed the EC's decision to use the Ghana Card as the only source document for continuous voter registration.

Speaking exclusively to Graphic Online, he said with many Ghanaians finding it difficult to get their Ghana Cards, making it the only form of identification for

voter registration was against electoral inclusivity, fairness, and justice.

"Ghanaian citizens don't lose their citizenship if they are 18 years or older but do not have the Ghana Card. So, the moot question is: why make the Ghana Card the only means of identification for purposes of establishing eligibility to register to vote," Dr Afari-Gyan queried.

Dr. Kwadwo Afari-Gyan, has raised concerns about the proposed bill that will be used for the creation of a new voters' register for the 2024 election.

Dr. Afari-Gyan said that he is quite concerned about the proposal to have two voters register at various polling stations under the draft Constitutional Instrument (CI) by the Electoral Commission, titled Public Elections (Registration of Voters) Regulations, 2021.

The Public Elections (Registration of Voters) Regulations, 2021, laid in Parliament, aims to continuously register Ghanaians who turn 18 using

only the Ghana Card as the required document for the exercise.

Another key proposal in the bill is the creation of two voter registers namely the electoral area register and the constituency register. According to Dr. Afari-Gyan, the current technology for Ghana's elections is not robust enough to ensure that the use of these two registers will not prevent cheating in the upcoming elections.

He explained that electoral malpractices might occur because the Biometric Verification Devices (BVDs) which will be used to verify prospective voters at the various polling stations have not been interlinked to fish out voters who have already voted.

"Until such time that the BVDs are configured to be interactive in this way, my concern about any of the two registers being used at the polling station on Election Day is



Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa



JEAN MENSA, EC Boss

that it opens the door more widely to two kinds of voting infractions, namely multiple voting and ballot stuffing," the former EC boss is quoted to have said by graphic.com.gh.

Aside from the creation of the two voters' registers, Dr. Afari-Gyan also raised concerns about the use of the Ghana Card as the only

primary document required to register voters for the upcoming elections.

Though Parliament is yet to debate the new CI, the minority caucus of Parliament has said that the bill, when passed, would disenfranchise many eligible Ghanaian voters, hence they will reject it.

SMG Condemns US Provocative Action Over Taiwan



Kwesi Pratt Jr.

from front page

"We condemn the US for again bringing the world to the brink of nuclear war and risking millions of lives for internal political purposes. We call on the government of Ghana and the African Union to speak unequivocally in defence of China's sovereign rights".

The SMG also rejected entirely the hypocritical sleight of hand that the US uses to "excuse" its misconduct which it said on one hand formally accepts the One-China policy and the body of international law and practice and the other which seeks

to suggest that its Congress has autonomy in these matters and can legitimately command US forces to commit hostile acts against sovereign states.

This is the full text of the statement;

4th August, 2022

SOLIDARITY STATEMENT

The Socialist Movement of Ghana would like to state that there is only one China, and that Beijing is its capital. The territory of Taiwan is an inseparable part of the Peoples Republic of China. It is not a country recognized by the UN. It will one day be reunited with the PRC, hopefully through peaceful and democratic means. The timing and management of these processes are entirely up to the People of China themselves. SMG is therefore appalled by the

latest provocation by the United States of America in its desperate efforts to contain China and rebuild its faltering neo-colonial empire. We condemn the US for again bringing the world to the brink of nuclear war and risking millions of lives for internal political purposes. We call on the government of Ghana and the African Union to speak unequivocally in defence of China's sovereign rights. We reject entirely the hypocritical sleight of hand that the US uses to "excuse" its misconduct. On the one hand, along with the rest of the world, the US formally accepts the One-China policy and the body of international law and practice that has built up over a century about Taiwan. On the other hand, the US seeks to suggest that its Congress has autonomy in these matters and can legitimately command US forces to commit hostile acts against sovereign states. In other words the US is not a State. Ongoing power struggles within US establishment do not absolve the

executive Branch (i.e. President Biden) from responsibility for US foreign policy decisions. Civilisation will hold Biden accountable for his abject failure to provide leadership in this and similar situations.

We reject also the specious grounds offered by Speaker Pelosi to justify her invasion of China's sovereign territory. She and the US congress have no right to impose the US' hypocritical interpretation of "human Rights" on others. China in the last 40 years has lifted 800million people out of absolute poverty. What comparable Human Rights achievement does the US have to show the world? If the US is so concerned about the sanctity of Human Rights it should correct the many flagrant historical and ongoing injustices against its former slaves and prisoners of African descent. It should cease its unwelcome occupation of Guantanamo Bay and the Chagos Islands (to name a few). It

should halt its assassinations of citizens in other parts of the world. It should pull its troops out of Africa. It should stop supporting the destruction of Ukraine. The US must come to terms with the seething class struggle raging within its borders. It cannot continue to use Europe and Asia and Africa to distract its citizens from rank injustices at home. The United Nations has not appointed the US the world's policeman. Nobody is impressed with US efforts to pass its military might off as virtue. It should leave the peoples of the world to resolve our own problems.

The Socialist Movement of Ghana supports china's efforts at safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Signed
Kwesi Pratt Jr.
General Secretary



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Biden Administration Decides To Sell More Arms To Saudi Arabia And UAE

The Joe Biden administration in the US last Tuesday approved and notified weapons sales worth billions of dollars to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, on the same day that the UN announced the extension of the truce in Yemen for two months.

Saudi Arabia leads the international coalition that has waged a war in Yemen for the last seven years. The Saudi-led coalition also imposed a crippling air, sea and land blockade on Yemen. Its intervention led to the death of hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and destroyed most of the basic civil infrastructure in the country, creating what the UN calls the “greatest humanitarian crisis of the century.” The UAE is one of the main partners in the Saudi-led coalition.

According to a press release issued by the US Department

of State, the USD 3.5 billion sale includes the delivery of advanced Patriot ballistic missiles and supporting equipment to Saudi Arabia. The State Department also issued notices for the sale of USD 2.24 billion worth Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile system to the UAE. Both sales are subject to approval by the US Congress.

The US claims that weapons sales to Saudi Arabia and the UAE are “defensive” in nature and will help to defend their borders “against persistent Houthi cross-border unmanned aerial systems and ballistic missile attacks.”

In response to numerous Saudi and Emirati air strikes, in which thousands of Yemeni civilians have died, Houthis carried out drone attacks deep inside these countries before the UN-led truce was announced in April this year.

The Houthi-backed government in Sana'a has claimed that Saudis have been violating the truce agreement ever since it came into force. According to a report by *Saba* news agency on August 1, at least 24 Yemenis were killed in Saada when Saudi border guards opened fire from across the border.

The Biden administration has come under global criticism over its policy on Saudi Arabia in recent times. The US has been one of the main suppliers of weapons and technical support to the Saudi-led coalition in the war in Yemen. According to one estimate, Saudi Arabia alone bought 23% of all weapons sold by the US between 2017 and 2021. After facing global criticism and campaigns to end the US involvement in the war in



Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud with US President Joe Biden at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah, on July 15, 2022. (Photo: Saudi Press Agency/handout via Xinhua). The US announced the sale of over USD 5 billion worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia and the UAE on the same day that the UN announced the extension of the truce in Yemen for two more months

Yemen, Biden had promised during his campaign to do so once in power. After assuming office in February 2021, Biden announced the end of US support to the Saudi-led coalition, as well as a ban on sale of arms. However, the US has continued to sell arms to Saudi Arabia and the UAE on

various occasions.

Biden has also been criticized for his recent visit to Saudi Arabia despite his earlier stance on the country's human rights record. Critics point out that he had promised to make Saudi Arabia a “pariah” state once in power.

Peruvian Prime Minister Aníbal Torres Resigns

By Tanya Wadhwa

Peru's Prime Minister and the head of the Council of Ministers, Aníbal Torres, last Wednesday resigned from his position after holding it for almost six months.

In his resignation letter, which he published on Twitter, Torres said that he was stepping down due to personal reasons. He thanked President Pedro Castillo for trusting him “first as the Minister of Justice and then as the Prime Minister.” He said that he served the “most neglected and forgotten people, together with the president.” He also said that he would return to university teaching and legal research. He concluded the letter by wishing his friend, President Castillo, the greatest success in his management.

Torres was Castillo's fourth prime minister. He took office on February 8, after the previous prime minister, Hector Valer, was forced to resign just four days after taking

office due to a smear campaign in mainstream media backed by far-right legislators. Previously, Torres served as the Minister of Justice and Human Rights in Castillo's government. Torres was one of few members of Castillo's cabinet who had been with him since his inauguration in late July 2021. During his time as prime minister, Torres assumed a strong position in defense of the Castillo administration in the face of countless attacks from the right-wing opposition sectors. Torres' resignation, which automatically prompted the resignation of the entire cabinet, has triggered another cabinet reshuffle, and the head of state once again faces the challenge of putting together a new cabinet. President Castillo still has to accept Torres' resignation to make it official.

In conversation with *Exitosa Noticias*,

Francis Paredes, congresswoman from the Magisterial Bloc of the left-wing Free Peru party, said that she hoped that Torres would back down on his decision to resign from office and remain a member of the Executive Branch. “The president will evaluate [this situation] because he has not yet accepted the resignation. We hope that the Prime Minister can make a decision today, that it is best for the country, and he can continue to hold office,” said Paredes. “I am convinced [that he will continue in his position] because he is one of the most outstanding technical staff in the government,” she added.

Paredes stressed that Torres' departure is not convenient for the president due to the political crisis that his government is going through. “We are aware that the departure of Prime Minister Aníbal Torres at this political stage would not be convenient when we know that the government faces attacks from the

opposition,” she said. “We ratify that Mr. Aníbal Torres has been doing a very important job within this position,” she added.

The legislator added that in the event that Torres decides not to continue, then “the person who is chosen must come thinking that he will work for all Peruvians.”

Congressman Guillermo Bermejo of the Democratic Peru party also said that Torres should continue as the head of the cabinet. “Let Aníbal Torres stay, because he has shown loyalty and commitment to the process. And because he is a headache for the coup plotters and the hired press,” tweeted Bermejo.

Congressman Alex Flores of the Free Peru party also praised Torres' tenure. “Aníbal Torres was an insurmountable barrier to the prowling coup of a Congress controlled by Fujimorists and their operators,” wrote Flores in a tweet. He

added that “the president must appoint a prime minister with a profile twice as firm as Torres' to face the looming coup and return [the government] to the left.”

The Castillo administration, which completed one year in office on July 28, has been constantly attacked by the country's right-wing forces. In the past year, Castillo has had five investigations opened against him accusing him of allegedly committing various crimes. He has also faced and survived two vacancy motions. He has been forced to reshuffle his cabinet three times, and has changed over three dozen ministers over disputes and disagreements with the Congress. During these months, the Congress has impeached at least three ministers and presented a motion of censure against two dozen ministers.

Stay Off Our High-Security Zones – Army Cautions Encroachers, Intruders

The Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) has issued a stern warning to members of the general public particularly encroachers and intruders on various security zones to stay off.

A statement issued by GAF signed by the Director of Public Relations, Naval Captain MA Larbi, explained that the security zones such as the Base Ammunition Depot were closed to the public.

The statement said it was in the interest of the public that they stayed off military bases for their own safety.

“GAF however wishes to caution the general public that the Base Ammunition Depot is a highly sensitive and restricted security zone which is out of bounds to the general public.

“It is strongly advised that the public desists from tampering with the perimeter fence or attempting to gain any unauthorized access. For their own safety and that of all others as there could be serious repercussions for such actions. “Intruders and encroachers are also cautioned of dire consequences for their actions if they fail to pay heed to the numerous public warnings and education on the need to stay clear off a high-security zone such as an Ammunition Depot,” part of the statement read.

Meanwhile, GAF has arrested a middle-aged man, Yaw Boateng, and handed him over to the Police Criminal Investigations Department (CID) following his attempt to access a military Base

Ammunition Depot at Michel Camp in Accra.

According to GAF, the suspect upon interrogation said he attempted to enter the ammunition depot to gather some metal products for sale.

“Ghana Armed Forces personnel at the Base Ammunition Depot in Michel Camp, have arrested a middle-aged man who was in the process of breaching the perimeter fence in order to gain entry into the Ammunition Depot

“The Suspect, Yaw Boateng, claimed he was from Ashaiman Tulaku and was trying to access the Ammunition Depot to seek aluminum plated materials for sale. Upon his



arrest, 18 pieces of aluminum plates, iron pickets and a broken street light lamp holder were found among his

possessions. He has been handed over to the Police CID for further actions,” the statement added.

Bank Of Ghana Policies Inimical To National Security – Dr Bonaa Raises Alarm



Security and Safety Analyst, Dr Adam Bonaa

Security and safety expert, Dr Adam Bonaa, has raised concerns about the monetary policies of the central bank of Ghana and its implications on national security.

According to Dr Bonaa, the Bank of Ghana, through its monetary policies, is discouraging investors from investing in businesses and instead opting for treasury bills. In an interview with GhanaWeb, the security expert noted that this trend has become a contributory factor to unemployment in the country. “If you look at our monetary policies in this country, the Bank of Ghana and its own treasury bill rates and all

those things have become inimical to businesses in this country. You have more people investing in the purchase of treasury bills than they would have invested in a business that would keep people in employment.”

Among other risks, the security expert underscored that the growing unemployment in the country coupled with the current economic hardship would lead to security threats.

“Therefore we are likely to have more people become unemployed in the last quarter of this year and this is because the Bank of Ghana in their own policies have not yielded any value for businesses of this country. And the more we have more unemployed youth in this country, the more likely this country will one day go up in flames because then the Bank of Ghana is not looking at what policies shall we put in place to see to it that it becomes profitable investing in businesses

than investing in treasury bills,” he stated.

In addition to his concerns about the interest on treasury bills, Dr Bonaa cited the current exchange rate of the cedi against other major currencies as another concern. He emphasised that such factors, including the central bank's interest rate on loans, contribute to the growth of businesses and lead to unemployment.

“Businesses are folding up because the Banks are lending with an interest rate of about 30 to 31 percent. So today if you borrow a hundred thousand, you end up paying about 31 thousand or 30 thousand minimum by the end of the year. So why won't businesses buy treasury bills instead of going to borrow at a higher interest rate to invest in a business? The banks themselves have also decided to buy treasury bills because that is more profitable,” he stated. He therefore called on the central bank and the ministry of finance to relook at the monetary policies to ensure they inure to the growth of businesses.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND CHARLES BINEY

By Kwesi Pratt Jnr.

Charles played many roles in his very active life.

He was a classic poet who wrote about love, religion, family, education, activism, Pan Africanism and many other subjects which caught his fancy. He sometimes came across as a journalist pouring out his hatred of all forms of oppression and on some occasions, the priest in him poured out with sermons on life on earth and in the heavens. He was a trained biochemist and also a professional driver. Charles as all his friends called him, livened up any space he entered with his loudness and very provocative thoughts on all issues. In spite of his diminutive structure, he had a presence which was larger than life.

He is perhaps the only person I have known who managed to be ideologically Nkrumaist and an extraordinary supporter and member of the Danquah-Busia political tradition. He saw no contradiction in this and went on to contest for the parliamentary candidature of the New Patriotic Party in one of the Ablekuma constituencies.

Charles was resident in Dallas,

Texas in the United States of America but he missed nothing at home. He was a leading or founding member of the Democratic Alliance of Ghana (DAG) which was headquartered in London, the United Kingdom. This organisation was rabidly opposed to the military rule of Mr. Jerry John Rawlings and published and circulated its mouthpiece “Gye Nyame” throughout Ghana.

He was part of the group which conceived the idea of forming an all-party group, the Movement for Freedom and Justice (MFJ) to struggle for the return to multi-party rule in Ghana in 1991. In this enterprise, he worked very closely with heavyweights like Professor Albert Adu Boahen, Johnny F.S. Hansen, Akoto Ampaw, Kwame Wiafe, Owusu-Gyimah, John Ndebugre, Dan Lartey and many others. Charles also played a very key-role in the work of the Alliance for change (AFC) whose spokesperson is the current president of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo. He became the representative of the Alliance in North America. Reverend Charles Biney played his part in the struggle for democracy in Ghana by contributing his all in the bold confrontation with dictatorship. May his deeds continue to inspire all of us to continue the struggle for total liberation from oppression until final victory.

Special Court In Colombia Convicts 22 Former Military Officers For Killing Over 300 Innocent Civilians



July 25, Colombia's Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) charged 22 former members of the army, one state official, and two civilians with war crimes and crimes against humanity for murdering over 300 innocent people. Photo: JEP/Twitter. The JEP determined that the members of the 16th Brigade killed 303 innocent people between 2005 and 2008 in the Casanare department, and then framed them to authorities as guerrilla fighters killed in combat to obtain rewards

By Tanya Wadhwa

On Monday, July 25, Colombia's Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) charged 22 former members of the army, one state official, and two civilians with war crimes and crimes against humanity. The JEP determined that the members of the 16th Brigade killed 303 innocent people in 218 incidents between 2005 and 2008 in the Casanare department, and then framed them to government authorities as left-wing guerrilla fighters killed in combat to obtain rewards. The JEP condemned that within the military unit, a criminal structure was created that naturalized this violent practice to access promotions, cash prizes, vacations, and other

perks. It also stated that under the command of convicted retired Major General Henry Torres, these criminal operations increased.

"A complex criminal organization was implanted in the XVI Brigade that used the institutional architecture of the Army to present murders and forced disappearances as combat casualties...The Chamber of Recognition of Truth of the JEP established that under the command of Major General Henry William Torres Escalante, the artificial presentation of operational results in this eastern region of the country increased," the JEP said in a [statement](#).

The special tribunal stated that the defendants used deception to attract the victims, and that after killing them, they equipped their dead bodies with weapons, ammunition and clothing to pass them off as combatants, and recreated fictitious combat scenarios to make their version of events credible.

The JEP added that "all those responsible followed the line of conduct promoted by their commander. These were not isolated acts or acts committed spontaneously," and that "it was a criminal plan that had its objectives, resources, roles, and modes of operation. It was aimed at consolidating territories and showing progress in the war against the guerrillas." It reported that the soldiers used more than 140 million pesos (approximately USD 31,000), from public resources to finance these criminal actions. It also reported that these crimes represented almost two thirds of the results reported by the military unit during the said period. According to the JEP, the majority of the victims were men between the ages of 18 and 25, many of whom were relocated from Boyacá, Meta

and Arauca departments. However, the JEP's investigation revealed that the military also murdered nine women, one of whom was pregnant, and a young man with diverse sexual orientation. The JEP was able to establish that the military used children and adolescents to participate in the hostilities, and that the gender-diverse person was persecuted for his sexuality. For these reasons, for the first time the JEP charged the defendants with war crimes and crimes against humanity. Besides major general Torres, two colonels, three lieutenant colonels, ten officers, six non-commissioned officers, an agent from the defunct Administrative Department of Security (DAS), and two civilian recruiters who tricked young men and women and handed them over to the army to be assassinated, were pronounced guilty. Those convicted have 30 working days to acknowledge the facts and their responsibility. They can also reject them or provide arguments or evidence in their defense. After that period of time, the JEP will decide when to schedule a public hearing and announce a sentence. According to the

Colombian penal code, they could be sentenced to 20 years in prison. These extrajudicial executions are known as "false positives" in Colombia. During the rule of former far-right President Álvaro Uribe (2002-2010), military officials were rewarded for these killings during counterinsurgency operations. In February 2021, the JEP reported that the Colombian military carried out more than 6,400 of these extrajudicial killings. Human rights groups and the families of victims have said the real number could be much higher. In April, ten retired members of the military confessed to kidnapping and murdering over one hundred civilians, the framing them as guerrilla fighters. The JEP is expected to issue a resolution in their case in the coming days. The special tribunal has the authority to offer alternatives to prison sentences to people who confess their crimes and make reparations.

Full Text Of Findings From Afrobarometer Round 9 Survey In Ghana

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Let the people have a say

- **Democratic governance:** While demand for democracy and the perceived supply of democracy in Ghana have fluctuated over the years, satisfaction with the country's democracy has been on a downward trajectory since 2017.
- **Political party financing:** a large majority of Ghanaians do not think the government should directly support political parties during election campaigns.
- **Corruption:** Perceptions of corruption among public officials and institutions have increased compared to 2019.
- **Trust:** Trust in institutions declined between 2019 and 2022. Notably, trust in the president declined by 25 percentage points.

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Let the people have a say

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Solidarity Event In Berlin Celebrates Cuba's Living Revolution

International collectives, political and cultural groups, as well as many visitors on Saturday, July 23, celebrated the Fiesta de Solidaridad con Cuba in Berlin – a reference to the Movimiento Revolucionario 26 de Julio (MR-26-7) and its origins, when Cubans and friends honor the attack on the Moncada barracks in Santiago de Cuba in 1953 as the beginning of the revolution that triumphed on January 1, 1959.

The traditional gathering, organized by *Cuba Sí*, a working group from the German leftist party Die Linke, combined music, photography, and political activism from Cuba, Latin America, and beyond. It included Colombian musicians and activists from Brigada RPF and multiple groups of Palestinian solidarity networks as a compelling metaphor of what Cuban solidarity has increasingly meant.

The vibrant celebration of Cuban solidarity began with participants paying tribute to the revolutionary José Ramón Balaguer who died on July 15. He had performed critical roles in the country's leadership, including serving as the Minister of Health (2004-2010). Rigoberto Zarza, director of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples in Europe, shared with Angelika Becker, chairwoman of Netzwerk Cuba, some reflections on the current situation of the socialist country. He pointed out that, unlike the other nations, in these 2.5 years of outbreak, Cuba faced two different sorts of pandemics: firstly, COVID-19 was a particular health and economic challenge for a country that has been deprived of material conditions for its full development. The second was the unprecedented and opportunistic escalation of the US sanctions, which started with Donald Trump and have continued under Joe Biden's administration.

The designation of Cuba as a terrorist country brought many economic implications, such as the prohibition on receiving

money from abroad. According to Rigoberto, other sabotage acts include the chasing of boats bringing fuel to the island and the implications of the new wave of liability under the Helms-Burton Act, setting grounds in the United States jurisdiction for legal demands from third-country companies against expropriations carried on by the revolutionary government.

But then, both crises have sparked the Cuban people's creativity to deal with the challenges under the government's guidance, essentially through two core strategies. The country adopted economic measures to increase the independence of municipal and provincial governments in the policy-making process. On the other hand, there were substantial legislative advances as a result of the updates of multiple acts after the 2019 constitutional review. For instance, the Family Code was approved by the parliament and will be submitted for popular consultation on the September 29, through which the population and its representatives set parameters to rights, layers of protection for seniors and children, and the increased role of the youth regarding the multiple models of families they intend to protect as a society.

Another highlight was the youth gathering with various German and European collectives and the Cuban Ambassador in Germany, Juana Martínez, where they exchanged experiences, concerns and questions while reflecting upon the Cuban people's challenges and successful strategies to deal with the growing importance of the young generation to resistance and revolution as live paths.

Martínez emphasized the importance placed by Cubans on information and access to its multiple dimensions. The ambassador stated that the leadership has defined the motto "do not tell people to believe, but to read," recalling



(Photo: Twitter/ @cubasiberlin). The Fiesta de Solidaridad con Cuba in Berlin was organized by Cuba Sí, a working group from the German leftist party Die Linke, on Saturday, July 23. The gathering combined music, photography, and political activism from Cuba, Latin America, and beyond

that notwithstanding the gap in conditions to deal with the information war against Cuba, access to information is the core strategy to show and engage the youth in the current and prospective project of a socialist society. She also mentioned the current trend of young generations in the Cuban political scenario – the average composition of its parliament is 35 years-old members; among the whole Congress, 87% were born after the revolution, an unseen phenomenon in its history. That means that Cuba has witnessed an increasing engagement of citizens who grew up with granted social, cultural and economic rights, enforcing the need to engage them in the revolutionary process. During the pandemic, the Cuban youth demonstrated its capacity to adapt and resist old and new challenges, supporting the scientific community and the implementation of policies while promoting through multiple organizations, like the communist youth, university unions and political groups, a participatory approach to the struggle. Answering many concerns about the threats to Cuba in the audience, the ambassador was categorical: the challenges are universal, no matter from where the youth we are referring to come from. But if human beings are the only ones capable of thinking, it

also means that we are the only ones capable of fighting. The revolution is a continuous dynamic of participation and interest. This can only be achieved through information and ensuring that it can reach our young generations and stimulate the build-up of an independent and savvy perception.

The guest of honor at the fiesta was Dr. Francisco Durán, the Chief Epidemiologist of Cuba, leader of the Tropical Medicine Institute Pedro Kourí, who talked about the trajectory of health policy management on the island and abroad. Elaborating on the compelling evidence of the thriving Cuban strategy to tackle the pandemic – including a 98% rate of the vaccinated population above two years old with three doses of four locally produced vaccines and 11 weeks without deaths – Durán underscored the reasons behind it. Despite the economic constraints in dealing with the outbreak, Cuba's principle was to protect its people and other populations in need instead of making any profit from the health crisis. Its first vaccines were distributed to other countries – Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Iran. And another 54 nations have received medical equipment, medicines, and Cuban

personnel, including Italy, one of the first epicenters of the epidemics.

"More than one vaccine: one country." In a big contrast to the enhancement of the pharmaceutical industry that lobbied and made economic gains from medicinal advances, the institutions and resources from Cuba are public goods, which means that the Cuban approach, represented by state-owned research centers and the work of the Ministry of BioCubaFarma, also developed thanks to international solidarity, aimed at serving the peoples.

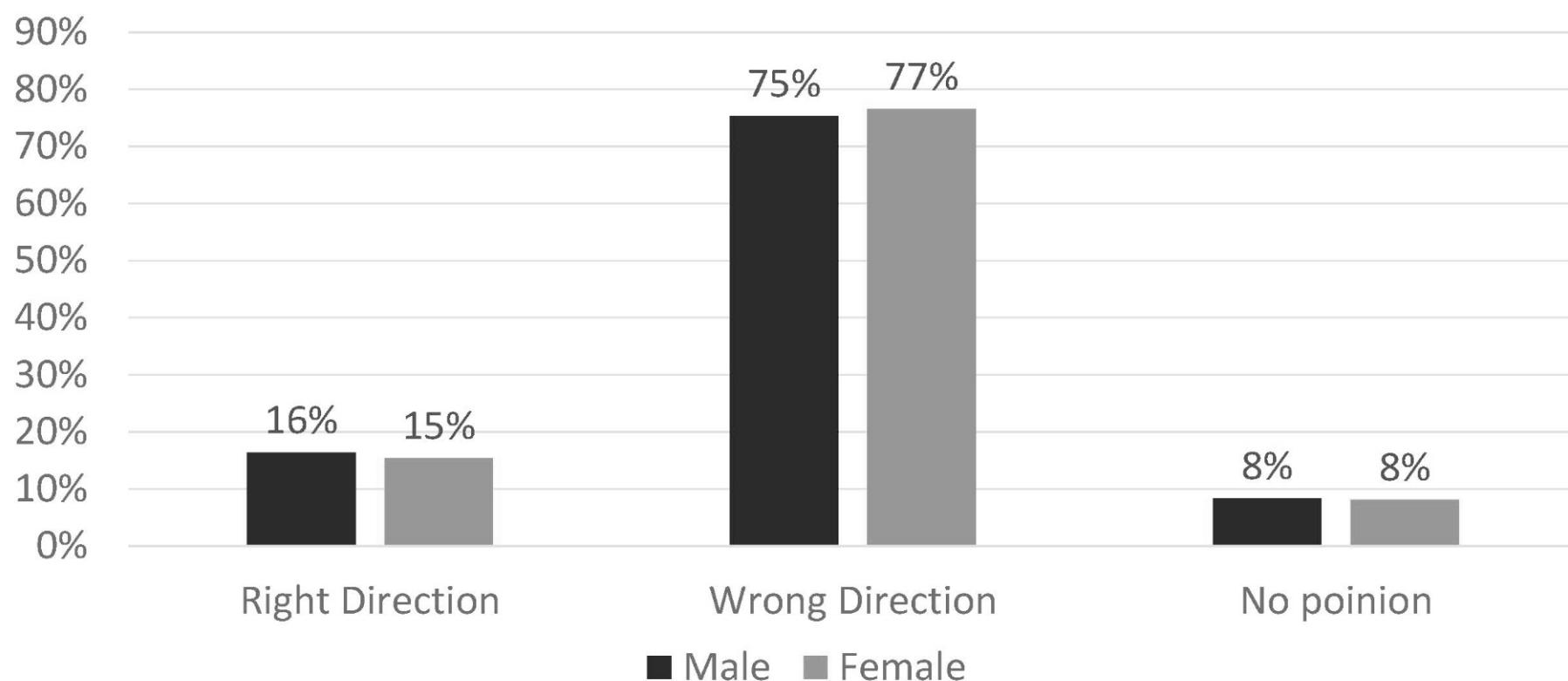
After two years of interruptions due to COVID-19, those who are firm in solidarity with Cuba had the chance and privilege to convene again from and towards solidarity. The opportunity to meet around Cuba and its living, resilient and vibrant revolution is a compelling reminder of how it is inextricably linked to Internationalism. *Hasta la próxima y (hasta) la victoria. Siempre.*

The article was written by Cuban solidarity activists in Berlin.

Ghana Elections 2024 National Opinion Poll 19th July 2022

from previous issue

Direction of the Country-Gender



Direction of the Country-Age Groups

	64+	55-64	45-54	35-44	25-34	18-24	16-18
Right Direction	18%	21%	15%	15%	17%	15%	13%
Wrong Direction	77%	72%	75%	76%	76%	78%	81%
No opinion	5%	7%	11%	9%	7%	7%	7%

to be cont.

Kpehe Catholic Church Calls On Ghanaians To Donate Blood To Save Lives



Father Isaac Gyasi Amoateng

Father Isaac Gyasi Amoateng, the Assistant Head of the St. Paul Catholic Church, Kpehe has called on Ghanaians to donate blood to save lives. According to him there is the need for the blood banks to be stocked all the time so that those in need of blood can access it. Father Amoateng gave the advice when the St. Paul Catholic Church organised a blood donation exercise at the church premises last Sunday. Father

Amoateng said as Christians who believe in the blood of Jesus saving lives, there is the need for all Christians to donate blood to also save lives. As a church, he said the wish is for all members to donate blood to save lives.

The St. Paul Catholic Church has made it a policy to donate blood twice each year in conjunction with the 37 Military hospital to save lives of patients who are in need of blood.

