

ASHANTI CHIEF ATTACKS GOVT, NPP

Over Neglect And Lack Of Developmental Projects



President Nana Akufo-Addo

The Chief of Mamponteng in the Kwabre East Constituency of the Ashanti region, Barima Saasi Ayebofo II has lashed out at the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) led by President Nana Akufo-Addo for denying the people of his area development. Barima Saasi explained that despite the Constituency giving the NPP the highest votes in 2016 and the 2020 general elections to clinch on to power, they have been neglected. While asking, "What sin have we committed against the NPP for denying us development despite voting massively for the party?" Barima Ayebofo said, "From now onwards, we will vote based on development". Addressing a press

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Dr. Amoah Jabs Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta

... And Asks 'Did Jesus Tell You To Collapse Ghanaian-Owned Banks'



Ken Ofori-Atta (left), Dr. Kofi Amoah (right)

Renowned economist and businessman, Dr. Kofi Amoah, has once again berated Finance Minister [Ken Ofori-Atta](#) for the collapse of many Ghanaian-owned banks during the . *cont. on page 2*

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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

THIS IS SHAMEFUL!

The recent state repression and use of force against media organizations in India to say the least was reprehensible and condemnable.

Coming on the heels of growing farmers' agitations and seeming inaction against the COVID-19 pandemic, which has killed several thousands of people in India, it is to be expected that the government would unleash its anger and frustration on the media for the barrage of attacks and that is what's been witnessed.

Clearly, the recent attack on the office of Newsclick and the arrest of its editors by the Indian authorities is unacceptable.

There is no doubt that the raid is yet another manifestation of the reckless attacks on the basic freedoms of the Indian people in the face of the growing social and economic problems.

The raid on the offices of Newsclick is shameful and clearly a blatant harassment of its journalists.

The Insight calls on all progressive forces in the world to solidarise with the journalists at Newsclick and to condemn the flagrant abuse of their constitutional rights by the Indian government.

Dr. Amoah Jabs Finance Minister Ken Ofori-Atta

... And Asks 'Did Jesus Tell You To Collapse Ghanaian-Owned Banks'

from front page

financial sector clean-up exercise.

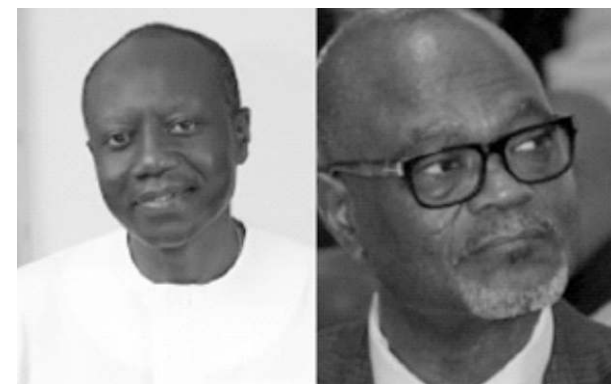
He suggested that Ofori-Atta collapsed other banks and saved his bank, Databank, which he is now using to enrich himself through commissions the bank gets for facilitating government loan agreements.

Dr. Amoah made these remarks while responding to a news article on [GhanaWeb](#) where Ofori-Atta said only Jesus Christ can say whether he is happy with his work as finance minister.

"Ofori-Atta, after he was asked whether Jesus Christ would be happy with the way he has handled Ghana's economy, in an interview on Hard Truth, said: "It's up to Jesus to declare. I can do the best that I can. But I am very much honoured and blessed to have this position, and mine is to obey and do the best I can with his guidance," he said. Reacting to this in a tweet shared on August 4, 2022, Dr. Amoah asked Ofori-Atta, who has been making biblical references during his public pronouncements, whether Jesus Christ will be happy with him collapsing banks in Ghana.

"Honorable" Ofori Atta, one simple question: Did Jesus tell you to liquidate Ghanaian-owned banks built with hard work n sacrifices, whilst saving your own Databank to be used in siphoning commissions from the huge loans you contracted for Gh, which have now sent us to the IMF?" parts of the tweet shared by Dr. Amoah read.

Dr. Amoah was the majority shareholder of Global Access Savings and Loans, which was



Ken Ofori-Atta (left), Dr. Kofi Amoah (right)

one of the 15 savings and loan companies whose license was revoked by the Bank of Ghana for being insolvent.

The financial sector clean-up, which was done in 2019, also led to the collapse of 11 banks and several micro-finance institutions.

Some economists, including Prof. [Stephen Adei](#), have questioned the rationale for the clean-up, saying it is one of the reasons for the current economic challenges the country is facing.

THE INSIGHT

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ASHANTI CHIEF ATTACKS GOVT, NPP Over Neglect And Lack Of Developmental Projects

from front page

conference dubbed: "Boniaye Kai" yesterday Tuesday, August 9, 2022, at the Mampong palace, Barima Saasi said roads in the Constituency have deteriorated as well the lack of proper market facilities. He noted that nothing has been built not to mention the agenda 111 hospital and school facilities promised by the president. He said President Akufo-Addo in 2019 cut sod for the construction of road networks in the Constituency at Mampong but noted that the contractor has abandoned the roads for the past

two months.

The Chief said he had gone to the Minister of Roads and Highways' office on several occasions but he had always been told by his Secretary that he was not around.

Barima Saasi said the Mampong market which would have been a market centre for all the constituents, and which started in 2012 has also been abandoned, leaving his subjects with no option but to sell under high tension poles.

He, therefore, called on the

NPP government and President Akufo-Addo to do the needful by fixing their roads and bringing other development to the Constituency else they will vote based on development in the coming elections. As at the time of going to press, neither the Municipal Chief Executive nor the Member of Parliament (MP) for the area were available for their reactions to the chief's concerns.



President Nana Akufo-Addo

Cedi Falling Like Coconut Yet Government Keeps Borrowing – Ato Forson

The ranking Member of Parliament's Finance Committee, Dr. [Cassiel Ato Forson](#), has stated that the cedi is depreciating like fresh coconuts falling from a tree. He lamented on Joy FM's morning show that the current high debt levels of the country while noting that the current government is continuously looking for other avenues to borrow.

"The currency is depreciating by the day, in fact, the cedi is falling like fresh coconut.

Another flagship programme that I have seen with this government is: One programme, One loan. "Already your debt is not sustainable, yet all that this administration wants to do is get an opportunity to go back there and borrow," he stated. His comments come after rating agency Standards and Poor's [S&P] downgraded the economy from B- to CCC.

It also reviewed the country's economic outlook as negative,



Cassiel Ato Forson

reflecting "Ghana's limited commercial financing options, and constrained external and fiscal buffers."

Ato Forson however noted that businesses and the country's financial sector will suffer due to the recent downgrade.

"The downgrade means a lot, not only to government but to Ghanaian businesses, to state-owned enterprises.

"If your country is downgraded from B- to CCC with a negative outlook. In fact, all Ghanaian banks, both private and government banks, are going to be affected by this," he explained.

SMG STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA

7th August, 2022

The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) expresses its solidarity with the Government and people of Cuba over the fire outbreak at the fuel depot at Matanzas. We salute the government of Cuba and the emergency services for their swift response to this disaster which has as many as 120 people injured and 20 others missing. The SMG salutes the governments and people of Venezuela and Mexico for extending much

needed assistance to Cuba in its moments of need.

We also call on all governments of goodwill and international organisations to provide relevant assistance to Cuba.

The unconditional lifting of the illegal blockade imposed on Cuba by the United States of America, will enable Cuba to deal with disasters like this much more effectively.

Viva Cuba!

Signed.

Kwesi Pratt, Jr.
General Secretar



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Italian Court Orders Release Of Piacenza Trade Unionists From House Arrest

The court of review in Bologna, Italy last Friday ordered the release of six trade unionists, belonging to the USB and Si Cobas unions, who were arrested under the orders of the Piacenza Prosecutor's Office on July 19. The arrest of eight trade unionists last month for organizing strikes and other union activities in the logistics sector had sparked widespread protests across Italy. The unionists released on Friday are obliged to report to the authorities three times a week.

Trade unions and other progressive sections expressed satisfaction over the release of the unionists but denounced the continuing attempts to persecute trade unionists and activists. On August 3, hundreds of trade unionists from Si Cobas and USB marched in the city of Bologna in solidarity with the persecuted trade union leaders. Working class sections in Greece, Germany, and other countries

have also expressed [solidarity](#) with the fighting trade unionists of Italy.

On July 19, eight trade unionists [were](#) put under house arrest on the orders of the Piacenza Prosecutor's Office. They are accused of organizing strikes and disrupting work at warehouses of multinational logistics companies. Earlier, trade unionists and workers were also subjected to police [repression](#) for protesting against poor working conditions in logistics warehouses.

Last week, complaints were registered against activists of the Castelli Ecologista Network for protesting against the Rome Mayor's plan to construct a massive waste-to-energy plant in the city without proper consultations. Recently, activists from the Askatasuna Social Center also have been indicted for their 'criminal links' to the No TAV [movement](#) which leads the protest

against the Turin-Lyon high-speed/high-capacity railway project in the Susa Valley. Several activists from the No TAV movement have already been subjected to arrests and other modes of persecution by the state.

Responding to accusations, the No TAV movement said that "the real criminals in this story are not us, but those who are bringing the planet to collapse, who are continuing to foment wars in the world to fill their own pockets, who destroy territories for two pennies and a seat, they carry on devastating production systems for the earth and the people." On August 3, the Communist Youth Front (FGC) stated that "these serious intimidations are part of the process of repressive attack on worker and social struggles that have been mobilizing more against



Trade unionists: Aldo, Bruno, Arafat and Carlo. (L-R) (Photo via Si Cobas) As persecution of trade unionists and activists continues in Italy, trade unions and other progressive sections are organizing militant struggles against the exploitation of the working class

capitalist management and anti-popular policies in recent months."

"We express our solidarity with comrades affected by these measures. Repression won't stop the fight!" added the FGC. On August 4, Si Cobas stated that "the state and those institutions that systematically favor or tolerate the violence of the masters, cannot tolerate in

any way the uncomfortable presence of a union that in 10 years has managed to fight back the corporate exploitation." "The daily reality of the capitalist crisis reveals — in all its cruelty and brutality — what are the real stakes and what are the objectives of the concentrated attack carried out these years by the masters and by some prosecutors against SI Cobas," added the union.

Ceasefire In Gaza After Three Days Of Israeli Bombings, 44 Palestinians Killed

A ceasefire which came into effect at around midnight on Sunday, August 8, has ended the three-day-long Israeli bombing campaign inside the occupied Palestinian territory of Gaza. The latest round of Israeli aggression on the besieged territory, which began on Friday, killed at least 44 Palestinians and wounded more than 360 others.

Contrary to the Israeli claims that its airstrikes targeted leaders of Islamic Jihad, most of the Palestinians killed were civilians, including 15 children. This was the second large-scale air raid carried out by the Israeli occupation in a little over a year inside the Gaza strip which has been placed under a comprehensive air, sea and land blockade since 2008. Similar raids were carried out in May last year, in which over 260 Palestinians were killed and over 2,000 injured. The raids also caused large-scale destruction of civilian infrastructure.

As per the terms of the truce, Islamic Jihad will seize its rocket attacks inside Israel in return of Israel stopping its air strikes inside Gaza. *Al-Jazeera* reported that Islamic Jihad leader Ziad al-Nakhala said that the truce was agreed to on the condition that Israel will take steps to end its blockade of Gaza and release two Islamic Jihad leaders currently held in Israeli jails.

Though the ceasefire has been effective so far, Israeli raids inside Gaza continued until the last moment before the truce came into force, targeting different locations inside one of the world's most densely populated regions. Israeli bombardment inside the Gaza strip began on Friday. Occupation authorities claimed that the strikes were "preemptive" in nature in order to prevent Islamic Jihad from carrying out its attacks. Israel called its operation "breaking

dawn".

Last week, Israeli forces arrested Sheikh Basan al-Shadi, a senior leader of the Islamic Jihad, from Jenin in the occupied West Bank. During the midnight raid, they also killed a Palestinian teenager Dirar al-Kafrayni and wounded Shadi's wife. Since the Jenin raid on Monday, Israeli forces had been preparing for a "response" and took aggressive preemptive action such as reinforcing their blockade of the Gaza borders by closing all crossings into the territory. Palestinian human rights group Al-Haq wrote in a statement on August 7 that "Israel's aggressive assault and bombardment of the civilian population and infrastructure in the occupied Gaza Strip is being conducted disproportionately and excessively, relative to Israel's anticipated military advantage, constituting a grave breach of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Palestinians' right to self defense

The latest round of Israeli aggression inside Gaza led to a fresh debate over

the Israeli claims of "self defense" and the Palestinian right to resistance. Israel's justification for initiating the bombing campaign was also widely criticized. Husam Zomlot, Palestinian ambassador to the UK, condemned statements issued by the US and the UK wherein they declare that they stand by Israel's right to self defense and Israel's classification of Palestinian resistance movements as "terrorist".

In an interview to *BBC*, Zomlot said, "under international law, the only people who have rights here are the occupied people. Therefore, this whole talk of Israel's right to self defense-to defend itself as per the US statements, the UK statements, some western countries' statement-is simply giving Israel—a green light to continue its murderous policies, to continue its war crimes."

Ali Abuminah, editor of *Electronic*

Intifada, [called](#) for a global debate on the Palestinians' right to resistance in light of the international community's failure to prevent the repeated crimes of occupation and attempts to justify Israeli aggression on the basis of rockets fired into Israel. Most of the rockets fired by Islamic Jihad were intercepted by the Israeli missile defense system without causing any significant damage. Francesca Albanese, UN special rapporteur on the human rights situation in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, [asserted](#) that there is no justification for Israeli aggression inside occupied Palestinian territories as "international law only permits the use of force in self defense." She termed the Israeli aggression "illegal, immoral and irresponsible."

Holy Trinity Spa & Health Farm CEO Picks Africa's Most Respected CEO Award In Mauritius

Dr. Felix Anyah, the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Chairman of Holy Trinity Spa and Health Farm at Sogakope in the Volta Region as well as Holy Trinity Medical Centre in the Greater Accra Region has received Africa's Most Respected CEO - Health Sector Award at the event held in Mauritius.

The Holy Trinity Spa and Health Farm in Sogakope was also awarded the Africa's Best Destination Spa for Wellness Conference at the Pan African Event.

Speaking in an interview on his return to Accra, Dr. Felix Anyah expressed his company's gratitude to the organizers of the event dubbed "Africa's Giants" hosted by the Business Executive in collaboration with the Economic Development Board in Mauritius. According to the man, who is also the Board Chairman of the Volta Regional Teaching Hospital, there were about 35 Awards going to recipients from different African Countries such as Healthcare

Incubator, Digital Solutions, Telecommunications, Brand Advertising and Renewable Energy going to Kenya, Mauritius, Ethiopia, South Africa and Zimbabwe respectively.

Dr. Anyah, who is also the former Chief Executive Officer of the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, has won several awards already in this country. Speaking earlier in a welcome address at a thanksgiving party attended by staff of the Holy Trinity Medical Centre, comprising the hospital in Accra and the Spa and Health Farm in Sogakope, on Sunday, 7 August, 2022, Dr. Mrs. Dzormeku, the Director of Medical Services of the Holy Trinity Medical Centre, thanked God, Dr. Anyah, the Board, Management and Staff of the Medical Centre for remaining committed to the Vision, Mission, Goals and Strategies in Pioneering Wellness through Integrative Health/Medicine for Health and Medical Tourism.

She noted that the Holy Trinity Spa and Health Farm is the Integrative

Health/Medicine Department of the Holy Trinity Medical Centre. She explained that, Integrative Health/Medicine harmonizes scientific or orthodox Medical Practices with Health Practices that Science has not proven, such as herbs, prayer, acupuncture, water, sound, climate, motion therapies, called Alternative Health/Medicine, together with Health Practices that assist Orthodox Scientific Health including physical exercises, healthy diet, and sleep. These are called Complementary Health/Medical Services.

The Director of Medical Services continued that Integrative Health/Medicine has Health Promotion and Disease Prevention as one of its Pivot and, thus, enhances productivity and reduce expenditure on Orthodox Medical Services.

Dr. Mrs. Dzormeku confirmed that, as the First Spa in West Africa, the Spa has been misrepresented as a hotel and emphasized that the Holy Trinity Spa and Health Farm is a Health



Facility and a Department of the Holy Trinity Medical Centre, and not a hotel.

Spas she continued, have different categories and Holy Trinity Spa and Health Farm, founded by a Doctor, has doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, radiographers, dentists, dietitians, clinical psychologists, with all Orthodox Medicine Hospital structures as well as pastors, Herbal Medicine Practitioners, exercise physiologists and so on, and consequently classified as a Destination Spa, Hospital and Rehabilitation Spa, Medical Spa, Wellness Centre Spa, Health Farm, and occasionally provides Day Spa Services.

The concept of Spa in the provision of Healthcare she explained, are rooted in the: Firstly, World Health Organization's Definition of Health as "Health is the complete state of Physical, Psychological, Social, Emotional and Spiritual well-being of an individual, and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity"

Secondly, The World Health Organization Primary Healthcare Strategy of Introducing Traditional Medicine into Healthcare Delivery Launched in 1979.

Thirdly, the Traditional Medicine Practice Act (Act 575 of AD 2000) of Ghana.

Fourth, The Regenerative Health and Nutrition Plan of the Ghana Ministry of Health focusing primarily on Health Promotion through Healthy Lifestyle.

One of the Products of the Centre, which was recognized in Mauritius, was Wellness Healthy Lifestyle Conference.

Dr. Mrs. Dzormeku, reiterated that lifestyle non-communicable diseases such as hypertension,

stress disorders, diabetes, sleep disorders, high blood cholesterol, depression, suicide, anxiety, back and neck pains, migraine, enlarged prostate, overweight, peptic Ulcer, ischemic heart diseases, blood clots and cancers are severely affecting the productive sector of the economy especially those in the middle and upper class, globally more than Infections.

Most of these lifestyle problems cause death but may show little or no symptoms.

Hypertension for example, has earned the name "Silent Killer" The Spa's Wellness Healthy Lifestyle conference strategically provide Accommodation, Meals, Conference Halls to attract busy executives who may have ill-health from these lifestyle non-communicable ailments but most have no symptoms of sickness, yet may develop sudden death, strokes, heart attack, etc.

Anchored with all Orthodox Hospital professional facilities such as laboratory, X-ray, Scans, Dental Care, ECG, Ultrasound Scans, Echocardiogram, Dental Clinic, in-house Doctor, as well as physical exercise facilities, sleep promoting services, dietitian, clinical psychologists, doctors consultation, first class gym, large Kaleidoscope swimming pool, Health Shop, as well as several relaxing, detoxifying Spa services such as Infrared Sauna, Hydrotherapy, Massages, Hair Salon for males and females, cruise speed boats, Yacht, Houseboats, 100 Seater Cinema and a Club & Lounge Built on the Volta River, the Award received in Mauritius as AFRICA'S BEST DESTINATION SPA FOR WELLNESS CONFERENCE is poised to help many more business Executives to prioritize Wellness.

SMG STATEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE

The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) unreservedly condemns the aggression on Gaza by the apartheid regime of Israel under the pretext that it is to stop suspected attacks by the Islamist Jihad. The Israeli aggression is in blatant violation of international law which imposes a duty on colonial occupiers to protect their victims and to refrain from acts that are detrimental to the peace and well-being of the occupied people. Close to 40 innocent Palestinians including women and children have been massacred by the apartheid troops using the most-deadly weapons supplied by the United States of America and its allies.

The SMG calls for an immediate end to the Israeli aggression and the lifting of an unjustified blockade of Palestine.

We reaffirm our conviction that as a People living under harsh colonial occupation tinged with the worse form of racism, the People of Palestine have a right to resist as guaranteed by international law.

This is the time for all peace-loving people of the world to rally to the support of the people of Palestine and to insist on the implementation of all UN resolutions calling for the creation of an independent and viable Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital.

This senseless aggression against the Palestinian People must be stopped immediately without any pre-conditions and the international community must take concrete steps to prevent its recurrence.

Palestine will surely be free

Signed.

Kwesi Pratt, Jnr.
General Secretar

Why Social Change Does Not Descend From Heaven



By Owei Lakemfa

SOCIAL change does not descend from Heaven. That was the basic message at an international conference on the “Challenge of Building an Alternative Political and Socio-Economic System”. Cuban Ambassador to Nigeria, Her Excellency Clara Margarita Pulido Escandell, gave the Opening Address at the July 16, 2022 virtual conference to mark the 17th Anniversary of the Nigeria-based Amilcar Cabral Ideological School- Movement, ACIS-M.

Leading speakers from eight Latin American, North American and African countries, she submitted that the solution to biting world crises is the solidarity of the human race. Cuba at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 when other countries shut their borders, had sent out over 3,000 doctors, nurses and other health personnel to 28 countries to combat the pandemic. She said human beings need solidarity even if it comes at a high cost, adding that solidarity is what Cubans have: “In our gene, our blood and our hearts.”

Speaking of the pandemic for which the small island had produced five vaccine candidates with at least two in use, she said Cuba had vaccinated over 90 per cent of its entire population, including children. She described the current situation in Cuba as good because of the strive to improve life, including proposed new laws to expand family

rights, and bad due to the effects of COVID-19 and a six-decade United States, US, blockade of the island country, a situation made worse by the piling of 240 extra sanctions on the country. In summarising her presentation, Ambassador Pulido said US propaganda trying to portray Cuba as a failed state is false, adding: “In Cuba, we have peace and the government is led by the population. Yes, it is the people leading the government.”

His Excellency David Vasquez Caraballo, the Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, submitted that there is the need to build a new international system in which countries would have the right to independence and sovereignty. He said there is a rearrangement of such political relations in Latin America which has swept through countries like Venezuela, Nicaragua and Bolivia. On the realities in Venezuela, he said part of its problems was the Executive Order signed by then American President Barack Obama which designated Venezuela as constituting an immediate and real threat to the US. Venezuela, he said, has been a victim of sweeping American sanctions, experienced mercenary terror and attacks on its power system but that the unity and commitment of the people led to it overcoming these hostile

actions to the extent that in 2021, it actually experienced good growth.

Comrade Imani Moja, representing the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde, PAIGC, after whose founding leader, Amilcar Cabra, the ACIS is named, said people must recognise that the world is a global village, as fires in one part can spread to another. He said there are troops from the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS, in Guinea-Bissau but that they are primarily there to impose an undemocratic President on the country. He said coups have been used against the PAIGC which was the ruling party in the country and that just on May 16, 2022, President Umaro Embalo, now the Chairman of ECOWAS, sacked the National Assembly to keep the PAIGC which controls it, out of power. The media, he said, has also not been spared. He cited the case of Radio Capital which he said was attacked in broad daylight. He also lamented that Africa does not have its own independent sources of information forcing the continent to rely on the European and American news networks. Imani argued that just as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, NATO, is co-ordinating the military forces in Europe, so does Africa need a similar co-ordinating force. Kwesi Pratt Jnr, the Convener of the

Socialist Movement of Ghana, argued that the world is being recalibrated, saying the world we knew yesterday is not the world we know today and certainly would not be the world we will know tomorrow. He regretted that Ghana has become an American military satellite.

Pratt said the Akufo government has also completely subjected the country to the dictates of the Western-controlled International Monetary Fund, IMF, and the World Bank regretting that the country now uses 128 per cent of its total revenue just to service debts. The country, he said, had been to these institutions 18 times with the same results of mass

impoverishment. He cited the 1982/83 imposition of punishing IMF policies on Ghana which resulted in mass sack, privatisation of public corporations and a crumbling economy. Such policies, he said, did not work in Ghana and would not work in any African country.

Pratt lamented that despite Ghana being the sixth largest producer of gold in the world, it remains very poor and, in fact, depends on foreign countries for its food needs. He said the time has come for African countries to transform their colonial economies into independent economies.

Lefika Chetty of South Africa said the country is caught in “the crisis before crisis”, trapping it in stagnation partly as a result of state capture and corruption. The result, she said, is mass unemployment, high level of violence and xenophobic tendencies. The solution, Lefika said, is to create a peaceful, democratic system based on the needs of the people and the principles of social development rather than on profit, private gains and inequality. She noted that global capitalism, which is based on accumulation, has

pushed humanity into catastrophic climate change that may make parts of the world uninhabitable.

Comrade Fatai of the All African Peoples Revolutionary Party of the US said the colonial masters in Africa demonised socialism which is a viable alternative to crippling capitalism, adding that the party's objective is to unite all of Africa along Pan-Africanist lines.

Ambassador Brahim Buseif of the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic, SADR, also known as Western Sahara, in his solidarity message, thanked ACIS-M for being one of the founders and pillars of the Nigeria Movement for the Liberation of Western Sahara.

Dr. Dipo Fashina, philosopher and former National President of Nigerian university academics, said what is crucial in liberating the continent is to tackle the ideological roots of liberalism and neoliberalism so as to arm the African continent with the necessary tools for liberation. Comrade Abiodun Aremu, the ACIS-M leader, said: “We desire a society that should displace the present unjust order, where the few super-rich reigns in looted wealth, while the majority wallow in sub-human conditions.”

Citing the examples of Cuba and Venezuela, he added: “Our common realities should be our uniting factors in Africa to struggle and recover our sovereignties that the various rulers in Africa have surrendered to the US and Eurocentric neo-colonial domination.”

Revealed: UK Ran Cold War Dirty Tricks Campaign To Smear Kenya's First Vice-President Oginga Odinga

By James Oliver And Nicholas Gilby

British cold war propagandists smeared Kenyan vice-president Oginga Odinga in the 1960s in “black” propaganda operations, newly declassified files reveal.

The Foreign Office's propaganda arm, the Information Research Department (IRD), targeted the Kenyan nationalist in a three-year campaign run by its dirty tricks section, the Special Editorial Unit (SEU). Odinga's son, [Raila Odinga](#), may be elected president on Tuesday when [Kenyans go to the polls](#).

Oginga Odinga was a major figure in the struggle against British colonialism. After independence in 1963, the British identified pro-west president Jomo Kenyatta as their preferred leader. Vice-president Odinga was leftwing and open to relations with the communist bloc. Concerned that Odinga might replace Kenyatta, constitutionally or otherwise, the British tried to undermine him.

Although, as British diplomats recognised, Odinga was not a communist, according to historian Dr Poppy Cullen of Loughborough University, he “posed a direct threat to British interests”. Not only did Odinga favour radical domestic policies, he accepted financial support from the Soviet Union and communist China. But President Kenyatta could not side-line Odinga, as he represented the powerful Luo tribe.

Declassified files reveal four “black” operations against Odinga. In September 1965, the *Daily Telegraph* ran a story headlined “‘Revolution’ document in Kenya”. It reported on a pamphlet issued by the “People's Front of East Africa” attacking Kenyatta's government as

“reactionary, fascist and dishonest”. But it praised Odinga as “a great revolutionary leader” who would be brought to power by a “newly formed People's Revolutionary Kenya Socialist party”.

In fact, it was a sophisticated propaganda operation that increased suspicions that Kenya's vice-president was in league with communist China. The IRD sent 80 copies of its pamphlet to “leading personalities and the press”, the SEU recorded. Kenyan newspapers gave it massive coverage. Kenyan ministers were thought to have been convinced that the leaflet was genuine.

Referring to Odinga's rightwing rival, Tom Mboya, the SEU's John Rayner wrote: “A secret report said that Kenyatta had thought it to be the work of the Chinese, that Mboya had considered it to have been put out by Odinga, and that Odinga had claimed that it was the work of the CIA.”

Dr Cullen says: “It clearly shows that Odinga was considered the main threat to British interests, and the lengths to which the British were willing to go in order to smear him.”

Odinga suspected he was being targeted. In 1964, he complained publicly of a “spate of vilification and facile criticism” in the British press. Picking out British newspapers including the *Telegraph*, whose correspondent Odinga expelled from Kenya four months later, he complained about reports implying he was plotting against Kenyatta. “British intelligence agents,” he concluded, were “sanctioned by their government to pass on official information to the so called ‘independent’ press of Fleet Street.”

A declassified report for June to December 1964 reveals what appears to be the first

SEU operation against Odinga. In October, the SEU produced a leaflet, purporting to originate from the “Loyal African Brothers”, branding the Kenyan leader “a tool of the Chinese” communists. The Brothers were an invention of IRD's propagandists. Over nine years, 37 leaflets were issued by the fake organisation purporting to want “to free Africa of all forms of foreign interference”. Claims by Kenyatta in April 1964 that “Mr Odinga and his associates may attempt some kind of armed or other action to seize power” prompted plans for British military intervention in case fears of a coup materialised. It also prompted another SEU operation accusing Odinga of involvement in a leftist coup. Despite raids on the offices and homes of Odinga and other radicals, resulting in the confiscation of arms, no concrete evidence of a coup was found, and he remained vice-president. An assessment by Britain's high commissioner pointed as evidence to Russian arms shipments, weapons in communist embassies and premises under Odinga's control, as well as his involvement in military training for Kenyans in communist countries. But even he concluded that “the plotters expected the overthrow to be possible by more or less constitutional means, and that the arms and trainees were merely to give them extra assurance and backing if required”. According to Cullen, author of *Kenya and Britain After Independence*, although fears were genuine, “the coup was most likely largely fictional”, a “pretext for moving against Odinga”. Nevertheless, IRD's propagandists weaponised the high commissioner's report. An article headed “Kenyatta Frustrates Leftist Coup” was planted in a Swiss publication in a bid to push it into western European media. “It is now clear,” it states, “that only resolute action by President Kenyatta successfully frustrated a



Special unit spread fake news about leftist politician, Oginga Odinga, seen as threat to British interests in 1960s. Kenyan vice-president Oginga Odinga, pictured in 1969, was a major figure in the struggle against British colonialism. Photograph: Central Press/Getty Images

pro-Communist leftist coup in Kenya.”

Sign up to First Edition, our free daily newsletter – every weekday morning at 7am BST According to Professor Scott Lucas, a University of Birmingham specialist in British foreign policy, “The story of British propaganda operations in Kenya is a reminder that the days of a declining empire were not as much pomp and circumstance as deception, disinformation and dirty tricks.”

At its “heart it was an effort by those in London to continue to exert control over a former colony well after it had become independent”, Prof Lucas said.

Odinga resigned from Kenyatta's government in 1966 and established a new political party, the Kenya People's Union (KPU). But the country's experiment with multi-party democracy did not last long. Members of the KPU were detained without trial under draconian new laws.

In 1969, the party was outlawed. Odinga was placed under detention and later imprisoned by Kenyatta's successor, Daniel arap Moi. His son Raila, who followed his father into politics, was repeatedly imprisoned without trial before Kenya returned to democracy. It remains to be seen whether he will realise his father's ambition and become president of Kenya.

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The West Is Experiencing A Contraction Of Its Power, Not Necessarily Its Decline

By *Boaventura de Sousa Santos*

What Westerners call the West or Western civilization is a geopolitical space that emerged in the 16th century and expanded continuously until the 20th century. On the eve of World War I, about 90 percent of the globe was Western or Western-dominated: Europe, Russia, the Americas, Africa, Oceania, and much of Asia (with the partial exceptions of Japan and China). From then on, the West began to contract: first with the Russian Revolution of 1917 and the emergence of the Soviet bloc, and then, from mid-century onward, with the decolonization movements. Terrestrial space, and soon after, extraterrestrial space, became fields of intense disputes.

Meanwhile, what Westerners understood by the West was changing. It began as Christianity and colonialism, then changed to capitalism and imperialism, and then metamorphosed into democracy, human rights, decolonization, self-determination, and “rules-based international relations”—it was made clear that the rules would be established by the West and would only be followed when they served its interests—and finally into globalization. By the middle of the last century, the West had shrunk so much that several newly independent countries made the decision to align themselves neither with the West nor with the bloc that had emerged as its rival, the Soviet bloc. This led to the emergence, from 1955-1961, of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). With the collapse of the Soviet bloc in 1991, the West seemed to go through a time of enthusiastic expansion. It was around this time that former Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev expressed his desire for Russia to join the “[common home](#)” of Europe, with the support of then-US President George H. W. Bush, a desire reaffirmed by Vladimir Putin when he took power in 2000. It was a short historical period, and

recent events show that the “size” of the West has since shrunk drastically. In the wake of the Ukraine war, the West decided, on its own initiative, that only those countries applying sanctions against Russia would be considered part of the pro-Western camp. These countries comprise about 21 percent of the UN member countries, which constitute only [16 percent](#) of the world's population.

Questions

Is contraction decline? One might think that the contraction of the West works in its favor because it allows it to focus on more realistic goals with greater intensity. A careful reading of the strategists of the hegemonic country of the West, the United States, shows, that on the contrary, without apparently realizing the flagrant contraction, they show unlimited ambition. With the same ease with which they foresee being able to reduce Russia (one of the largest nuclear powers in the world) to a vassal state or bring it to ruin, they foresee neutralizing China (which is on its way to becoming the first world economy) and soon provoking a war in Taiwan, (like the one in Ukraine) to achieve that purpose. On the other hand, the history of empires shows that contraction goes hand in hand with decline, and that decline is irreversible and entails much human suffering.

At the current stage, the manifestations of weakness are running parallel to those of strength, which makes analysis very difficult. Two contrasting examples help understand this point more clearly: The United States is the largest military power in the world (even though it has not won any wars since 1945) with military bases in [at least](#) 80 countries. An extreme case of domination is its presence in Ghana where, according to [agreements](#) made in 2018, the United States uses the Accra airport without any control or inspection, US soldiers do not even need a passport to enter the country, and enjoy extraterritorial immunity, meaning that if they

commit any crime, no matter how serious, they cannot be tried by Ghana's courts. On the other hand, the thousands of sanctions on Russia are, for now, doing more damage in the Western world than in the geopolitical space being defined by the West as the non-Western world. The currencies of those countries that seem to be winning the war are depreciating the most. The looming inflation and recession led JP Morgan Chase & Co. CEO Jamie Dimon to say that a “[hurricane](#)” is approaching. *Is contraction a loss of internal cohesion?* Contraction can mean more cohesion, and this is quite visible. The leadership of the European Union, i.e., the European Commission, has in the last 20 years been much more aligned with the US than the countries that make up the EU. We saw this with the neoliberal shift and with the enthusiastic support shown by former President of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso, for the invasion of Iraq, and we are seeing it now with the current commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who seems to be operating as the US undersecretary of defense. The truth is that this cohesion, if it is effective in producing policies, can be disastrous in managing their consequences. Europe is a geopolitical space that since the 16th century has lived off the resources of other countries that it directly or indirectly dominates and on whom it imposes unequal exchange. None of this is, however, possible when the United States or its allies are its partners. Moreover, cohesion is made up of inconsistencies, as seen in the conflicting narratives about Russia. After all, is Russia the country with a lower GDP than many countries in Europe? Or is it a force that wants to invade Europe, and serves as a global threat that can only be stopped with the help of investments provided by the United States for arms and security to Ukraine—already



US troops are deployed to Europe amid escalating tensions between Russia and Ukraine before the outbreak of war. The strategists of the hegemonic country of the West, the US, without realizing the flagrant contraction, show unlimited ambition.

around [\\$10 billion](#)—a distant country of which little will remain if the war continues for a long time?

Does the contraction occur for internal or external reasons? The literature on the decline and end of empires shows that, besides a few exceptional cases in which empires were destroyed by external forces—such as the Aztec and Inca empires with the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors—internal factors generally dominate in bringing about contraction, even though decline can be precipitated by external factors. It is difficult to distinguish the internal from the external, and the specific identification is always more ideological than anything else. For example, in 1964 the well-known American conservative philosopher James Burnham published a book titled *Suicide of the West*. According to him, liberalism, then dominant in the United States, was the ideology behind this decline. For the liberals of the time, liberalism was, on the contrary, an ideology that would enable a new, more peaceful, and just world hegemony for the West. Today, liberalism is dead in the United States (neoliberalism dominates, which is its opposite) and even the old-school conservatives have been totally overtaken by the neoconservatives. That is why former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (for many, a war criminal) upset the anti-Russia

proselytes by calling for [peace negotiations](#) while talking about the Ukraine conflict during a conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos in May. Be that as it may, the Ukraine war is the great accelerator of the West's contraction. While the West wants to use its power and influence to isolate China, a new generation of nonaligned countries is emerging. Organizations like BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and the Eurasian Economic Forum are, among others, the new faces of the non-Western states.

What comes next? We don't know yet. It is as difficult to imagine the West occupying a subordinate space in the world context as it is to imagine it in an equal and peaceful relationship with other geopolitical spaces. We only know that for those leading the Western states, either of these hypotheses is either impossible or, if possible, apocalyptic. Therefore, the number of international meetings has multiplied in recent months—from the World Economic Forum meeting that took place in May in Davos to the most recent Bilderberg Meeting in June. Not surprisingly, in the latter meeting, of the 14 themes discussed, seven were directly related to the West's rivals. *Boaventura de Sousa Santos is the emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Coimbra in Portugal. His most recent book is [Decolonizing the University: The Challenge of Deep Cognitive Justice](#). This article was produced by [Globetrotter](#).*