

# GOGOA

## Coalition Rejects New Producer Price Announced By Govt



**Dr Owusu Afriyie Akoto, Minister of Agriculture**

**T**he Coalition for Cocoa Sector Reforms (CCSR) GH has called on government through Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) to reconsider the 2022/23 producer price announced to avoid negative

implications and unexpected impact the new GH¢800.00 per bag of cocoa beans will have. "Farmers over the last two decades were always assured of over \$100.00 out of the world market

price for each bag of cocoa sold through the FOB pricing mechanism used in setting the price for the commodity. It is however unfortunate and surprising that government this

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## The Global Inflationary Tsunami Is Made In The US, Not Ukraine

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Ahead Of NDC's Internal Elections Morrow...

### Ade Coker Urges Delegates To Vote For Hard Working Candidates To Ensure Victory In 2024



**T**he National Democratic Congress (NDC) will from Saturday October 22 and Sunday October 23, 2022 hold its constituency elections across the country to elect officers who will represent the party in the constituencies

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### Towards Breast Cancer Treatment Tamale Teaching Hospital Appeals For Mammogram, Radio Therapy Equipment

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# The INSIGHT

## EDITORIAL

### HELP THEM

**R**ecent complaints by some cocoa farmers to the effect that their farms are being destroyed by some private firms to make way for rubber plantation is most unfortunate.

Even worrying is the claim by the farmers that government is not interested in dealing with their plight especially as this destruction seems to be ongoing for well over three years now.

It is surprising that of all the vast lands available, it is the cocoa farms which have been targeted for destruction.

Certainly, this cannot continue and the government needs to take a keen interest in this development.

The danger is that this phenomenon, if not curbed immediately, could affect the general yield of cocoa output, and eventually, the national target being one of the country's export earners.

The authorities cannot allow this to happen and The Insight appeals to the relevant state institutions especially, the Ministry of Agriculture and COCOBOD to take steps to address the concerns of the farmers.

## Ade Coker Urges Delegates To Vote For Hard Working Candidates To Ensure Victory In 2024

*from front page*

for the 2024 general elections.

Following this development, the Greater Accra Regional Chairman of the NDC, Joseph Kobina Ade-Coker has called on the delegates and members of the NDC to vote for the hard working candidates in the upcoming NDC internal constituency executive elections to ensure victory for the party in the 2024 general elections.

Mr Coker noted that victory for the NDC in the 2024 elections should be paramount to all the faithful which includes supporters and members of the party to rescue the country from the worst economic performance of President Nana Akufo-Addo and his New Patriotic Party (NPP) government.

"It is high time for the NDC delegates to muster courage to elect competent executives who would devote their time and resources for the party in order to recapture political power in 2024," the NDC stalwart stressed. Mr Coker made the call when he addressed a press conference yesterday in Accra, to update the general public on the preparations made by his outfit towards the internal constituency executives election of the party in the region which is scheduled to take off from tomorrow Saturday October 22 to Sunday October 23, 2022.

He pointed out that out of the thirty-four (34) constituencies in the Greater Accra Region, 33 will be having their constituency executives election except Amasaman Constituency which is preparing to join the others later. According to Mr Coker, the party has made arrangements with the Electoral Commission (EC) of Ghana together with thirty-three (33) election committees in the various constituencies to organize the election.

Additionally, he assured that the venues of the elections have been secured for the event and that will be made available to the media practitioners.

He pointed out that the party has made an arrangement with the Ghana Police Service to ensure security and safety at the venues, saying that the party expects that all the delegates to follow procedures for vote counting and declaration of the electoral results.

He commended the constituency executives for the transparent, free and fair manner the elections had been conducted so far, saying that the leadership of the party believes strongly that the upcoming weekend event will completely follow same trend devoid of confusion and trouble.

"I wish to use this occasion to also advise all and sundry that we are members of the same umbrella family and therefore must go about our elections devoid of insults, fabrications and other vices which only bring division and hates," Chairman Ade-Coker warned.

He added that "as much as possible we let our campaign be issues-based on what we can do



to build our party stronger to face our common political enemy which is the NPP that brought the strong and sound economy we left for the year 20017 into tatters."

He advised that "Let us not be too influenced by the extraneous factors but rather move by competence and experience. Let me also remind you that our victory for the 2024 general elections is a function of what we do now at the impending elections as a party.

He indicated that "If we elect candidates based on other factors than experience and competence, then we can be sure of what we will churn out in the 2024 general elections. Let be mindful of President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo experience, so many promises that deceived the majority of Ghanaians had brought all of us here in the economic hardship. It will be too late then, the decision to do the right is for now."

Flanked by the various Greater Accra Regional executives, Mr Coker stressed that; "let however settle our hearts that for each position, it is only one person that will be elected except those where two positions are allowed, so that it is either going to be you or another person and so there should be no I'll feeling at end of the day." He stressed the need for the loser candidates to accept the outcome of the electoral results and congratulate the winners to ensure peace and unity within the NDC to help win power from the NPP in 2024.

Mr Coker entreated the delegates to reject candidates who offered money and other valuables to influence the voting process saying that such persons are not loyal and hardworking.

## THE INSIGHT

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# COCOA; Coalition Rejects New Producer Price Announced By Govt

from front page

year awarded to farmers, less than \$80.00 for a bag of cocoa"

"This is rather a decrease in producer price than an increase hence COCOBOD must come again. In these times of increasing inflation, prices of inputs, fuel and economic hardship, this treatment to our hardworking cocoa farmers must change".

This was contained in a statement jointly signed by Ayisi Kumah Thomas Kwesi, and Mr Hedidor Alexander Yaw, President and Secretary of the coalition respectively and copied to the Ghana News Agency in Accra.

The statement said the producer price announced by the Minister of Food and Agriculture was not only low, but demotivating and should therefore be reviewed.

It said the analysis carried out by the Coalition showed that, further reduction of Cocoa price was disincentive to cocoa farmers and would lower productivity, given the fact that both Cost of living and Cost of production had increased astronomically in Ghana, owing to inflation and rapid depreciation of the cedi against the Dollar. It said hopes of cocoa farmers would be shattered by the new price especially when neighbouring Ivory Coast who had comparatively maintained

relative stable currency and economy.

"It is clear and beyond all doubts that with this lowering of cocoa prices (dollar terms), Government and COCOBOD will render Cocoa farming unattractive to the youth by worsening the economic plight of cocoa farmers."

"Cocoa farmers are already impoverished and overwhelmed by our current economic situation and to further reduce the price of Cocoa will worsen their plight."

"This is an industry that has supported this country for over 30years with revenue from exports, but there seems to be a clear lack of foresight, or an ill-will in the management and sustenance of the sector by its current managers: COCOBOD. "

The statement said the decision of reducing cocoa price (in dollar terms) came in the midst of reports of cocoa farmers selling their arable land to illegal mining operatives (Galamsey), neighboring country Ivory Coast raising its farm gate price to CFA900 equivalent to GH¢852.00, increasing prices of inputs, increased unemployment, and ageing farmer population.

The statement said about 19,000 acres of cocoa lands were lost to galamsey activities last year and it would not be surprising that the figure would be



**Dr Owusu Afiyie Akoto, Minister of Agriculture**

tripled in the ensuing year, while cocoa beans would be further smuggled along the border towns, with farms receiving little or no investments.

It said the credibility of COCOBOD in acquiring future loans would be impaired and eventually the industry would suffer existential threat and called on government to review the current situation

"We believe that any government interested in discouraging smuggling, fighting against galamsey, increasing annual cocoa volumes, and improving the lives of its gallant cocoa farmers should rather increase prices to discourage negative tendencies and sustain the economy."

"Before the dust could settle on the topic of this Cocoa price reduction, BOG came with a hike in monetary policy rate to

tighten the economy".

"This came after drawing down on the \$1.13bn syndicated cocoa loan to be used to shore up its Forex reserves and stabilize our currency. The hike in monetary policy rate which will directly or indirectly increase lending rates, the cost of goods and services including cost of cocoa inputs. Closure of shops in Kumasi and the intentions of GUTA to also close shops in Accra is evident of an expected increased cost of living which farmers cannot escape".

It said the once revered once revered cocoa industry that had pillared the country for over three decades and hitherto provided dignified living conditions to its farmers, purchasing clerks and District Managers of LBC's, Depot Keepers and Port Officers, was suffering an imminent

collapse if good measures were not taken.

"In this period of rising youth unemployment, it will be sad to witness the collapse of another vibrant sector of our economy and we therefore call on all stakeholders in the supply chain to throw their weight behind CCSR GH to compel government and COCOBOD to review the price or come out with a bonus package."

"Though the significant depreciation of the cedi has been a major contributory factor to the degrading economic fundamentals, the dichotomy is that increased exchange differential gives government room to relieve cocoa farmers with a higher producer price for the season. The voices of Cocoa farmers must be heard for if there's No cocoa, there will not be COCOBOD."

**Source --GNA**



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Neo-Liberal Macron Government In France Pushes 2023 Budget Without Parliamentary Vote



**Emmanuel Macron. (Photo: via L'Insoumission) The austerity-ridden budget was approved without a vote on after the government invoked a controversial provision of the constitution. Earlier, left-wing MPs had passed several amendments to the government's proposals**

Progressive sections in France, including the left, have denounced the undemocratic passing of the 2023 budget by the Emmanuel Macron government. The austerity-ridden budget was passed in the parliament without a vote on Wednesday, October 19. MPs from the New Ecologic and Social Peoples Union (NUPES) coalition slammed the government for pushing through the budget without incorporating the amendments that were passed earlier in the lower house of parliament.

Fearing that the majority would vote against the budget, the minority government invoked the controversial article 49.3 of the French constitution which allows a law to be passed without voting. Following this undemocratic move, MPs from the NUPES accused the government of authoritarianism and denounced article 49.3 as a permanent coup against democracy. They also submitted a motion of no-confidence against the government.

The French government led by Macron [invoked](#) article 49.3 earlier as well, on March 3, 2020, to bypass the parliament and approve the first part of its controversial pension reforms. According to reports, the government's budget proposals include tax cuts to companies, slashing the number of beneficiaries of school grants, cuts in funds for local authorities, freezing of index points and thereby blocking the upgradation of salaries, pensions and social benefits at par with inflation, and scanty allocation for health spending that is far below inflation. While the parliament was debating the 2023 budget since September, left-wing sections in the opposition managed to pass several amendments to many of the austerity-driven proposals, against the direction of the government which does not have an absolute majority in the lower house. Regarding this, leftist party La France Insoumise (LFI) stated, "the Minister of the Economy Bruno Le Maire does not retain in the budget an amendment introducing a tax on

super-dividends by corporates, despite its approval by the lower house with 227 votes in favor and only 88 against." MP André Chassaigne from the French Communist Party (PCF) and the NUPES [alleged](#) on Wednesday that "For eight days, the government and the majority have treated us like doormats! They promised to go through our amendments and they are doing just the opposite! This is a disgrace to our democracy! 'Our Public Service Collective' has denounced the budget as the second most austerity driven for public services over the last 20 years." Théo Kecicioglu, in-charge of international affairs for the Young Communists Movement of France (MJCF), told *Peoples Dispatch* on October 20, "The French government has just decided to force through by having the law on the nation's budget adopted without a vote. By using the constitution in this way, the executive cancels the amendments aimed at wealth sharing and

imposes a neoliberal policy. It is a question of always subsidizing large companies without counter-parties and of reducing social expenditure. The government promised us a new method, we were right not to believe it for a single second." Working class sections across France have expressed outrage at the undemocratic imposition of the austerity-ridden budget even as the country is reeling under an acute fuel shortage and soaring cost of living crisis. Unions have already hit the streets demanding an increase in salaries and restoration of purchasing power to combat inflation. On Thursday, French trade unions including the General Confederation of Labor (CGT), organized a general strike across the country to protest the crisis. Earlier, on October 16, trade unions and other popular sections organized a massive [protest](#) demonstration in Paris demanding action from the government. Over 100,000 people participated in the protest. Workers of refineries and outlets of private oil giants like Total Energy are also continuing [strikes](#) and protests demanding decent wages.

### Jailed Egyptian Activist Alaa Abd El Fattah Completes 200 Days On Hunger Strike

Well-known Egyptian human rights activist and blogger Alaa Abd El Fattah (40) completed 200 days on hunger strike in prison on Tuesday, October 18. He is being held in Egypt's notorious Wadi el Natrun jail. He launched his hunger strike on April 2 to oppose his wrongful sentencing and demand better living conditions inside prison. Meanwhile, Alaa's sister Sanaa Seif, herself [a victim of state repression](#) in Egypt, initiated a sit-in in front of the UK foreign office on Tuesday with the support of various rights groups, such as Reporters without Borders and

English PEN, demanding his release. Alaa had acquired [British citizenship](#) earlier this year. Seif has demanded that UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly meet the family and take steps to bring Alaa to the UK. In [a video message, she](#) described the deteriorating health condition of her brother and expressed apprehensions that he may die in prison if no action is taken soon. In the run up to the COP27 climate summit which will be held in Egypt on November 6, activists have started the campaign #FreeAlaa to create international pressure on Egypt

for his release.

As per claims made by his family members, Alaa is only allowed to communicate with them through letters and a 20-minute physical meeting once in a month. [Activists](#) claim that Alaa is not allowed any private time in the prison as all his activities are recorded on camera and lights in his cell are kept on at all times. Despite protest, Alaa is not allowed some basic amenities that are usually permitted for other prisoners. His sister Mona Seif [recently reported](#) that jail officials have denied him and his cell mates access to a radio. Alaa is the son of famous Egyptian activist [Laila Soueif](#). He played a prominent role in the 2011 protests

which brought down long-term ruler Hosni Mubarak and paved the way for democratic elections in the country. However, following the 2013 coup led by Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, Alaa faced severe state persecution for his activism. He and his family members have been in prison several times in the last decade. Alaa was convicted to five years in prison in 2014. However, within months of his release in 2019, he was rearrested along with lawyer Mohamed al-Baqer. He [was again convicted last year](#) by an Egyptian court to five years in prison on charges of 'spreading fake news'.

The Sisi regime has been extremely



**Alaa Abd El Fattah. (Photo: Mada Masr). Alaa has been on hunger strike since April 2, raising the issue of his deteriorating health. His family members and other activists have demanded immediate international intervention to secure his release**

repressive toward all kinds of dissent in the country. Using its complete control over the courts and security forces, the regime has imprisoned thousands of activists and journalists and imposed severe restrictions on all forms of political activities it considers hostile, including the workers' right to strike under the so-called [state of emergency](#) that was in force for several years until last year.



# Towards Breast Cancer Treatment Tamale Teaching Hospital Appeals For Mammogram, Radio Therapy Equipment



By Zuberu Aliu

The management of the Tamale Teaching Hospital (TTH) has made an appeal to individuals and organizations to support the hospital procure mammogram and radiotherapy equipment to deal with breast cancer cases. Mr. Musah Salifu, the Ag. Director of Nursing Services made the plea at the hospital's Oncology Center during the launch of Breast Cancer Awareness Week, also known as "Pink October."

Mr. Musah Salifu said at the program that the hospital undertakes surgery and chemotherapy for the treatment of breast cancer. He bemoaned the lack of mammograms and

pathologists at the hospital and argued that the absence of the equipment causes delays in the hospital's ability to fully diagnose and treat breast cancer.

The five northern regions are under the supervision of a single pathologist, according to the data provided. Mr. Musah expressed gratitude to the health professionals who volunteer their time and work on breast cancer issues at the hospital.

The hospital's administration has also appealed to donor organizations for support so that it can expand its outreach programs to include all five northern regions. According to Dr. Amos Adapalala Bugri, the hospital screened 3,600 and 4,444 individuals in 2020 and 2021, respectively. He pointed out that the Hospital is now managing more than 100 breast cancer cases picked from the number they screened over the periods.

Additionally, it was disclosed that the Upper East and Upper West regions accounted for most of the hospital's oncological cases. These cases are mostly in advanced stages before being diagnosed. As a result, management seeks support so that the hospital can reach out to people in all five regions and provide early diagnosis and treatment.

Naana Akyaa Asante, the chairperson at the event and a breast cancer survivor, assured the public that breast cancer can be treated and that those who are diagnosed with the disease live better lives after receiving treatment. "Breast cancer is not limited to women, men are also at risk", Madam Naana stressed. She encouraged both men and women to visit medical facilities for screenings and to have hope if they are diagnosed with breast cancer. Naana Akyaa advised against seeking treatment from herbalists. According to her early detection and treatment at hospitals are the

answer to breast cancer.

The Ya-Na's representative Nyab Vo-Naa commended the management and staff of the Tamale Teaching Hospital. He assured the people of the Ya-Na's and all the chiefs' commitment to raising awareness of breast cancer in the region.

According to Nyab Vo-Naa, chiefs serve the people and must be interested in everything, including their health. He promised the gathering that the chiefs in the region will raise breast cancer awareness. "We shall drum heavily for our counterparts to follow", Vo-Naa added.

During the launch of "Pink October," more than six breast cancer survivors shared their experiences with the general audience. They all encouraged routine screening of both males and women. Additionally, they cited the professionalism of the doctors and nurses as well as the

assistance from family members as contributing factors to their survival.

The Tamale Teaching Hospital has launched breast cancer awareness week to raise awareness of the disease and provide free screenings to the public. The awareness campaign's theme for this year is "Living Beyond Breast Cancer; Together We Can."

Officials at the launch included the Director of Finance, Mr. Danlaadi Saaka, Deputy Director of Administration, Mr. Iddrisu Abdul Latif Tanko, and Ag. Director of Nursing Services, Mr. Musah Salifu. Other officers were Dr. Tia Salifu Alhassan, Director of Pharmacy, Mr. Kutuba Tido, Deputy Director, General Services, and Mr. Misbaou Mohammed, Deputy Director, Human Resources.

## UK Prime Minister, Liz Truss Resigns Days After Sacking Finance Minister

Liz Truss, the embattled Prime Minister of the United Kingdom (UK) has resigned from office barely 45 days after she took up the post.

This comes just about a week after UK-born Ghanaian Chancellor of the Exchequer, Kwasi Kwarteng was sacked amid fallouts from the mini-budget presented before UK parliament.

"I recognise given the situation I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative party. I've spoken to his majesty the King to notify him I'm resigning as leader of the Conservative party," she said in her resignation speech to the British populace. The PM's administration was engulfed in turmoil after investors and markets protested some tax cuts and policies in the budget revealed by Kwasi Kwarteng

on September 23, 2022. Kwasi Kwarteng reportedly announced among other things, a £43 billion package of unfunded tax cuts in his "mini" Budget, a decision that is said to have caused panic in the financial markets, affecting the pound while increasing government borrowing costs and leading to a withdrawal of some offers for home purchase loans by lenders.

After much pressure to reverse his fiscal plan which rattled markets and created an uproar among politicians, he was sacked by Liz Truss. Ms. Truss and Mr. Kwarteng argued that the tax-cutting measures will promote economic growth among other things. But just days after Kwarteng's sack, when new Finance Minister, Jeremy Hunt assured the markets by reversing those tax-cutting

measures, the Prime Minister who could not defend her decision to reverse those measures she campaigned on and got elected has also resigned.

**This is Liz Truss full speech below:**

*I came into office at a time of great economic and international instability. Families and businesses were worried about how to pay their bills.*

*Putin's illegal war in Ukraine threatens the security of our whole continent.*

*And our country had been held back for too long by low economic growth.*

*I was elected by the Conservative party with a mandate to change this. We delivered on energy bills and on cutting national insurance.*

*And we set out a vision for a low tax, high growth*



**Liz Truss is former UK Prime Minister**

*economy that would take advantage of the freedoms of Brexit.*

*I recognise, though, given the situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative party.*

*I have therefore spoken to His Majesty the King to notify him that I am resigning as leader of the Conservative party.*

*This morning I met the Chair of the 1922 Committee, Sir*

*Graham Brady.*

*We have agreed there will be a leadership election to be completed in the next week.*

*This will ensure we remain on a path to deliver our fiscal plans and maintain our country's economic stability and national security.*

*I will remain as prime minister until a successor has been chosen.*

*Thank you.*



# The Global Inflationary Tsunami Is Made In The US, Not Ukraine

By John Ross

An inflationary tsunami is passing through the [world economy](#), creating economic disorder – in some cases acute political crisis – in every country it touches. This is gathering momentum as the US, which is leading other Global North economies, attempts to control inflation by rapidly [raising interest rates](#) – forcing the Global North economies into recession. The Global South economies have been thereby struck by a quadruple whammy producing still more severe stagflation, rising inflation, and slowing growth than in the Global North. First, rising US interest rates force up the dollar's exchange rate against the currencies of developing countries, increasing import prices that are usually set in dollars, thereby worsening inflation for these developing countries. Second, the dollar's climb against the currencies of developing countries increases the cost in their currencies of repaying international debts, which are dollar-priced. Third, to attempt to prevent a very sharp fall in their exchange rates, and to try to prevent capital from flowing out of their economies into the US, the Global South countries raise interest rate – pushing their economies toward recession. Fourth, the Global North's recession lowers the demand for Global South exports, putting further downward pressure on their economies. Politically, this situation creates crises for several right-wing regimes in the Global South, but also adds negative pressure on the policies of progressive left governments and leads to the threat of ["color revolutions."](#)

## US inflation

The US [claims](#) that this global inflation, and the downward pressure on living standards it creates, is due to the Ukraine war – and that therefore, countries should blame and

unite against Russia. But a brief look at the facts refutes this claim.

The Ukraine war started on February 24, 2022, but US inflation had already been rising sharply for [nearly two years](#) before that. US [price](#) rises were 0.1% in May 2020, but by January 2022, before the Ukraine war, prices had [risen](#) to 7.5% – US inflation rose by 7.4 % before the war. In August 2022, US [price rises](#) were 8.3%, a rise of only 0.8% since the war began. More than 90% of the US price rises took place before the Ukraine war. Therefore, it is important to think critically when the US blames Russia for the worldwide inflation and the resulting reduction in living standards. The huge US inflationary wave, which spread globally with only a two- to-three-month delay, since the US is the world's largest economy, took place before the Ukraine war. As the *Wall Street Journal* editorial board [noted](#): "This isn't Putin's inflation... This inflation was made in Washington."

## What caused the US inflation?

It is easy to explain in technical economic terms why US inflation soared – it was analyzed as it occurred by US economists such as former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers. In May 2021, Summers [warned](#): "We're taking very substantial risks on the inflation side... The Fed's idea used to be that it removed the punchbowl before the party got good... Now, the Fed's doctrine is that it will only remove the punchbowl after it sees some people staggering around drunk... We are printing money, we are creating government bonds, [and] we are borrowing on unprecedented scales." The US [budget deficit](#) rose to 26% of GDP and the annual increase in US [money supply](#) reached 27 % – both by far the highest in US peacetime



*Inflation in the US, which is cutting workers' real earnings in the country, is also spilling out into the rest of the world creating a crisis in the Global South*

history. With a huge surge in demand taking place, and no major increase in supply, soaring US inflation was inevitable.

## What was the role of inflation?

But more important than a technical explanation is understanding the social role of inflation. Inflation showed that demand was far higher than supply – putting upward pressure on prices of goods and services. So, with no increase in supply taking place, demand had to be cut back. The key social question was: Which US spending would be cut?

Many US reforms could be implemented by cutting demand and reallocating spending, thereby reducing inflationary pressures, while not reducing US living standards – indeed, these reforms would improve US economic efficiency and living standards. US military expenditure is the highest in the world – more than the military spending by the [next nine](#) countries combined. This [3.7%](#) of US GDP spending could be reduced with no fall in US living standards.

Equally, in 2020, US expenditure on [health care](#) reached 19.7% of GDP – almost one-fifth of its economy. But the US private health care system is very inefficient. The US spends a higher proportion on health care as a share of its

economy than any other economy in the world, but the US life expectancy is only [77 years](#), compared to an average of [83 years](#) in other high-income economies. The cost of private health care system in the US comprises a higher proportion of the country's economy for its citizens to live around six years less than comparable countries. But reducing US military expenditure, or rationalizing health care, would go against the vested interests of arms manufacturers and Big Pharma in the US, respectively. [Reducing US military spending](#) would force a lessening of its aggressive overseas military policy. Rationalizing US health care would entail a move toward a public health care system as more successfully used by other countries and would cut profits of big private health care corporations. The US government's vested interests in supporting arms manufacturers and Big Pharma means that no such actions will be taken. But if no measures are taken against these vested interests, then the only alternative way to reduce spending is to cut working-class living standards. This is what happens during inflation. As John Maynard Keynes explained, it is much

easier to cut real wages by high inflation than by directly reducing money wages – it is a partially concealed cut and workers cannot negotiate with their employers over inflation levels.

The medium-and long-term inflation is destabilizing and must be controlled – normally in capitalism this is achieved through recession. But short-term inflation is a powerful tool to reduce real wages which is what is happening. The average US [money wages](#) are increasing—in August they rose by 4.6%. But prices increased more rapidly – by [8.3%](#) during the same period. US real wages therefore fell, as they have every month since April 2021. In August 2022, US real [weekly earnings](#) were 3.4% lower than a year previously.

But this inflation, which is cutting US workers' real earnings, spills out into the rest of the world creating a crisis in the Global South. US inflation, therefore, attacks both US workers and the rest of the world.

*This article was produced by [Globetrotter](#).*

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# Mankessim Killing: Family Of Accused Flee Amid Fight With Bereaved Family

**R**elatives of Jonathan Obeng, the third accused person in the case of the slain prospective nursing student at Mankessim, Tuesday fled for their lives during a confusion between them and the family of the deceased.

A heated verbal exchange ensued between the two families outside of the Cape Coast Court Complex after the court had adjourned the case to November 8, 2022.

The family of Obeng, the mason who allegedly dug the grave to bury the deceased, was incensed by a journalist videoing them as they cried over the continuous detention of their relative and accosted him (the journalist) in the process.

Kate Swanzy, an auntie of the late Georgina Asor Botchwey, flared up upon hearing of the incident, which sparked a verbal exchange. This culminated in a brawl and with support from sympathisers gathered to witness the case, the bereaved family outnumbered members of Obeng's family, who, upon sensing danger, quickly took to their heels.

The Cape Coast District Court two, presided over by Mrs. Bernice Mensimah Ackon, for the third

time remanded the accused after the prosecutor, DSP Daniel Gadzo, prayed for ample time to complete investigations.

The pleas of the accused were not taken and the case has been adjourned to Tuesday, November 8.

Christopher Ekow Clarke Quansah, Michael Darko, a self-styled pastor, and Jonathan Obeng, a mason, are standing trial for allegedly murdering Georgina Asor Botchwey, a prospective student nurse at Mankessim.

They have been charged with conspiracy to commit murder and murder.

The accused persons were, however, booed at and cursed by the scores of spectators as the police marched them into a waiting vehicle.

During their last appearance in court, Quansah appealed to the court to release Obeng because he was not part of the conspiracy. He admitted to engaging his 26-year-old in-law to dig the grave but said he knew nothing about the killing.

Quansah was, however, stopped by the presiding judge because trial had not started yet.

The prosecutor, DSP Daniel Gadzo, presented an amended charge sheet to the court, which earlier

had Clarke and Darko as the only accused persons on Thursday, September 22. DSP Gadzo said the complainant was Mr. Duodu, a military officer and brother of the deceased.

He said Darko, a boyfriend to the sister of the deceased, was a resident of Kumasi, while Clarke resided at Sikafo Ambantem at Mankessim. He said on Thursday, September 8, 2022, the deceased, who had come from Yeji in the Bono East Region for an interview at the Ankafu Psychiatric Nursing Training School in Cape Coast, as a student applicant, called Darko to inform him of her presence in town.

He said Darko promised to pick her up after the interview on Friday, September 9, 2022.

As promised, the two accused persons picked Georgina from Ankafu in a taxi to Pedu in Cape Coast where Clarke continued the journey with his Benz car with registration number GT 8686 – C to Akwakrom, a suburb of Mankessim.

Clarke and Darko took the iPhone of the deceased, locked her in a room, and left for Sikafoambantem, a suburb of Mankessim, where they



*Some suspects in the Mankessim murder case*

engaged Obeng to dig a grave in an uncompleted storey building belonging to Clarke.

At 0200 hours, Clark and Darko took the lady to the uncompleted building where Clarke hit her neck with a club from behind and Darko strangled her till she died. They then cut her hair and buried her in the hole.

He said on the same day, the police in the Central Region picked intelligence which led them to arrest Darko at

Anomabo but Clarke managed to escape.

Upon interrogation, Darko admitted to the crime and said they wanted to use the deceased for money rituals.

On Wednesday, September 21, 2022, Quansah was also picked up from his hideout.

Meanwhile, speaking to Duodu, the brother of the deceased, after the court hearing, he said the family was satisfied with the pace of proceedings and was hopeful of getting justice.

## Urgent action needed to curb rising non-communicable diseases burden – Agyeman-Manu



*By Grace Acheampong, ISD*

**A** World Bank report has indicated that if urgent action is not taken, the rising non-communicable diseases (NCDs) burden will add pressure to the already overstretched health systems and pose a major challenge to development in the sub-region. The Minister for Health, [Kwaku Agyeman-Manu](#), disclosed this at the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) on STOP NCD in Accra on Tuesday.

Mr. Agyeman-Manu said the prevalence of NCDs is increasing globally and is currently the leading cause of death and disease burden worldwide.

He said the World Health Organisation (WHO) indicated that heart diseases, stroke, cancers, diabetes, and respiratory diseases outnumber infectious diseases and are the top killers globally, accounting for about 74% of all deaths.

The Minister said West

African Sub-region requires employing a scientific approach to improve the health and well-being of the population.

He stated that the scientific approach to salvaging the situation would strengthen individual skills and expertise, organizational systems and processes, system-wide networking capabilities, and leadership of researchers to conduct high-quality research.

“It will also strengthen local communities to engage with and understand how to enable healthy lifestyles as well as policymakers and practitioners to implement evidence-based NCD interventions,” he added.

The approach, according to the Minister, would also entail engaging stakeholders to solicit their views, preference, and expectations

and sharing results, and facilitating the uptake of research results into their decisions and practices. “We will also maintain equitable international partnerships, through shared leadership involving senior and earlier-career staff, and equally distributed management responsibilities,” he stated. Mr. Manu disclosed that the high-level research on NCDs is being funded by the United Kingdom and co-led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons (GCPS). The research team would include a cluster of research and three academic institutions in West Africa (the Catholic University of West Africa in Bobo-Dioulasso Burkina Faso, LASDEL in

Niamey Niger, Ashesi University in Brekusu Ghana, GCPS, and UK LSHTM.

The Minister said the government had launched a National Policy for Non-Communicable Diseases to “ensure that the burden of NCDs is reduced to the barest minimum to render it of little or no public health importance and an obstacle to socio-economic development.” “This is aligned with the ideals of the National Health Policy, 2020, and the Universal Health Coverage Roadmap (2020-2030) which calls for the use of multisectoral collaboration as a mechanism for addressing comprehensively, all the social determinants of health for better health outcomes for all,” he added.

# Four Straight Years Of Nonstop Street Protest In Haiti



Since August 22, tens of thousands of Haitians have been taking to the streets across the country demanding the resignation of de-facto Prime Minister and acting President, Ariel Henry. (Photo: Madame Boukman/Twitter). In recent weeks, the streets of Haiti have once again been occupied by large marches and roadblocks. Banks and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) – including Catholic charities – faced the wrath of the protesters who denounced US interference in Haitian affairs

By Vijay Prashad

A cycle of protests [began](#) in Haiti in July 2018, and – despite the pandemic – has carried on since then. The core reason for the protest in 2018 was that in March of that year the government of Venezuela – due to the [illegal](#) sanctions imposed by the United States – could no longer ship discounted oil to Haiti through the [PetroCaribe scheme](#). Fuel prices [soared](#) by up to 50%. On August 14, 2018, filmmaker Gilbert Mirambeau Jr. [tweeted](#) a photograph of himself blindfolded and holding a sign that read, “Kot Kòb Petwo Karibe a???” (Where did the PetroCaribe money go?). He reflected the popular sentiment in the country that the money from the scheme had been looted by the Haitian elite, whose grip on the country had been secured by two coups d'état against the democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide ([once](#) in 1991 and again in 2004). Rising oil prices made life unlivable for the vast majority of the people, whose protests created a crisis of political legitimacy for the Haitian elite. In recent weeks, the streets of Haiti

have once again been occupied by large marches and roadblocks, with the mood on edge. Banks and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) – including [Catholic charities](#) – faced the wrath of the protesters, who [painted](#) “Down with [the] USA” on buildings that they ransacked and burned. The Creole word *dechoukaj* or uprooting – that was [first used](#) in the democracy movements in 1986 – has come to [define](#) these protests. The government has blamed the violence on gangs such as G9 led by the former Haitian police officer [Jimmy “Babekyou” \(Barbecue\) Chérizier](#). These gangs are indeed part of the protest movement, but they do not define it.

The government of Haiti – led by acting President Ariel Henry – decided to raise fuel prices during this crisis, which provoked a protest from the transport unions. Jacques Anderson Desroches, president of the Fòs Sendikal pou Sove Ayiti, [told](#) the *Haitian Times*, “If the state does not resolve to put an end to the liberalization of the oil market in favor of the oil companies and take control of it,” nothing good will come of it. “[O]therwise,” he said, “all the measures taken by Ariel Henry will be cosmetic measures.” On September 26, trade union associations called for a strike, which [paralyzed](#) the

country, including the capital of Haiti, Port-au-Prince.

The United Nations (UN) [evacuated](#) its nonessential staff from the country. UN Special Representative Helen La Lime [told](#) the UN Security Council that Haiti was paralyzed by “[a]n economic crisis, a gang crisis, and a political crisis” that have “converged into a humanitarian catastrophe.” Legitimacy for the UN in Haiti is limited, given the sexual abuse [scandals](#) that have wracked the UN peacekeeping missions in Haiti, and the political mandate of the UN that Haitian people see as oriented to protecting the corrupt elite that does the bidding of the West. The current President Ariel Henry was [installed](#) to his post by the “Core Group” (made up of six countries, this group is led by the US, the European Union, the UN, and the Organization of American States). Henry became the president after the still-unresolved murder of the unpopular President Jovenel Moïse (thus far, the only [clarity](#) is that Moïse was killed by Colombian mercenaries and Haitian Americans). The UN's La Lime [told](#) the Security Council in February that the “national investigation into his [Moïse's] murder has stalled, a situation that fuels rumors and exacerbates both suspicion and mistrust within the country.”

## Haiti's crises

An understanding of the current cycle of protests is not possible without looking clearly at four developments in Haiti's recent past. First, the destabilization of the country after the second coup against Aristide in 2004, leading to the dismantling of the Haitian state right after the [catastrophic](#) earthquake of 2010. The Core Group of countries took advantage of these serious problems in Haiti to import onto the island a wide range of Western NGOs, which seemed to substitute for the Haitian state. The NGOs soon [provided](#) 80% of the public services. They “[frittered](#)” considerable amounts of the

relief and aid money that had come into the country after the earthquake. Weakened state institutions have meant that the government has few tools to deal with this unresolved crisis.

Second, the [illegal](#) US sanctions imposed on Venezuela crushed the PetroCaribe scheme, which had [provided](#) Haiti with concessionary oil sales and \$2 billion in profits between 2008 and 2016 that was meant for the Haitian state but vanished into the bank accounts of the elite.

Third, in 2009, the Haitian parliament [tried](#) to increase minimum wages on the island to \$5 per day, but the US government intervened on behalf of major textile and apparel companies to block the bill. David Lindwall, former US deputy chief of mission in Port-au-Prince, [said](#) that the Haitian attempt to raise the minimum wage “did not take economic reality into account” but was merely an attempt to appease “the unemployed and underpaid masses.” The bill was defeated due to US government pressure. These “unemployed and underpaid masses” are now on the streets being characterized as “gangs” by the Core Group.

Fourth, the acting President Ariel Henry likes to say that he is a neurosurgeon and not a career politician. However, in the summer of 2000, Henry was part of the group that created the Convergence Démocratique (CD), set up to call for the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Aristide. The CD was [set up](#) in Haiti by the International Republican Institute, a political arm of the US Republican Party, and by the US government's National Endowment for Democracy. Henry's [call](#) for calm on September 19, 2022, resulted in the setting up of more barricades and in the intensification of the protest movement. His ear is bent

more to Washington than to Petit-Goâve, a town on the northern coast that is the epicenter of the rebellion.

## Waves of invasions

At the UN, Haiti's Foreign Minister Jean Victor Geneus [said](#), “[T]his dilemma can only be solved with the effective support of our partners.” To many close observers of the situation unfolding in Haiti, the phrase “effective support” sounds like another military intervention by the Western powers. Indeed, the *Washington Post* editorial [called](#) for “muscular action by outside actors.” Ever since the Haitian Revolution, which ended in 1804, Haiti has faced waves of invasions (including a long US [occupation](#) from 1915 to 1930 and a US-backed [dictatorship](#) from 1957 to 1986). These invasions have prevented the island nation from securing its sovereignty and have prevented its people from building dignified lives. Another invasion, whether by US troops or the UN peacekeeping forces, will only deepen the crisis.

At the United Nations General Assembly session on September 21, US President Joe Biden [said](#) that his government continues “to stand with our neighbor in Haiti.” What this means is best understood in a new Amnesty International [report](#) that documents the racist abuse faced by Haitian asylum seekers in the US. The US and the Core Group might stand with people like Ariel Henry, but they do not seem to stand with the Haitian people, including those who have fled to the US.

Options for the Haitian people will come from the entry of trade unions into the protest wave. Whether the unions and the community organizations – including [student groups](#) that have reemerged as key actors in the country – will be able to drive a dynamic change out of the anger being witnessed on the streets remains to be seen.