

# WAPO DECRIES W. AFRICA'S UNDERDEVELOPMENT

## ...Explains Stance On Neocolonialism, Anti-Imperialism



The West Africa Peoples Organisation (WAPO) has expressed concern over growing imperialist interests in the sub-region which continue to serve as its bane by way of stagnating growth and development.

The organization is alarmed that conflict, insurgency, exploitation, and its attendant ills of famine, hunger, corruption, underdevelopment are now commonplace in most countries despite the attainment of

independence by member countries for over five decades. West Africa Peoples Organisation which was formed at Winneba in Central Region of Ghana a fortnight ago by participants from

*Cont. on page 3*

# Morocco: International Organizations Call For Its Expulsion From The African Union

*page 8*

## Alan Kyerematen Calls For Intensive Investment In Africa's Agribusiness Sector



Alan Kyerematen, Minister for Trade and Industry and President Akufo-Addo

Ghana's Trade and Industry Minister, Alan John Kwadwo Kyerematen, has advocated for intensive investment in the agricultural sector as part of major plans to economically empower the African continent.

*Cont. on page 5*



## My Running Mate Will Be From Volta Region – Kojo Bonsu

*page 5*

# The INSIGHT

## — EDITORIAL

### DEAL WITH THEM!

Recent rainfalls in the country have exposed the shoddiness of several of the roads that were constructed and paid for with the taxpayers' money.

Several of the roads within the country's capitals not to mention the hinterlands, have over the past few weeks developed gaping holes following the recent heavy downpours slowing vehicular movement and causing traffic and inconveniences as well.

Surprising, some of these deep potholes have developed on roads only recently repaved and in some cases constructed.

Clearly, this is worrying considering the huge amount of money that was injected into such projects.

Our contractors need to get their acts together and do a good job for the state, if their cries for non-payment or delay in payment of awarded and finished projects is to be acted upon.

The country is bleeding due to the fact that some road projects have become an avenue for money-making by some few contractors who do shoddy works only to be called back to fix the problem at an extra cost to the state. This should not be allowed to happen again.

Even though we support early payment of road contracted projects and also for them to be handed to local contractors to build their capacities and also retain the huge monies spent on such projects in the country, shoddiness of work would not be entertained.

Certainly, this country is bleeding and our contractors and authorities must act.

# GLOBAL NEWS

Presented By SPUTNIK International

## Nazi Holocaust Camp Secretary Gets Suspended Sentence For Her Part In 10,000 Murders

By James Tweedie

**“Secretary of Evil” Irmgard Furchner was just 18 when she went to work for SS commandant at the Stutthof concentration camp in Poland, where up to 65,000 people were worked and starved to death or executed.**

A German court has given a former SS secretary at a Nazi concentration camp a two-year suspended sentence as an accessory to over 10,000 murders. Irmgard Furchner, 97, was convicted and sentenced by the Itzehoe state court in Schleswig-Holstein state on Tuesday. Judge Dominik Gross said she was guilty of assisting in the murders of 10,505 at the Stutthof concentration camp, located in modern-day Poland, along with the attempted murders of five others. Dubbed the "secretary of evil", Furchner worked for the camp's SS commandant Paul-Werner Hoppe from the age of 18. Her lenient sentence was passed according to

juvenile law due to her age at the time she committed her crimes.

Furchner "aided and abetted those in charge of the camp in the systematic killing of those imprisoned there between June 1943 and April 1945 in her function as a stenographer and typist in the camp commandant's office," the prosecution charged.

She refused to answer questions during the trial, but apologised in her closing statement and said she regretted her time at the camp.

Furchner's defense argued that she should be acquitted, as the prosecution had failed to prove she knew of the atrocities being committed. But Stutthof survivor Manfred Goldberg dismissed that claim.

"It was impossible not to know what happened," Goldberg said. "There were bodies being carted openly through the camp."

Historians called as expert witnesses said that sick, starving and terrified prisoners, many of them stripped naked, were led past the the office where Furchner worked every day.

## Nuclear Deception: How Propaganda On Atomic Bombs Was Waged In 20th Century

**N**uke creation was a major milestone for humanity as it changed the world in many ways. While military doctrines had to be rewritten across the globe, peaceful life was also affected by the constant threat of these fearful weapons.

In 1950s, Americans witnessed the first televised atomic explosion. Atomic fever swept the United States, which echoed in a number of curious cultural phenomena. In a bid to mitigate people's fears, US mass culture tried to turn the dreadful weapons of annihilation into something trivial, almost funny, with a "mushroom" image of an atomic cloud becoming yet another symbol - and a product for a sale. A nuclear explosion during the US Operation Crossroads on Ayatollah Bikini in the Pacific Ocean, 1946. Shot from an unmanned aerial vehicle flying over the epicenter of the explosion. View from above the large mushroom cloud generated by the Baker blast, the second in the Operation Crossroads atmospheric

nuclear weapons test series at Bikini Atoll. Baker was detonated 90 feet underwater on July 25, 1946.

## THE INSIGHT

**ACTING EDITOR** - BENJAMIN AKUFFO  
(0244669960)  
benjaminakuffo65@yahoo.com

**Secretary** - Gifty Agyemang

**Design and Graphics** - Godwin K. Attah

**Production Manager** - Kweku Menz

### PUBLISHERS

Militant Publications Limited

P. O. Box NT 272

Accra-Newtown, Accra

Tel: 0244379344/0242836930

Email: theinsightonline20@gmail.com

LONDON CONTACT

5A Wesminster Bridge Road, London SE 1- 7XW

Tel: 0171-6201430

E-mail: prattc22@aol.com

# WAPO DECRIES W. AFRICA'S UNDERDEVELOPMENT ...Explains Stance On Neocolonialism, Anti-Imperialism



## from front page

organized labour, women's movements, youth and cultural organizations, Pan-Africanist formations, political parties and progressive movements across West Africa is unhappy that the continent especially the West African sub-region still remains underdeveloped in spite of the abundance of rich natural resources.

WAPO in a statement released last Thursday December 16 2022 signed by Kafui Kan-Senaya, Secretary General of the organisation titled, "The Imperialist Aggressiveness and the Birth of the West African Peoples Organisation said that, "As you would be aware, West Africa is endowed with abundant extractive wealth in

the form of water, forest, energy, minerals and bio-resources. It has an enormous arable lands and a youthful, energetic and creative population. But, up to 90% of this wealth is owned and controlled by capitalist foreign interests from France, United Kingdom, United States, Canada and Japan. Only 2.6% of our arable lands are under direct cultivation while our various neocolonial states continue to turn out 75% of its future human labour resources as brawn or non-mental workers". The statement added that Over 50 years of political independence have left West Africa with no industrialized State

stressing that Traditional industry is still crude or rudimentary and characterized by low productivity and output. "As we become more dependent, peripheral, neocolonial states run on behalf of imperialism by our political elites and the comprador bourgeoisie, the peoples of West Africa continue to face regional insecurity, insufficiency of healthcare, unemployment, inequality, abuses, exploitation and corruption."

"These devastating conditions in which the peoples of West Africa find themselves are the impact and vestiges of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism. Today, these imperialists and their local elites continue to brutally exploit the region in the form of neo-colonialism through transnational and multinational corporations", the statement further added.

This is the full text of the statement;



## WEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANISATION (WAPO)

George Bush HWY, North Dzorwulu  
P.O. Box NT 272, Accra Newtown  
Accra-Ghana, West Africa  
GPS: GA-156-3137  
+233 (0) 302 526 883  
(+233) 502958146  
info@wapo.com

16<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

PRESS RELEASE- SG 001

### THE IMPERIALIST AGGRESSIVENESS AND THE BIRTH OF THE WEST AFRICA PEOPLES ORGANISATION (WAPO)

As you would be aware, West Africa is endowed with abundant extractive wealth in the form of water, forest, energy, minerals and bio-resources. It has an enormous arable lands and a youthful, energetic and creative population. But, up to 90% of this wealth is owned and controlled by capitalist foreign interests from France, United Kingdom, United States, Canada and Japan. Only 2.6% of our arable lands are under direct cultivation while our various neocolonial states continue to turn out 75% of its future human labour resources as brawn or non-mental workers. Over 50 years of political independence have left West Africa with no industrialized State. Traditional industry is still crude or rudimentary and characterized by low productivity and output. As we become more dependent, peripheral, neocolonial states run on behalf of imperialism by our political elites and the comprador bourgeoisie, the peoples of West Africa continue to face regional insecurity, insufficiency of healthcare, unemployment, inequality, abuses, exploitation and corruption.

These devastating conditions in which the peoples of West Africa find themselves are the impact and vestiges of colonialism, neo-colonialism and imperialism. Today, these imperialists and their local elites continue to brutally exploit the region in the form of neo-colonialism through transnational and multinational corporations. The West African Sahel has become one of the unstable region of Africa with recurring armed conflicts, low intensity civil wars, piracy, political and communal violence. Similarly, the presence of large reserves of crude oil and minerals such as uranium are leading to intense geopolitical rivalry and competition. Slowly the imperialists are perniciously surrounding us through the location of military bases and concentration of their troops. At the last count, there are over 20 of such military bases.

Considering this situation, 100 delegates and observers met in the historic town of Winneba in the Central Region of Ghana at a Conference themed "West Africa People for a New World" between 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2022. Participants were drawn from organized labour, farmers, women's movements, youth and cultural organizations, Pan-Africanist formations, political parties and the broad anti-imperialist and progressive movements across West Africa. Our number included observers from Africa's eastern, southern and northern regions and from Asia and Latin America. Over three days we engaged in intense historical discussion of the situation of West Africa today. We considered our independent history prior to the arrival of European capitalism on our shores. We considered the main frameworks of exploitation of the region - slavery, colonialism, and neo-colonialism - that an increasingly problems this has generated for our society.

At the end of three days of intense deliberations, the conference resolved to establish a region-wide organization to be known as West Africa Peoples Organization (or Organisation des Peuples d'Afrique de l'Ouest in French or Organizaçao do Povo da Africa Ocidental in Portuguese). The West Africa Peoples Organisation (WAPO) is foremost an anti-imperialist network that promotes regional unity across West Africa. It seeks to build a new West Africa with the people and for the people; where the well-being and equality of its citizens are assured within a peaceful development framework based on democratic planning. The ultimate aim of WAPO is to mobilize the working peoples of West Africa to end poverty, inequality, corruption, discrimination, backwardness and violence inflicted on the region by five centuries of colonialist and imperialist domination. Other objectives include uniting our struggles across borders, providing unalloyed solidarity to the working class and confronting imperialists and colonial forces as one.

To achieve this WAPO will promote anti-imperialism and Pan-Africanism across West Africa. It will work alongside other organisations in a multi-faceted African and global struggle against imperialism. Finally, it will also strive to end wasteful competition and profit accumulation by foreign and local capitalist elites.

WAPO elected a seven-member Coordinating Council to lead its efforts over the next four years. The councilors comprise:

- |                            |   |  |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| a) President               | - | Philippe T. NOUDJENOUME of PCB, Benin  |
| b) First Deputy President  | - | Martin EGBANUBI of the Nigerian Union of Allied Health Professional (NUAHP-TUC), Nigeria |
| c) Second Deputy President | - | Khady NDIAYE of FRAPP-Ferment, Senegal   |
| d) Secretary General       | - | Kafui KAN-SENAYA of SMG, Ghana   |
| e) Treasurer               | - | Achy EKISSI of PCRCL, Côte d'Ivoire  |
| f) Member                  | - | Imanina IMOJA of PAIGC, Guinea Bissau  |
| g) Member                  | - | Aboubacar ALASSANE of ORDN, Niger  |

## PPP Seeks Alliance To Oust NPP In Election 2024

The highest decision-making body of the Progress People's Party (PPP) has given its approval for the party to form alliances to wrestle power from the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP) in the 2024 general elections.

The National Chairman of the PPP, Nana Ofori Owusu announced the party's decision for the



National Chairman of the PPP, Nana Ofori Owusu

2024 elections while speaking as a panellist on Accra FM on Wednesday, December 14, 2022.

According to him, the party is open to holding talks with any

political party per the directives of the highest decision-making body of the party.

He said the party is open to alliances to oust the NPP in the 2024 general elections.

"We hope to form one strong alliance for the good of the country in the wake of the gross mismanagement and nepotistic tendencies exhibited by the NPP in government," he charged.

  
KAFUI KAN-SENAYA  
SECRETARY GENERAL  
050 295 8146



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

## Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

### Rail Workers Across The UK Begin Massive Strike Action Protesting Substandard Pay Offer

Rail workers across the UK, under the leadership of the National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers (RMT), have begun striking again in protest against the insufficient pay offer proposed by rail authorities. The workers went on strike on December 13 and 14 and will continue action on December 16 and 17. Around 40,000 members of the RMT have joined the strike. Following a union vote in which 63.6% of its membership voted to reject Network Rail's pay offer of a 5% retrospective rise for 2022 and a 4% pay rise in 2023. Workers at 14 train-operating companies are striking in the UK. More actions have been announced for the Christmas week as well. Workers will again step up action in the first

week of January 2023. Following the actions on December 13 and 14, RMT General Secretary Mick Lynch said that "this [was] a huge rejection of Network Rail's substandard offer" and showed that members were "determined to take further strike action in pursuit of a negotiated settlement." He said that union members "along with the entire trade union movement [would] continue their campaign for a square deal for workers, decent pay increases, and good working conditions." Union leadership has accused the Tory government and rail authorities of "refusing to lift a finger to prevent these strikes" and suggested that at the same time, the

government wants "to make effective strike action illegal in Britain." The government passed a controversial piece of legislation, the Conduct of Employment Agencies and Employment Businesses (Amendment) Regulations 2022, in July this year. Workers had termed the legislation "the Scab's Charter" as it calls for workers who take industrial action to be penalized and allows for the hiring of temporary agency workers to replace strikers. Unions including the RMT have been at the forefront of the struggle against the ongoing cost of living crisis in the country. Costs of essentials such as fuel, energy, and food have been



Rail workers picket outside the Preston Station. (Photo: via RMT) The National Union of Rail, Maritime, and Transport Workers (RMT) has been at the forefront of the protests against the austerity-driven policies of the Tory government in the UK and the fight against the ongoing cost of living crisis

going up as inflation soars. Major mainstream media outlets in the country have waged a vicious campaign against the RMT and its leadership as well as against other unions in an effort to malign workers' strikes and union activities. RMT's Mick Lynch has raised

sharp criticism of such media houses, including the BBC, which he said has demonizes workers but never criticizes the super rich, who are actually profiting from the crisis. He accused the BBC of "not showing any admiration for the fight that working people" were engaged in.

### Palestinians Strike In West Bank Following Death Of Freedom Fighter Nasser Abu Hmeid In Israeli Prison



Nasser Abu Hmeid. (Photo: Wafa). Hmeid was diagnosed with cancer in August 2021. Appeals for his release from prison so that he may access better treatment were denied by the Israeli courts and prison authorities

Palestinian resistance movement Fatah has called for a day-long strike and protests across the occupied West Bank on Tuesday, December 20, following the death of freedom

fighter Nasser Abu Hmeid in an Israeli hospital early that morning, [Wafanews agency reported](#). Hmeid (50) was diagnosed with severe lung cancer in August last year. Palestinians prisoners' groups have accused Israel of deliberate medical negligence by delaying medical examinations and failing to provide him adequate treatment. The Israeli government also refused to release him on medical grounds so that he may access better treatment. After Hmeid fell into a coma at

the Ramle prison clinic, he was transferred to an Israeli hospital on Monday, where he was declared dead on Tuesday morning. Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh [issued a statement](#) mourning Hmeid's death. Asking for immediate international intervention, Shtayyeh claimed that "Abu Hmeid died as a result of the policy of deliberate medical negligence that Israeli occupation prisons administration uses against sick prisoners." Hmeid was arrested from the Al-Amri refugee camp in Ramallah

in the occupied West Bank during the second Palestinian Intifada in 2002. He was sentenced to seven life terms and 50 years in prison for participating in Palestinian resistance against the Israeli occupation. Hmeid's family has also been a victim of Israeli oppression. His elder brother was shot dead by Israeli forces in 1994 and four of his brothers are inside Israeli prisons. His family's house has also been demolished by Israeli forces several times. The Fatah movement called for large-scale demonstrations as part of a "day of rage" across the occupied territories and at Israeli checkpoints. There have

been reports of thousands of Palestinian prisoners also observing a day of mourning from inside Israeli prisons. A total of 233 Palestinian prisoners have died in Israeli prisons since 1967, at least [74 of them from medical negligence](#), as per the *Quds News Network*. According to the Palestinian Prisoners' Society (PPS), there are over 600 Palestinians inside Israeli jails suffering from serious illnesses, around 24 of whom have been diagnosed with cancer of various kinds. Israeli courts and prison authorities continue to neglect their health and keep them in harsh prison conditions, risking their

# Alan Kyerematen Calls For Intensive Investment In Africa's Agribusiness Sector

from front page

He made the pronouncement during the just-ended US-Africa Leaders' Summit held in Washington DC. The U.S.-Africa Leaders' Summit was anchored on the shared values of fostering new economic engagement; reinforcing the U.S.-Africa commitment to democracy and human rights; mitigating the impact of COVID-19 and future pandemics.

It also focused on working collaboratively to strengthen regional and global health; promoting food security; advancing peace and security; responding to the climate crisis; and amplifying diaspora ties. African Trade Ministers used the opportunity to stage a round table discussion with US Members of Congress and other high-ranking officials led by Ambassador Katherine Tai, the US Trade Representative. They also used the platform to

discuss continental matters with emphasis on the industrialization agenda as exposed by recent external shocks that threaten to ground most economies in Africa. Speaking on behalf of the US Government, Ambassador Tai highlighted the importance of the U.S. – Africa economic relationship in addressing current financial challenges and building a more resilient, sustainable, and inclusive future. Ambassador Tai reiterated the need for the two sides to work together to fulfill AGOA's promise boosting the productive capacity of the continent and to pursue equitable growth for all segments of both societies. Central among the many areas discussed was the extension of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which

is set to expire in September 2025.

Alan Kyerematen, in his speech at the roundtable, called for the need for enhanced US investment in selected strategic sectors such as Agriculture and Agribusiness, oil and gas, blue ocean economy and investment in light manufacturing industries, support for the development of infrastructure including roads, rail, port infrastructure and renewable energy.

The longest-serving Trade and Industry Minister in Ghana, urged African leaders and the United States to identify key areas whose transformation will be felt by the average African amidst the global economic meltdown. Alan Kyerematen also joined President [Nana Akufo-Addo](#) to attend a series of high-profile meetings and events including the meetings with the Managing



Alan Kyerematen, Minister for Trade and Industry and President Akufo-Addo

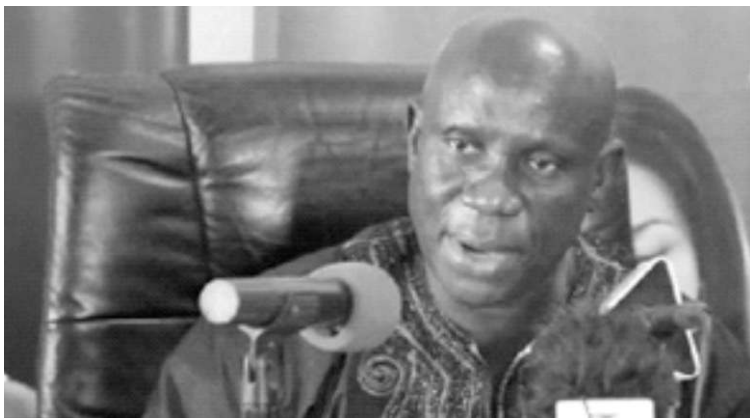
Director of the [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#) and the President of the World Bank Group.

He represented the President of the Republic at the National Black Chamber of Commerce Business Forum as well as the US

Chamber of Commerce and Corporate Council on Africa's Presidential Dialogue all in Washington DC.

Meanwhile, the Ghana delegation has since returned home.

## National Cathedral Budget Is Even More Than Allocation To Agric Ministry - Obiri Boahen Jabs Govt



Former Deputy General Secretary of the New Patriotic Party, Nana Obiri Boahen

Lawyer and former Deputy General Secretary of the ruling [New Patriotic Party \(NPP\)](#), [Nana Obiri Boahen](#) has said it is ridiculous and shameful how the government is keen on spending a whopping GH¢80 million to build a house for God when the 'worshippers are hungry'. "Who is complaining?" he questioned on NEAT FM's morning show, 'Ghana

Montie' last Wednesday. The outspoken Lawyer wonders why top pastors who double as board members for the National Cathedral are not speaking against the reprehensible move by the Nana Addo-led administration. [Nana Obiri Boahene](#) also questioned the National Cathedral board for their lavish trips to solicit for funds for the cathedral. "I read somewhere in an

article that they fly in first class/business class to beg for money for the construction of the cathedral. They won't sit in economy . . . who flies in style to beg and build God's House?" he asked. "The GH¢80 million allocated for the construction of the National Cathedral is even more than the money allocated to the Agric ministry," he bemoaned, adding that do you have to be a member of the NPP, NDC or CPP before questioning it? "The truth of the matter is that African intellectuals are not prepared to accept the truth, sincerity and honesty," he told [McJerry Osei-Agyemang](#). **Source:** [peacefmonline.com](#)

## My Running Mate Will Be From Volta Region – Kojo Bonsu



An aspiring flagbearer of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), [Kojo Bonsu](#) has announced that his running mate would be from the Volta Region if he is elected to the position.

Mr Kojo Bonsu said this when he paid a courtesy call on the Paramount Chief of Aflao Traditional Area, HRM Torgbuiga Adzonugaga Amenya Fiti V in his Palace at Aflao to announce his intention to contest for the flagbearership of the NDC.

Mr Bonsu noted that his reason for wanting to choose a running mate from the Volta Region is because the people of the region are great people and naturally welcoming and always supportive to any good cause. He noted that there will not be any party called NDC without the region.

"My Vice President will be from the Volta Region because Volta has been the backbone of our great party NDC and without

the Volta Region there is no NDC" Mr Kojo Bonsu said. Mr Bonsu noted that during elections in Ghana, when all results are brought for collation, they rely on that from the Volta Region to help them win massively because of the love of the region for the NDC.

The flagbearer aspirant noted that he will make sure that issues bothering the region are solved when he is given the chance to lead the NDC in 2024.

He urged delegates to massively vote for change and for a better NDC and Ghana. The Paramount Chief of Aflao Traditional Area, HRM Torgbuiga Adzonugaga Amenya Fiti V, who welcomed Mr Kojo Bonsu urged him to work hard and put the interest of the nation and people at heart instead of concentrating only on the party.

Torgbuiga Adzonugaga Amenya Fiti V said it is necessary to have leaders who are unifiers for a better future of the country.

# Morocco: International Organizations Call For Its Expulsion From The African Union



Juba (South Sudan) — International organizations and associations have called for the expulsion of Morocco from the African Union, due to its occupation of parts of the Sahrawi Republic, the founding member of the African Union, during a conference called "From Conflict to Beloved Communities", which held as series of international gatherings on Peace, Justice, and Nonviolence in Juba, South Sudan, from November 3 to 21 2022.

The conference concluded with a statement called "JUBA DECLARATION ON WESTERN SAHARA/SAHRAWI REPUBLIC", in

which the international organizations and associations called for the expulsion of Morocco from the African Union, due to its occupation of parts of the Sahrawi Republic. **This is the full text of the Juba Declaration:**

"JUBA DECLARATION ON WESTERN SAHARA/SAHRAWI REPUBLIC

Conference: From Conflict to Beloved Communities:

A Series of International Gatherings on Peace, Justice, and Nonviolence

Juba, South Sudan

3-21 November 2022

We, activists, academics, and all

participants in ONAD, IFOR AND IFPRA including numerous organizations present at the abovementioned conference, gathered in Juba, South Sudan, on 3-21 November 2022, after having examined the situation in Western Sahara and the Sahrawi Republic (SADR) and Africa,

- Strongly urge African governments to immediately expel Morocco from the African Union because of its continued breach of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, particularly articles 3 and 4, and its violation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

- Demand Morocco to immediately end its criminal military occupation of parts of the Sahrawi Republic (SADR) in flagrant violation of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the Charter of the United Nations, the UN General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 2625 (XXV) and all relevant UN resolutions related to the inalienable right of the people of Western Sahara to self-determination and independence.

- Strongly urge the African Union to mobilise all its relevant policy-making bodies to play a proactive role in bringing about the

decolonisation of Western Sahara, the last colony in Africa.

- Strongly urge the United Nations to expedite the holding of the long-awaited referendum on self-determination for the people of Western Sahara and to fully assume its responsibility regarding the Territory and its people.

- Express strong solidarity with the people of the Sahrawi Republic (SADR) and with their legitimate struggle for self-determination and freedom and call upon all African governments and peoples to provide material and moral support to the Sahrawi people.

- Condemn in the strongest possible terms the systematic, gross violations of human rights perpetrated by Morocco in the Occupied Western Sahara as well as Morocco's plunder of the Sahrawi natural resources, and demand Morocco to immediately end its unlawful actions in the Territory.

- Strongly urge all African governments and public and private sectors to impose economic and trade sanctions on Morocco and to subject the occupying power to economic, academic, and cultural boycott.

- Call upon all African

governments and public and private sectors to scrupulously observe the rules of international law applicable to Western Sahara and to refrain from carrying out any economic, political, diplomatic, sport and cultural actions or otherwise in the Occupied Western Sahara".

**Signed by:**

Matt Meyer, Secretary General, International Peace Research Association  
Zoughbi alZoughbi, President, International Fellowship of Reconciliation  
IMoses Monday John, Convener, Pan-African Nonviolence and Peace-building Network;  
Executive Director, South Sudan Organization for Nonviolence and Development

Jihad Abdulmumit, Coordinating Committee, Spirit of Mandela Coalition

Rosa Moiwend and Luis Rosa, Occupied People's Forum  
Magdalene Moonsamy, Chief Jurist, International Tribunal on Human Rights Abuses against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples

George Mutalemwa, Executive Secretary, Association of Catholic Universities and Higher Institutes of Africa and Madagascar  
Sister Teresa Wamuyu Wachira, co-President, Pax Christi International  
Charles Wasike, President, African Peace Research and Education Association

**Source -- Sahara Press Service (El Aaiun)**

# Pan-African TV's Harriet Nartey Graduates With Masters Degree In International Relations And Diplomacy



Harriet Nartey

Harriet Nartey of Pan-African TV has graduated with a Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from GIMPA.

Many learn from the classroom before applying what they have studied in the world of work but Harriet's story is the reverse. Life outside the classroom and

her interviews with the movers and shakers in the diplomatic and international relations space taught her valuable lessons in Regionalism, African Integration, the Foreign Policy of Ghana.

"I have always been intrigued by the work of diplomats. How they work around the clock to ensure cordial relations among nations, promote peace and security, support important initiatives like the Sustainable Development Goals, how they give their unflinching support to all of these yet knowing they are just birds of passage in their host countries is amazing". She said as she grinned from ear to ear with a deep stare into the skies as though her future was being exclusively premiered to her on a projector screen on the GIMPA campus where her graduation was taking place.

"People say nobody knows tomorrow, but I think we are all sculptors with the ability to mold what we want our future to look like. I just finished moulding mine by getting a Master's Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy. It's the starting point and there is more to come"

"Hello Good evening, welcome to the only show that brings you all the insights in the world of diplomacy and international relations. My name is Harriet Nartey". That is what you are likely to hear every Saturday at 4 pm when you tune your TV to Pan-African Television for the Diplomatic Affairs Show.

The one-hour program has become a key cog in the diplomacy wheel, providing a platform for the international community to exchange ideas, and also project what their countries are doing in the comity of nations. On this show, she has interviewed notable personalities like the United Nations Resident Coordinator to Ghana, H.E Charles Abani, the European Union Ambassador to Ghana, Irchad Razaaly, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Ghana, Benin and Togo, Philipp Stalder, and more.

Harriet Nartey crowned 2022 with

one of the episodes of her show, Diplomatic Affairs filmed at the seat of the European Union in Brussels, Belgium. In May 2022, she was at the Young African Women Congress held in Naroibi, Kenya where she had interactions with some of Kenya's political bigwigs.

All looks smooth sailing for the bubbly, and vivacious presenter now but she had to weather the storm to attain her goal. Early childbirth nearly derailed her pursuit of academic laurels but she kept her eyes on the prize. Two prizes now at the end of the race- a Master's Degree and a lovely son who will complete Senior High School next year. She said "many women sometimes get bogged down by marriage, childbirth, and other hurdles that come along the way but I am here to tell them they can make it. I gave birth to my bundle of

joy in my early twenties, around the same period I was preparing to go to the university. So there was a long wait on the educational ladder before I enrolled at the African University College of Communications in 2018 where I had my first degree and now GIMPA for my second degree. Indeed delay is not denial, she concluded.

As part of her plans for 2023, Harriet Nartey will be visiting some selected Senior High Schools in Accra to inspire them with her story. People say when life throws lemons at you, make lemonades out of them. Harriet Nartey made a cocktail out of what life threw at her and now she is sipping with glee the fruit of her labour.

**Source -- Pan Africa TV**

# PRESS RELEASE FOR: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS ON SELECTED EXTERNAL DEBTS OF THE GOVERNMENT

**P**RESS RELEASE FOR:  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS ON SELECTED EXTERNAL DEBTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA

**Accra, Monday, 19th December 2022...**

Ghana is today faced with major economic and financial crisis, and its attendant social challenges. In 2020 and 2021, the covid-19 pandemic negatively impacted our fiscal and economic situation. Global risk aversion triggered large capital outflows, a loss of external market access and rising domestic borrowing costs. 2. This year, 2022, the global economic shock induced by the Russian invasion of Ukraine has further adversely affected our economy just when it was beginning to recover from the pandemic. The combination of adverse external shocks has exposed Ghana to a surge in inflation, a large exchange rate depreciation and

stress on the financing of the budget. These factors taken together have put the sustainability of our debt at risk. 3. To address these mounting challenges, we launched on Monday 5th December an invitation to exchange our domestic debt. The details of this domestic debt exchange are set forth in an Exchange Memorandum, available on <https://mofep.gov.gh/news-and-events/debt-operations>. This domestic debt operation is part of a more comprehensive agenda to restore public debt sustainability. Given the magnitude of the economic and social crisis that Ghana is confronted with, this domestic debt operation will not be enough to close the large financing gaps that Ghana faces over the coming years. The Government's Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) has demonstrated that our public debt,

both external and domestic, is unsustainable. 4. We, therefore, formally requested IMF assistance in July 2022. A Staff-Level Agreement (SLA) has subsequently been achieved and announced on 13th December on a financing program aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability and debt sustainability, and preserving financial stability while protecting the most vulnerable. This SLA milestone was achieved in record time. It is with this same spirit that we, therefore, expect creditors to also respond in an expedited manner, to ensure that the IMF-supported programme is adopted by the IMF Board as soon as possible in early 2023. 5. In the interim, additional emergency measures are necessary to prevent a further deterioration in the economic, financial, and social situation in Ghana. As it stands, our financial resources, including the Bank of Ghana's international reserves, are limited and need to be preserved at this critical

conjunction. 6. That is why we are announcing today a suspension of all debt service payments under certain categories of our external debt, pending an orderly restructuring of the affected obligations. 7. This suspension will include the payments on: our Eurobonds; our commercial term loans; and on most of our bilateral debt. This suspension will not include the payments of our multilateral debt, new debts (whether multilateral or otherwise) contracted after 19th December 2022 or debts related to certain short term trade facilities. We are also evaluating certain specific debts related to projects with the highest socio-economic impact for Ghana which may have to be excluded. This suspension is an interim emergency measure pending future agreements with all relevant creditors. 8. The Government stands ready to engage in discussions with all of its external creditors to

make Ghana's debt sustainable through a fair, transparent and comprehensive debt restructuring exercise in line with international best practices. The Ministry of Finance will hold an investor presentation at a date to be announced at a later stage. 9. For any investor inquiry, please contact [investors.ghana@lazard.com](mailto:investors.ghana@lazard.com) and [investorsghana@mofep.gov.gh](mailto:investorsghana@mofep.gov.gh). \*\*\*\*\*

The Ministry of Finance  
Finance Drive, Accra.  
P. O. Box M40, Accra – Ghana  
GA-144-2024  
[info@mofep.gov.gh](mailto:info@mofep.gov.gh)  
Tel: +233 302-747-197  
Financial Advisor to the Republic of Ghana:  
Lazard Frères  
175 Boulevard Haussmann  
75008, Paris  
ISSUED BY THE PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

## Conflict And Peace In Western Sahara The Role Of The UN's Peacekeeping Mission (MINURSO)

This book offers the first comprehensive analysis of MINURSO (the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara), focused on its activities, composition, purpose, and operational future in Western Sahara, the world's last colony. The book's focus is broad, examining MINURSO from key historical, legal, military and political angles whilst assessing the future of UN peacekeeping missions in the Western Sahara. Supported by a diverse, international mix of perspectives and professions—including academics, lawyers, soldiers, and humanitarian aid workers—an in-depth view of MINURSO is provided, rooted in practical Western Saharan field experience. The authors reveal the complexities of the region and of the mission locally, but also analyze MINURSO through a global lens, focusing on relations with the United States, China, Russia, France, and African states. This approach emphasizes the importance of the region as a site of international struggle while remaining conscious of local contexts. A landmark contribution to peacekeeping studies, the book is vital reading for practitioners and academics focused on the Western Saharan conflict and the MENA region, but will also be of interest to those engaged in international relations, international law, and security studies. Table of Contents Introduction: Peacekeeping

Operations in Situations of Conflict: The Case of MINURSO  
An Overview of MINURSO – History, Legal framework, Missions, Structure: A Balance  
Relevant Events in the MINURSO History  
The End of the Western Sahara Peace Process and the Collapse of the UN Ceasefire  
The Legal Aspects of the Functioning of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara  
Human Rights - MINURSO Between a Rock and a Hard Place  
Participation of Women in the MINURSO: Scope, Evolution and Factors for the Contribution to the Mission  
MINURSO and the Sahrawi Archaeological Heritage  
Building Sandcastles in the Desert? MINURSO Military Component: Tasks, Duties, and their Fulfilment  
The MINURSO Police Contingent  
Integrated Logistic Support and Financial Issues of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)  
Military and Police Experiences from Western Sahara: The Case of Hungary  
The United States and MINURSO: 31 Years  
China and the MINURSO – Eyes on Peak Phosphorus?  
Russia and MINURSO: This is Not Our Conflict  
France and MINURSO  
The Approach of the African States towards MINURSO

MINURSO: A Mission for Maintaining the Status Quo?  
*Yahia Zoubir and Souadou Lagdaf*  
Biography  
**János Besenyo** is a Professor at the Doctoral School on Safety and Security Sciences and Director of the Africa Research Institute at Oibuda University, Hungary. Between 1987 and 2018, he served as a professional soldier and served in several peace operations in Africa and Afghanistan. He received a PhD in military science from Zrínyi Miklós National Defense University (Hungary) and a Habilitation doctorate at Eötvös Loránd University (Hungary). In 2014, he established the Scientific Research Centre of the Hungarian Defence Forces General Staff, and he was its first leader from 2014 to 2018. His most recent publication is *Darfur Peacekeepers: The African Union Peacekeeping Mission in Darfur (AMIS) from the Perspective of a Hungarian Military Advisor*.  
**Joseph Huddleston** is an Assistant Professor in the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University. He studies diplomacy by self-determination and secessionist groups, international responses to intrastate conflict, and war economies in protracted social conflicts.  
**Yahia H. Zoubir** is a Professor of International Studies and Director of Research in Geopolitics at KEDGE Business School, France. He has published works on the Western Sahara conflict for nearly 35 years, including articles in the *Middle East Journal*, *Middle East Policy*, *Journal of Modern African Studies*, and *California*

*Western International Law Journal*.  
Reviews  
'This gap-filling book provides comprehensive insight into the MINURSO peacekeeping operation. The authors include well-known figures in the scientific community, international lawyers, archaeologists, human rights activists, and even a peacekeeper who served in the mission. It is useful to all those involved in studying Western Sahara and the Maghreb region.'  
**Major General György Száraz**, *Force Commander of the MINURSO from 2002 to 2005*  
'This is an important and timely study, not just for those interested in Western Sahara, but for anyone concerned about the future of UN peacekeeping operations and the challenging role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security and in upholding international law.'  
**Stephen Zunes**, *Professor of Politics, University of San Francisco, USA*  
'*Conflict and Peace in Western Sahara* is a deeply researched, comprehensive account of the half-century struggle for the future of Western Sahara, and of the United Nations' nearly thirty-year peacekeeping mission there. Equally well-grounded in the surrounding region's social and political history and in global politics, it is a sobering assessment of how distant interests can warp the search for local peace and self-determination.'

**William J. Durch**, *Distinguished Fellow at the Stimson Center, Washington, DC, USA*  
'This comprehensive edited volume offers thorough and diverse analysis that seeks to make sense of how we've

arrived at the present political impasse in Western Sahara. The volume is a rarity in scholarship on the territory, offering depth and breadth from researchers and past-MINURSO peacekeepers around the world. It is both instructive and insightful in its attention to issues of human rights in the context of the MINURSO mandate, offering an analysis of the Mission's history, the lessons learned, and what we may expect in the future.'  
**Randi Irwin**, *Lecturer in the School of Humanities, University of Newcastle, Australia*  
'This pioneering and comprehensive work helps illuminate the dilemma of successive Personal Envoys of the UN Secretary-General for Western Sahara as they try to facilitate negotiations for an agreement on the future of this territory that honors the principle of self-determination when one of the parties – Morocco – has abandoned its commitment to the referendum for which MINURSO was created and has instead sought to impose a regime of autonomy under Moroccan sovereignty and when, at the same time, the members of the Security Council remain divided on how to break the resulting stalemate.'  
**Christopher Ross**, *Personal Envoy of the UN Secretary-General from 2009 to 2017*

# Lawfare In Argentina: Why VP Cristina Fernández De Kirchner Was Sentenced To Six Years In Prison

By Tanya Wadhwa

On Tuesday, December 6, Argentina's Federal Oral Court 2 sentenced Vice President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner to six years in prison and disqualified her for life from holding public office on corruption and fraud charges. A three-judge panel found Fernández de Kirchner—who was Argentina's president for two terms between 2007 and 2015—guilty of “fraudulent administration” and diverting nearly 1 billion USD in government funds through public works contracts during her presidency, but rejected another charge of running a criminal organization.

The verdict corresponds to the trial known as the Road Management Case, in which VP Kirchner was accused of having formed an “illicit association” with 13 others to irregularly award 51 overpriced public works contacts in the province of Santa Cruz between 2003-2015 to a company belonging to businessman Lázaro Báez and share that surplus. Báez was a friend and business associate of Fernández's late husband and former president, Néstor Kirchner (2003-2007). Eight of Kirchner's co-accused, including Báez, were also found guilty and sentenced to between six, three and a half years in prison. Three were released and another had their case dismissed.

## “A parallel state and judicial mafia”

The former president had rejected and denied these accusations during three years of hearings. In a [live stream](#) after the verdict was announced, Kirchner, 69, reiterated that the charges and proceedings against her were politically motivated. She denounced that the sentence against her originates from a “lawfare”, a common form of “political warfare” in the region that involves politicians, the judiciary and the media working together with a view to smearing leftist leaders as corrupt. She also denounced the existence of “a parallel state and judicial mafia” that prosecuted and sentenced her for crimes she did not commit.

“I absolutely proved that according to the Constitution, I did not manage the laws or the budget that was approved by legislators. They say that I committed a crime through the sanction of laws, but I did not legislate or sanction the laws. And the President of the Republic does not administer and execute the budget either,” said VP Kirchner in her defense. She added that the ruling used a Necessity and Urgency Decree (DNU) to prove the offense that supposedly favored the businessman Báez, which was previously endorsed by Congress.

Last week, on November 29, the former head of state condemned that she was not facing a trial but was before a “true firing squad” whose objective is to stigmatize Peronism. She also warned that a guilty sentence against her had been written from the beginning.

“This is not a court, but a firing squad,” she said and added that “as I said on December 2, 2019, at the beginning of this trial, the sentence is already written. What I didn't know is that it was so badly written and that the accusations were a series of lies and even facts that didn't exist.” In September, following [the assassination attempt against her](#), she said that “they want me dead or imprisoned,” while denouncing hate speech and aversion expressed to her in the media by the opposition forces.

## What happens now?

It is unlikely that Kirchner will serve prison time as she has immunity due to her government roles as both vice president and head of the Senate. Additionally, she has the right to appeal the verdict. The ruling can first be appealed to the Chamber of Cassation, and in the second and last instance, the decision will end up in the hands of the Supreme Court of Justice. Further proceedings could drag on for at least one year. Under Argentine law, her right to serve

and run for public office remains intact until all avenues of appeal have been exhausted.

If the processes are expedited, it is possible that the vice president could have a final conviction between the middle or end of next year. If the conviction against her is held in both courts given the lawfare, the hurry would make more sense because Kirchner has not yet ruled out the possibility of running for the presidency in the 2023 elections.

## The chat scandal

Additionally, it is worth noting that the verdict came in the midst of a scandal over a controversial and secret meeting between judges, media businessmen and public officials from opposition conservative parties. On Sunday, December 5, chats between judges, businessmen, government officials and ex-intelligence agents to cover a trip in a private charter to Lago Escondido were leaked. The event took place in October of this year where judges, such as Julián Ercolini who was a part of the Road Management Case; businessmen, including legal advisor of the media group Clarín, Jorge Rendo; and government officials, such as the Security Minister of the capital Buenos Aires, Marcelo D'Alessandro, participated and met with former right-wing President Mauricio Macri in the mansion of the English billionaire, Joe Lewis.

On Monday, December 5, Argentina's president, Alberto Fernández, in a nationally televised speech, announced that he would open an investigation into the meeting to look into the purpose of the trip, the participants and its financing. According to reports from local media, many of those involved are alleged to have conspired in launching nefarious, politically motivated, judicial, political and media campaigns against the ruling government of left-wing Frente de Todos coalition to destabilize it and create a political crisis in the country.



*Cristina Fernández de Kirchner surrounded by supporters on the streets of Buenos Aires. Photo: Itai Hagman/Twitter. The lawfare against Argentina's most prominent and loved Peronist leader and one of the towering figures of Latin America's political left has evoked widespread condemnation in the country as well as across the region*

## Todos con Cristina

The lawfare against Argentina's most prominent and loved Peronist leader and one of the towering figures of Latin America's political left evoked widespread condemnation in the country as well as in the region.

Within a few hours after the sentence was announced, hundreds of people took to the streets of Buenos Aires and demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Federal Courts and the Congress to express their support for VP Kirchner and reject the sentence against her.

Members of social organization, trade union and left-wing political groups remained in the streets for hours. “Everyone is with Cristina,” “Enough of lawfare,” “Enough of Macrista judges and prosecutors,” “Judicial reform now,” read some of the banners and placards at the demonstrations.

## International condemnation and solidarity

The guilty sentence against the Argentine Vice President unleashed a wave of solidarity and rejection messages from leaders across Latin America. Argentine President Alberto Fernández rejected the sentence against his vice president, [saying](#) that “an innocent person has been sentenced, a person whom the media tried to stigmatize and complacent judges prosecuted.” Bolivian President Luis Arce [expressed](#) his country's “solidarity with sister Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, who is

sought to be banned from political life with an unjust sentence.” “We are sure that the truth will prevail over any attack against the dignity of the peoples and democracy in our Great Homeland,” added Arce.

Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel also [rejected](#) the “politically motivated judicial processes” and showed his support and solidarity for Kirchner “against the judicial and media harassment” she had suffered.

Honduran President Xiomara Castro also [expressed](#) “solidarity and support with Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, who now faces the attack of “Lawfare” after surviving a failed assassination attempt against her,” adding that “the truth will prevail as well as the will of the Argentine people that supports you.”

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador also expresses his “broadest solidarity with Argentine Vice President Cristina Fernández,” adding that he has “no doubt that she is the victim of political vendetta and anti-democratic vileness of conservatism.”

Likewise, former Bolivian President [Evo Morales](#), Brazilian President-elect [Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva](#), former Brazilian President [Dilma Rouseff](#), former Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa, among numerous others expressed their condemnation of the Lawfare against Argentine VP CFK.