

Stop Aggression Against Niger! -- Socialist Movement Of Ghana Tells ECOWAS Leaders

The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) has called on the leadership of Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to immediately withdraw its threat of military action to reinstate former President Mohamed Bazoum of

Niger. According to the SMG the current impasse with its underlining threats if not handled well could escalate into sub regional conflict with disastrous consequences for human lives and food security.

Following the coup in Niger last Thursday, ECOWAS issued a statement on Monday calling for the reinstatement of ousted President Mohamed Bazoum with a threat to take military action should its warning not heeded by

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Prof Kwesi Aning

KWESI ANING

He Says Rampant Corruption Breeds Coups

Professor Kwesi Aning, the Director of the Faculty of Academic Affairs and Research at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center (KAIPTC), has said that rife corruption

paves the way for coups to take place. He revealed that coups happen long before the military takes their arsenal to seize power and take over from the ruling government.

Addressing the coup that took place in

Niger last Thursday in an interview with Accra based TV3 on Monday, July 31, 2023, Prof. Aning admonished members of ECOWAS to revise their

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Tain NPP Rallies Support For Alexander Ababio

...As Hundreds Of Supporters Back Him To Submit Forms For Parliamentary Bid



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...Insists It's For Bawumia



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The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

ADDRESS THIS FUNDING GAP!

The Ghana AIDS Commission is not happy about its dwindling budgetary allocation.

Officials of the Ghana AIDS Commission who appeared before the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament a fortnight ago were full of lamentations that they received only GHC3 million instead of the GHC14 million budgetary allocation to them in 2022.

According to the officials the funding gap or challenge greatly affected their work as it had dire consequences on the delivery of its mandate.

Clearly, the funding bottlenecks accounts for the recent rise in cases of HIV/AIDS infections in the country since monies needed to embark on sensitization programmes are not forthcoming as expected.

This development justifies the saying that you cannot eat your cake and have it which means that rise in infection need be blamed on reduced funding.

The rise in the cases of HIV infections in the country is very worrying as measures needed to address the canker appear to be suffering funding challenges and this must be of concern to all.

The Ghana Aids Commission and several world bodies and stakeholders succeeded to a large extent in creating the awareness of condom use and abstinence in time past but the sudden rise in cases of HIV infections simply means that something is not being done or gone wrong.

It is the view of this paper that the government in spite of the economic challenges should provide the commission with the needed funding in a bid to address this menace.

Stop Aggression Against Niger! -- Socialist Movement Of Ghana Tells ECOWAS Leaders

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close of this week.

Just hours after the ECOWAS statement, military governments of neighbouring Burkina Faso and Mali also issued a joint statement backing the people and the new military junta in Niger saying should ECOWAS follow through with its military threat, they would have no option than to back Niger's new military junta.

In view of the precarious nature of the situation which has the tendency to threaten the peace and security of West African sub region and Africa as a whole, the Socialist Movement of Ghana has called on the ECOWAS heads of state to let cool heads prevail and immediately withdraw the threat to use force.

A statement issued by the SMG yesterday signed by Kwesi Pratt Jnr., General Secretary of the organization said, "The ECOWAS threat is a strategic mistake. Predictably, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali have indicated that they will treat any attack on Niger as an attack on their countries and respond accordingly. In other words, ECOWAS' adventurism has already split the sub-Region and could overnight escalate the political crisis in Niger to an existential crisis for the entire sub-Region - destroying millions of lives and hamper production of goods and services with severe ramifications for the entire continent". The statement said, "Military intervention cannot solve Niger's crisis. Bazoum's overthrow is only one minor expression of Niger's crisis. The real crisis is underdevelopment. Despite its fabulous gold, hydrocarbons and uranium resources, Niger is one of the poorest countries on earth. This is because France has plundered the country ruthlessly for over a century using bankrupt local elites to repress dissent and to play ethnic and religious communities off against each other and frustrate popular organisation.

"Niger's neocolonial crisis deepened when NATO destroyed Libya in 2011, encouraging hardened Islamist fighters from Central Asia to infiltrate and destabilise the Sahel-Sahara region and militarizing and "Islamizing" existing communal problems. This created a pretext for renewed Western intervention in the subregion – as saviours. Nigeriens have responded magnificently to the long-term crisis with popular struggles for social justice, development, and dignity.

Organised Labour, the Gender movement, Youth organizations, intellectuals, and the religious establishment have challenged the status quo for many years and been ruthlessly repressed by the Nigerien State

led, most recently, by Bazoum and backed by France."

"A military intervention will not wash away this history or the complex web of social conflict it has created. ECOWAS guns will not assist Nigeriens to clarify and determine how they will organise and pursue national development. Guns will only deepen the underlying crisis of foreign exploitation and underdevelopment that Niger suffers. ECOWAS military action will deepen Nigeriens' suffering and set their economic and social development back even further", the statement warned.

This is the full text of the statement by SMG; August 2, 2023

STOP ECOWAS' AGGRESSION AGAINST NIGER

The Socialist Movement of Ghana calls on ECOWAS Heads of State to withdraw their threat of military action to reinstate former President Mohamed Bazoum of Niger.

War benefits nobody in West Africa

The ECOWAS threat is a strategic mistake. Predictably, Burkina Faso, Guinea and Mali have indicated that they will treat any attack on Niger as an attack on their countries and respond accordingly. In other words, ECOWAS' adventurism has already split the sub-Region and could overnight escalate the political crisis in Niger to an existential crisis for the entire sub-Region - destroying millions of lives and hamper production of goods and services with severe ramifications for the entire continent.

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THE INSIGHT

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KWESI ANING

He Says Rampant Corruption Breeds Coups



Prof Kwesi Aning

from front page

protocols to ensure that the coup is dealt with properly.

He also urged them to work at totally uprooting these negative political actions from the West African Sub-region.

"With ECOWAS in particular, in 1993, member states revised the

treaty and Article 58 of the revised protocol from 1993 enjoins member states to see ECOWAS as a superior national institution, meaning that when we sign on to ECOWAS document, those documents must be domesticated amongst

member states or among the signatory states.

"We also have protocols relating to corruption, to how elections must be held. All this body of literature then comes together to form an ECOWAS regime with principles, values, norms decision processes as to how member states must behave.

"That behaviour, particularly when it comes to constitutional process and coup-making, is very clear. Coup-making starts long before the military takes their guns and decides to seize power. Coup-making begins when corruption becomes so rampant that the delivery of public services is undermined. Coup-making is about telling stories and lies to the populace to win

power, coup making is about constitutional changes that allow governments to stay in power over and beyond the stipulated period. So what we see in West Africa is much more widespread, more nuanced development," 3news quoted him as saying.

Prof. Aning's remarks come on the back of Niger's coup leaders being warned by ECOWAS to return to the normal government system or face possible military intervention after the coup leaders officially announced it on national television.

The soldiers dissolved the country's constitution, suspended all institutions, and closed its borders to prevent intrusion.

President of Niger, Mohamed Bazoum had been held by the troops from the presidential guard early Wednesday, July 26, 2023, with US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken promising his "unwavering support."

Mali and Burkina Faso have recently suffered coups that were triggered by Jihadist unrest in recent years. Military leaders of both countries are not on good terms with France, the former colonial power which ruled them for decades due largely to France's failure to help in fighting off Jihadist attacks. Even though France claimed to have brought in troops, the problem has worsened compelling the military to take over and partner Russia's Wagner forces to deal with the threat.

Alan's Camp Warns Against Attempts To Rig NPP Presidential Primary

Collins Owusu Amankwaah, a member of Alan Kyerematen's campaign team, has stated that any attempts to manipulate the upcoming NPP presidential primaries will be resisted.

Amankwaah gave the warning when he expressed concern over potential unfair practices and rigging attempts by certain factions within the party.

Speaking in an interview with Oyerepa Radio on July 27, 2023, the former Member of Parliament for Manhyia North Constituency revealed that his camp is fully aware of ongoing efforts to tamper with delegates' albums, particularly in the Ashanti Region.

He asserted that [Alan Kyerematen](#)'s supporters will not sit idle if any constituency is discovered attempting to remove names of delegates from the NPP album.



Collins Owusu Amankwaah, member of Alan Kyerematen's campaign team

He declared, "We'll not permit voting to take place in any constituency that's planning to remove names of some delegates in the NPP album. We'll never sit aloof and watch one person take the law into his hands to cheat us. It will never happen."

He further assured that Alan's camp is highly vigilant and fully prepared to confront any individuals involved in rigging attempts head-on. He warned those considering altering the album to abandon such plans, as they would face severe consequences from the resolute camp of [Alan Kyerematen](#).

Tain NPP Rallies Support For Alexander Ababio

...As Hundreds Of Supporters Back Him To Submit Forms For Parliamentary Bid

By Appiah-Kubi

Loyal supporters of Hon. Nana Alexander Ababio yesterday flocked the New Patriotic Party (NPP) office in Tain in the Bono Region when they accompanied the young parliamentary hopeful to submit his nomination forms for the upcoming elections in a show of support and enthusiasm. They said that Hon. Ababio, a young politician, has long been seen as a light of change and growth in the Tain Constituency. Only yesterday afternoon hundreds of supporters who followed him to the constituency party office to submit nomination paperwork were full of hope and believe that he will unseat the incumbent Member of Parliament. Mr. Sie Sampson (Shamoo), the leader of Hon. Ababio campaign team who had earlier led delegation to pick nomination forms said Hon. Ababio possesses the attributes required to drive genuine change in the Tain constituency.



Nana Alexander Ababio

Mr. Sampson (Shamoo) in an exclusive interview with this reporter, Appiah-Kubi stated that because of the aspiring candidate's strong love and loyalty to the party and the residents in the constituency, they were able to organize and fund the GH¢3,000 to pick the nomination forms for Hon. Ababio which they completed and submitted yesterday. "Ababio is a good person, he doesn't care about your tribe or religious denomination or even party dimensions, and he supports

everyone in need. The love Ababio has been showing us in the Tain constituency is just unimaginable, paying school fees for educators, building infrastructures for schools and health facilities, caring for the vulnerable and creating jobs for the unemployed", they noted. He urged the delegates in the constituency to vote for Hon. Ababio in the party's upcoming parliamentary primaries and also for the general elections. In his speech for the delegates, he said the candidate is very generous and generally displays respect for everyone in the constituency, including supporting the youths to get jobs. He stated that Hon. Ababio is the only individual who can end Hon Ramzy Adama's supremacy, and so the delegates should give him the opportunity to lead the party. In the bid to submit the forms, all the leaders of the four (4) zones in Tain, namely, Nsawkaw, Badu, Seikwa and zone 4 in the NPP all represented rallying support for Hon. Alexander Ababio.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

West-Initiated Jeddah Conference On Ukraine War Faces Uncertain Prospects Without Russian Participation



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (AMLO) (Photo: Xinhua). Mexico refused to join the talks scheduled in Saudi Arabia to gather support for Ukraine's peace plan as Russia had not been invited. President Zelensky's plan involves Russian withdrawal from all Ukrainian territories, including Crimea, payment of war reparations, and trials in a war tribunal

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) [told reporters](#) on Monday, that his country will not participate in the upcoming conference on the war in Ukraine, scheduled to be held later this week in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, as Russia has not been invited. AMLO said that “if there is

acceptance from both Ukraine and Russia to look for solutions to achieve peace, we will participate,” adding that “we don't want the Russia-Ukraine war to continue, it's very irrational” and “the only thing which benefits from it is the war industry.”

According to [reports](#), Saudi

Arabia is set to hold the conference sponsored by Ukraine and its Western allies on August 5 and 6. The conference is aimed at gaining wider support for Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's so-called peace plan presented last year in December during his visit to the US.

Zelensky's plan rules out any talks with Russia and demands its complete withdrawal from all Ukrainian territories including Crimea. It also asks Russia to pay war reparations and face trials in a war tribunal for alleged war crimes before any talks can take place. Around 30 countries are expected to join the meet, including delegates from the US, EU, South Africa, Brazil, Indonesia, Egypt, Chile, and Zambia.

Ukraine has already made it

clear that Russia will not be invited to the meet, [Reuters reported](#).

Meanwhile, Russia has said that it does not oppose the talks in Jeddah but maintained that there can be no peace in Ukraine without its participation. It also completely rejected Zelensky's proposal, calling it [unreal and delusional](#).

Reiterating that Russia was always open for talks, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova [said](#) on Monday that her country hopes that the talks in Jeddah will make the participants realize that “Zelensky's plan has no prospects.”

Zakharova [emphasized](#) that Russia had never said no to peace negotiations with Ukraine, and has received around 30 different proposals for peace from various countries and individuals.

Zakharova reiterated that “several [rounds] of talks took place”

between Ukrainian and Russian delegates before “they [Ukrainians] stopped responding” under Western pressure.

Russia alleges that the West does not want Ukraine to reach a peace agreement with it. During his meeting with African delegates in June, Russian President Vladimir Putin [claimed](#) that both the countries had been on the verge of reaching an agreement during the Istanbul talks held last year before Ukraine suddenly decided to withdraw under Western pressure.

There have been two major attempts to revive the talks between Russia and Ukraine since their breakdown in April 2022. The peace proposals presented by the Chinese in [April](#) and several African countries in June failed to restart the talks.

Deadly Fires A New Normal In The Greek Calendar



(Photo: Eurokinissi via 902.gr). The latest round of wildfires has exposed the Greek government's lack of preparedness in dealing with disasters. Extreme climate events have been occurring frequently in many parts of Europe due to climate change

Massive fires ravaged Greece over the past few days, displacing tens of thousands of people and causing irreparable damage to farms, homes, and

livelihoods. From July 17, wildfires were reported from parts of Attica and the Peloponnese region, and the islands of Corfu, Rhodes, and Evia, among other places. Five people have reportedly died, including two pilots of an aircraft involved in firefighting. Damages worth over 600 million euros (USD 659.40+ million) have been reported so far across Greece. Firefighters and volunteer groups in the country and civil protection agencies from the EU and some Asian and African countries are actively involved in the firefighting and rescue operations.

The ongoing Cerberus heatwave, which has caused a historic rise in temperatures in the Mediterranean and across Europe, is said to be a catalyst for the wildfires. The drastic change in climate due to global warming has led to frequent extreme climate events such as wildfires and severe floods in several European countries. At the same time, hyper-austerity policies followed by successive Greek governments have seriously hampered the systemic ability to respond to such emergency situations. Preemptive strategies and plans to tackle

these recurring events are virtually absent to this date, despite repeated warnings and huge losses incurred due to the fires. While Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis has tried to put the entire [blame](#) for the crisis on climate change and human behavior, Communist Party of Greece (KKE) legislator Nikos Karathanasopoulos [called out](#) the criminal irresponsibility of the government which exacerbated the crisis with no comprehensive plan for fire protection focusing on prevention.

“For the Greek government and the EU, modern forest protection infrastructure is a 'useless cost,' because it does not produce a 'benefit,' i.e. profitability for capital,” Karathanasopoulos said, while addressing the parliament. In its official [statement](#) expressing condolences to the victims of the fire, the KKE said that the fires had exposed the New Democracy (ND) government's claim that it sought to protect lives.

Group Of Gt. Accra NPP Chairmen Denies Support For Afriyie Akoto ...Insists It's For Bawumia



A group of New Patriotic Party (NPP) constituency chairmen in the Greater Accra Region, has mounted a spirited denial of their endorsement of the candidature of Dr. Afriyie Osei Akoto, one of the ten flagbearer hopefuls of the NPP. According to the group that claim is a palpable lie. They made the denial after news emerged that they have declared support for Dr. Afriyie Akoto.

"We were at the meeting because he (Dr. Osei Akoto) had asked to meet with us and that is what we did as a matter of formality. We never made any pledges, let alone endorse his candidature. It is therefore a palpable lie that we endorsed his candidature," said the group. Calling itself "Concerned Greater Accra Regional Chairmen of the NPP" the group said they are disappointed in an Accra based newspaper for

peddling such falsehood. The chairmen some of whom spoke on condition of anonymity insisted that the party's presidential primary is "a family affair" and therefore would not want to antagonize anybody. "However, we want to put on record that none of us endorsed the candidature of Dr. Osei Afriyie Akoto," the group insisted in an exclusive interview granted in Accra. They added that, "If anything at all, most of us are actually supportive of the candidature of Vice President Dr. Alhaji Mahamudu Bawumia." But while the group of Concerned Greater Accra Regional Chairmen wished to remain anonymous with the denial for the sake of peace in the party, there are some radical ones among the Chairmen who descended heavily on the newspaper. "That useless story is coming from gutter journalism," said Nene

Ofoe-Teyechu Agbadiagba IV, the NPP's Constituency Chairman for Tema East. According to him, "Whoever wrote that story ate too much beans and then began hallucinating in the middle of the night." He pointed out that many of the Constituency Chairmen in the capital region were not at the meeting with Dr. Afriyie Akoto. "Besides, it is a well-known fact that virtually all the constituency Chairmen in Greater Accra, including my good self, are pro Bawumia. So how can we all of a sudden be supporting Dr. Afriyie Akoto?" he asked. Nene advised the newspaper to, "learn to lie creatively if it cannot do factual journalism." He pointed out that the upcoming presidential primary is a two-horse race between Vice President Bawumia and former Trade Minister, Alan John Kwadwo Kyeremanten.

"And so, if it were true that the constituency Chairmen in Greater Accra were abandoning Bawumia to support someone else, logically, that would be Alan, not Dr. Afriyie Akoto." Nene cited polls, including many by Global Info Analytics which has emphasized that indeed Dr. Bawumia and Alan are the two leading contenders, with Dr. Bawumia slightly ahead of Alan. The Tema East NPP Chairman urged the general public to, "treat the story with the contempt it deserves." On July 3, 2023, Dr. Afriyie Akoto embarked on a nationwide campaign starting from the Greater Accra region. Even though the man is among the least tipped among the lot, as he lags behind Dr. Bawumia, Alan Kyeremanten and Kennedy Agyapong, The Publisher newspaper recently claimed that Greater Accra Chairmen have endorsed him to become the next flagbearer.

Cecilia Dapaah's Actions Have Brought Shame To Ghanaian Politicians - Okudzeto Ablakwa

The Member of Parliament (MP) for North Tongu, [Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa](#) has condemned the former Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources, [Cecilia Dapaah](#), stating that her actions have not only brought shame to the entire political class but also put the lives of cabinet ministers from Akufo-Addo's regime in jeopardy. The MP was speaking after Professor John Evans Mills' memorial lecture at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) on July 27, 2023. The former minister for sanitation and Water Resources, [Cecilia Dapaah](#) had been in the news all of last week following the theft case that took place in her home. She reported her maids to the police for stealing her \$1million, €300, 000 and millions of Ghana cedis from her room. [Cecilia Dapaah](#) and her saga have been leading most public discussions for the past few days because of her position as a minister of state and the amount

involved in the theft case. According to the North Tongu MP, the saga involving the former minister has had severe consequences for the reputation of Ghanaian politicians. He believes that her behaviour has not only embarrassed all members of the political class but also damaged their credibility in the eyes of the public. He suggested that the revelation of such actions by the embattled former minister raises concerns about the safety and security of cabinet members, as it may lead to public distrust and resentment towards those in power. "It has brought colossal shame unto the political class, and it has embarrassed all of us. And it is time for the political class in Ghana to reflect. "But yes, certainly it has put the lives of cabinet ministers of Akufo-Addo's regime in danger. They should be more worried because the Ghanaian people know that there is no way those of us in opposition will have that kind of money," he said to Kwesi



MP for North Tongu, Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa

Parker-Wilson of Oyerepa TV in an interview.

To him, leadership should be synonymous with service, sacrifice, and setting a positive example for others just like the late Professor John Evans Atta-Mills. "But you see most importantly, leadership should be about service, sacrifice and the example that Prof Mills set.

"And that is why today, every speaker is saying let's return to Prof Mills' character and blueprint, that is what will save our country," he added. [Cecilia Dapaah](#) was arrested by the Office of the Special Prosecutor and granted bail. The OSP has since been investigating the case.

CJ Designates 12 High Courts To Sit As Judiciary Begins Legal Vacation

The Chief Justice (CJ), Her Ladyship Justice Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey Torkornoo, has designated 12 out of the 42 High Courts within the Law Court Complex in Accra to operate during the legal vacation. The Judiciary officially began a two-month legal vacation on August 1, 2023, up until the last day of September 30, 2023. This means that the superior courts, namely the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, and the High Courts, would be on recess.

However, in order not to create a vacuum, the Chief Justice has designated 12 of the High Courts to sit in the court of the vacation, in addition to some of the lower courts. The 12 High Courts sitting over the course of the legal vacation are Commercial Court 2, Commercial Court 10, Criminal Court 1, Criminal Court 3, General Jurisdiction Court 12, General Jurisdiction Court 9, General Jurisdiction Court 6, General Jurisdiction Court 3, Financial Court 2, Land Court 10, Land Court 3, and Probate Court 3.

These are the presiding judges of those courts sitting during the vacation

1. His Lordship Justice Francis



Chief Justice, (CJ), Her Ladyship Justice Gertrude Araba Esaaba Sackey Torkornoo

Obiri (Commercial Court)
2. Her Ladyship Justice Adelaide Abui Keddey (Commercial Court 10),
3. Her Ladyship Justice Ruby Aryeetey (Criminal Court 1),
4. Her Ladyship Justice Mary Maame Ekue Yanzuh (Criminal Court)
5. His Lordship Justice Charles Gyamfi Danquah (General Jurisdiction 12)
6. Her Ladyship Justice Audrey Kocuvie-Tay (General Jurisdiction 9)
7. Her Ladyship Justice Abena Amponsah Buansi (General Jurisdiction 6)
8. Her Ladyship Justice Marian Affoh (General Jurisdiction 3)
9. His Lordship Justice Edward Twum (Financial Court 2)
10. His Lordship Justice Kwame Gyamfi Osei (Land Court 10)
11. Her Ladyship Justice Jennifer Anne Myers Ahmed, (Land Court 3)
12. Her Ladyship Justice Sarah Aryee (Probate Court 3)

Parliament Approves Whistleblower Amendment Bill

Parliament has given its approval to the Whistleblower (Amendment) Bill, 2023.

This is captured in a newspaper report dated July 28, 2023.

The primary objective of this bill, according to the report, is to amend the existing Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720) to enhance the funding sources for the Whistleblower Reward Fund.

The Attorney-General (A-G) and Minister of Justice, [Godfred Dame](#), laid the bill before parliament on March 7, 2023, and it was subsequently referred to the Committee on Constitutional, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs for a thorough evaluation.

The Whistleblower Act, 2006 (Act 720), was enacted to incentivize and establish robust structures to strengthen Ghana's ability to combat corruption and other illicit practices that hinder sustainable development efforts.

One of the key sections of Act 720, Section 20, is what captures the Whistleblower Reward Fund.

It relied on voluntary contributions and budgetary allocations from Parliament as its primary funding sources.

However, the Committee on Constitutional, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs, led by Kwame Anyimadu-Antwi, in its report submitted to the House prior to the bill's passage, noted certain shortcomings that needed to be addressed.

One major concern was the possibility of delays in releasing approved budgetary funds into the Whistleblower Reward Fund, which could affect the prompt payment of rewards to whistleblowers.

Additionally, Act 720 lacked clarity on the timeframe within which whistleblowers should receive their rewards for their efforts leading to the successful recovery of money or proceeds obtained from the sale of confiscated assets.

"The amendments proposed are, therefore, meant to cure the shortcomings in Act 720 by

reducing over-reliance on budgetary allocations as the main sources of revenue into the Whistleblower Reward Fund and to also provide for timeliness for payment of the rewards to successful whistleblowers," it said.

To rectify these issues, the proposed amendments aim to reduce reliance on budgetary allocations as the primary revenue source for the Whistleblower Reward Fund. This shift intends to ensure the timely payment of rewards to successful whistleblowers, thereby preventing demotivation due to delays.

The committee underscored the vital need to protect the identities of whistleblowers to shield them from potential hunts by powerful individuals in society.

Robust whistleblower protection mechanisms are crucial to encourage citizens to report misconduct, promote public accountability,



Parliament of Ghana

and uphold integrity.

As part of the approved amendment, individuals and institutions receiving disclosures of impropriety, as per Section 3 of Act 720, are urged to maintain the utmost confidentiality and implement stringent protective measures to safeguard the whistleblowers' identities.

The report further emphasized that motivating individuals to expose wrongdoing in both private and public sectors play a pivotal role in combating fraud, corruption, and unethical behavior.

Hence, continuous review and improvement of policies and legal frameworks that incentivize and protect patriotic individuals providing information on misconduct are essential.

The proposed amendment is seen as a crucial step in strengthening national efforts to combat corruption and reinforces the country's commitment to promoting a culture of transparency and accountability.

Cecilia Dapaah Must Have Had More Money Than What Was Stolen – NPP Man



Cecilia Abena Dapaah, former Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources

A communicator of the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP), Solomon Owusu has said he is convinced that embattled former minister of sanitation, Cecilia Abena Dapaah, had more money than the million dollars, 300,000 euros and 350,000 cedis she is reported to have lost from her Abelemkpe residence.

In what has become known as the Cecilia Dapaah saga, the minister, in

2022, is said to have lost the stated sums along with other valuables, all cash and materials allegedly stolen by two former house maids aged 30 and 18. "The rank and file of the NPP have not been happy with her and she would not enjoy the latitude that hitherto she enjoyed," he submitted on the Alhaji and Alhaji talk show on Pan African Television (July 22,

2023).

"(The) Grassroots are suffering and been told repeatedly that times are hard. I'm tempted to believe that there was even more money in the house... assuming the money was only one million dollars, she would have been able to detect the theft on time, probably, it was that huge," he added.

Owusu stressed that the Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo government has suffered a big blow with the events surrounding missing sums.

He said while the issue was a blow to the government, the NPP should not be bothered about it and members should desist from defending it in any shape or form. "Whichever way you look at it, it is a big blow to the government, it is not good for governance in this country," he submitted calling for relevant state bodies to initiate probes into the matter. The minister has since resigned her ministerial position and has

been arrested and released on bail by the Special Prosecutor.

Meanwhile, police have submitted the docket of the case of theft as reported by the minister and her husband to the Attorney-General for advice.

Background

According to an official charge sheet from an Accra Circuit Court, the brazen thefts occurred at the couple's residence in Abelemkpe, a suburb of Accra, over a three-month period from July to October 2022.

The accused, identified as Patience and Sarah, are facing serious charges, including conspiracy to commit a crime and multiple counts of stealing involving staggering amounts of money. Not only were monetary assets stolen, but the accused also allegedly made off with personal belongings of Madam Cecilia Abena Dapaah, such as valuable clothes, handbags, perfumes, and jewelry. The stolen items

amounted to a shocking value of GH¢95,000 and US\$95,000.

Further accusations involved Patience acting alone in the theft of cultural treasures, including six pieces of Kente cloth worth GH¢90,000 and six sets of men's suits valued at US\$3,000, which belonged to the minister's husband.

The court has also charged three additional individuals in connection with the thefts, revealing the complexity of the case.

The accused allegedly used the stolen funds to finance various properties and purchases, including renting a 3-bedroom apartment and a store in Tamale, buying vehicles, and funding other personal expenses.

The court has adjourned the case to August 2, 2023, while investigations continue.

World Hunger And The War In Ukraine

By Vijay Prashad

On Monday, June 17, Dmitry Peskov, the spokesperson for Russia's President Vladimir Putin, [announced](#), "The Black Sea agreements are no longer in effect." This was a blunt statement to suspend the Black Sea Grain Initiative that emerged out of intense negotiations in the hours after Russian forces entered Ukraine in February 2022. The Initiative went into effect on July 22, 2022, after Russian and Ukrainian officials [signed](#) it in Istanbul in the presence of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

Guterres [called](#) the Initiative a "beacon of hope" for two reasons. First, it is remarkable to have an agreement of this kind between belligerents in an ongoing war. Second, Russia and Ukraine are [major producers](#) of wheat, barley, maize, rapeseed and rapeseed oil, sunflower seeds and sunflower oil, as well as nitrogen, potassic, and phosphorus fertilizer, [accounting](#) for twelve percent of calories traded. Disruption of supply from Russia and Ukraine, it was felt by a range of international organizations, would have a catastrophic impact on world food markets and on hunger. As Western—largely [US](#), [UK](#), and [European](#)—sanctions increased against Russia, the feasibility of the deal began to diminish. It was suspended several times during the past year. In March 2023, Russia's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova responding to the sanctions against Russian agriculture, [said](#), "[The main] parameters provided for in the [grain] deal do not work."

Financialization leads to hunger
US Secretary of State Antony Blinken [said](#) that his country regrets Russia's "continued weaponization of food" since this "harms millions of vulnerable people around the world." Indeed, the timing of the suspension could not be worse. A United Nations [report](#), "The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023" (July 12, 2023), shows that one in ten people in the world struggles with hunger and that 3.1 billion people cannot afford a healthy diet. But the report itself makes an interesting point: that the war in Ukraine has driven 23 million people into hunger, a number that pales in comparison to the other drivers of hunger—such as the impact of commercialized food markets and the COVID-19 pandemic. A 2011 [report](#) from World Development Movement called "Broken Markets: How Financial Market Regulation Can Help Prevent Another Global Food Crisis" showed that "financial speculators now dominate the [food] market, holding over 60 percent of some markets compared to 12 percent 15 years ago." The situation has since worsened. Dr. Sophie van Huellen, who studies financial speculation in food markets, [pointed](#) out in late 2022 that while there are indeed food shortages, "the current food crisis is a price crisis, rather than a supply crisis." The end of

the Black Sea Grain Initiative is indeed regrettable, but it is not the leading cause of hunger in the world. The leading cause—as even the European Economic and Social Committee [agrees](#)—is financial speculation in food markets.

Why Did Russia Suspend the Initiative?

To monitor the Black Sea Grain Initiative, the United Nations set up a Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) in Istanbul. It is staffed by representatives from Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Nations. On several occasions, the JCC had to deal with tensions between Russia and Ukraine over the shipments, such as when Ukraine [attacked](#) Russia's Black Sea Fleet—some of whose vessels carried the grain—in Sevastopol, Crimea, in October 2022. Tensions remained over the initiative as Western sanctions against Russia tightened, making it difficult for Russia to export its own agricultural products into the world market.

Russia put three requirements on the table to the United Nations regarding its own agricultural system. First, the Russian government [asked](#) that the [Russian Agricultural Bank](#)—the premier credit and trade bank for Russian agriculture—be reconnected to the SWIFT system, from which it had been cut off by the European Union's [sixth package of sanctions](#) in June 2022. A Turkish banker [told](#) TASS that there is the possibility that the European Union could "issue a general license to the Russian Agricultural Bank" and that the Bank "has the opportunity to use JP Morgan to conduct transactions in U.S. dollars" as long as the exporters being paid for were part of the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

Second, from the first discussions about the Grain Initiative, Moscow put on the table its export of ammonia fertilizer from Russia both through the port of Odesa and of supplies held in Latvia and the Netherlands. A central part of the debate has been the reopening of the Togliatti-Odesa pipeline, the world's longest ammonia pipeline. In July 2022, the UN and Russia signed an [agreement](#) that would facilitate the sale of Russian ammonia on the world market. The UN's Guterres went to the Security Council to [announce](#), "We are doing everything possible to... ease the serious fertilizer market crunch that is already affecting farming in West Africa and elsewhere. If the fertilizer market is not stabilized, next year could bring a food supply crisis. Simply put, the world may run out of food." On June 8, 2023, Ukrainian forces [blew up](#) a section of the Togliatti-Odesa pipeline in Kharkiv, increasing the tension over this

dispute. Other than the Black Sea ports, Russia has no other safe way to export its ammonia-based fertilizers.

Third, Russia's agricultural sector faces challenges from a lack of ability to import machinery and spare parts, and Russian ships are not able to buy insurance or enter many foreign ports. Despite the "carve-outs" in Western sanctions for agriculture, sanctions on firms and individuals have debilitated Russia's agricultural sector. To counter Western sanctions, Russia placed restrictions on the export of fertilizer and agricultural products. These restrictions included the ban on the export of certain goods (such as [temporary bans](#) of wheat exports to the Eurasian Economic Union), the increase of licensing requirements (including for compound fertilizers, [requirements](#) set in place before the war), and the [increase](#) of export taxes. These Russian moves come alongside strategic direct

sales to countries, such as India, which will [re-export](#) to other countries.

In late July, St. Petersburg will host the Second [Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum](#), where these topics will surely be front and center. Ahead of the summit, President Putin called South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa to inform him about the problems faced by Russia in exporting its food and fertilizers to the African continent. "The deal's main goal," he [said](#) of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, was "to supply grain to countries in need, including those on the African continent, has not been implemented."

It is likely that the Black Sea Grain Initiative will restart within the month. Earlier suspensions have not lasted longer than a few



Soybeans and grains, the record exports that had an even greater impact during the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. It is not clear if the West will give Russia any relief on its ability to export its own agricultural

weeks. But this time, it is not clear if the West will give Russia any relief on its ability to export its own agricultural products. Certainly, the suspension will impact millions of people around the world who struggle with endemic hunger. Billions of others who are hungry because of financial speculation in food markets are not impacted directly by these developments.

Egyptian Court Sentences Activist And Scholar Patrick George Zaki To Three Years In Prison



An Egyptian court has sentenced activist and scholar, Patrick George Zaki to three years in prison for "disseminating false news about the country's internal conditions to disturb security and social peace." The Emergency State Security Misdemeanors Court in Mansoura convicted Zaki on the basis of an opinion piece he wrote in 2019. The article published on the Daraj news website narrates Zaki's experience as an Egyptian Christian. He was taken into custody after the verdict and sent to Gamasa to serve his sentence.

The ruling of the court is not subject to appeal as Zaki's trial was under the Emergency law, Mahmoud Hashem, an Egyptian journalist, said while speaking to *Peoples Dispatch*. As per this law, the sentence has to be ratified by the Egyptian President, who has the power to approve, annul, or amend the sentence, as well as the power to issue a presidential pardon, he added. The court verdict has been widely condemned by human rights activists as yet another example of the dire state of freedom of speech and expression and state repression in Egypt under President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi.

Zaki (30) is a researcher at the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. He was arrested by Egyptian authorities from Cairo airport in February 2020 when he arrived from Italy where he was pursuing a Masters degree. Hashem recalled that "Zaki was transferred blindfolded to one of the offices of the National Security Agency in Cairo and then to Mansoura, where he was questioned about the nature of his work and rights activism. He was

subjected to torture by beatings and electric shocks there."

Zaki was in pre-trial detention for 22 months and was only [released on bail](#) in December 2021 after a campaign by human rights groups within and outside the country. As he was not allowed to travel abroad, he completed his Masters degree earlier this year through distance mode.

Widespread condemnation

Reacting to the sentence Hashem said, "Patrick Zaki is a respected and active human rights researcher, and he does not deserve to be imprisoned." He called on the Egyptian government to release him immediately.

Medhat Elzahed, the President of the Popular Alliance Socialist Party of Egypt, also condemned Zaki's conviction in a statement issued on Tuesday. He claimed that the verdict is based on a fabricated investigation and is "a bad and revealing message" about President el-Sisi's policies. Elzahed claimed that the el-Sisi government's policies – both in political and economic sectors – have brought doom to the country as they are based on the "logic of barracks and an iron grip," and marginalize and exclude democratic and pluralist opinions. Egypt needs the lifting of all restrictions on freedoms and opening of windows of hope of opportunities for democratic change with the participation and cooperation of all sectors, he said, adding that "this is only possible by changing policies and asserting the right to pluralism and respecting constitutional principles."

Several other organizations and activists also condemned Zaki's conviction and asked for his

immediate release.

Prominent personalities such as human rights lawyer Ahmed Ragheb, journalist Khaled Dawoud, and Professor Nageh El-Borai announced their withdrawal from the National Dialogue process that el-Sisi has initiated with civil society. Dawoud cited the "non-implementation of the many promises of the release a number of prisoners whose freedom we have been calling for years, including Alaa Abd El-Fattah, Mohamed El-Baqer, Mohamed Oxygen, and Ahmed Doma, as well as a large number of those who have been held in pre-trial detention, such as Mohamed Adel, Marwa Arafa, Nermin Hussein, Sherif Al-Ruby, Manal Agramah, Safaa El-Korbeji and Hamdi El-Zeem. Freedom for prisoners of conscience."

He added, "It is not possible to trust the seriousness of the dialogue with the continued imprisonment of the opposition." Since coming to power in a military coup in 2013, the el-Sisi regime has imposed widespread restrictions on the freedom of speech and expression and political activity. His government has banned political parties and trade union activities and unleashed massive state repression on the opposition. According to various reports, nearly 60,000 political activists, journalists, and human rights defenders have been imprisoned by the government.

Stop Aggression Against Niger! -- Socialist Movement Of Ghana Tells ECOWAS Leaders

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frustrate popular organisation. Niger's neocolonial crisis deepened when NATO destroyed Libya in 2011, encouraging hardened Islamist fighters from Central Asia to infiltrate and destabilise the Sahel-Sahara region and militarizing and "Islamizing" existing communal problems. This created a pretext for renewed Western intervention in the subregion – as saviours. Nigeriens have responded magnificently to the long-term crisis with popular struggles for social justice, development, and dignity. Organised Labour, the Gender movement, Youth organizations, intellectuals, and the religious establishment have challenged the status quo for many years and been ruthlessly repressed by the Nigerien State led, most recently, by Bazoum and backed by France. A military intervention will not wash away this history or the complex web of social conflict it has created. ECOWAS guns will not assist Nigeriens to clarify and determine how they will organise and pursue national development. Guns will only deepen the underlying crisis of foreign exploitation and underdevelopment that Niger suffers. ECOWAS military action will deepen Nigeriens' suffering and set their economic and social development back even further. An ECOWAS military intervention will also not advance the long-term well-being of other West Africans. Niger's story differs only by degree from that of the rest of the subregion. West Africa remains one of the poorest and most troubled regions in the world. Every suffering war will bring to Niger will be replicated and amplified throughout the

sub-region with unforetold consequences. The signals from Mali, Burkina Faso and Guinea suggest that the integrity of ECOWAS itself is at risk. An ECOWAS war also enables Jihadi forces to strengthen their military and ideological campaign across the Region. A war will also have national level consequences as well. For example, it is unlikely that ECOWAS soldiers will want to risk their lives to restore another bankrupt political regime. Military deployment will be the straw that breaks the back of the camel of "stability" in many West African countries. It could provoke mutinies, and accelerate, rather than halt, the wave of coups d'etat the region is experiencing; **War Benefits Imperialism!** The real beneficiaries of an ECOWAS attack on Niger are Western Imperialist forces. France is struggling to sustain generations of the cruel plunder and oppression that West Africans have rejected. Without Nigerien uranium French electricity costs will rise significantly plunging that country into deeper crisis. EU dependency on Russian uranium (which it has not so far dared to impose sanctions on) will increase. Of course the EU is fully subordinate to the United States, in its aggression against strategic rivals China and Russia. As it can no longer compete commercially the US seeks to exclude these countries' access to African resources through military force in alliance with backward sociopolitical elites. The US has established military bases across all West Africa including for example the infamous "Niger Air Base 201" near Agadez which is the largest military drone base in the world nominally

owned by the Nigerien military but completely controlled by the US and capable of launching attacks across the entire region. On the one hand, developments in Niger threaten US hegemonic interests. But on the other hand Niger presents an opportunity for the US to consolidate its control over West Africa's military. Imperialism will therefore press for military intervention. ECOWAS governments lack the ability to manage even domestic insurgencies. ECOWAS can only contemplate a Niger expedition because "NATO" will resource and run it. ECOWAS states will in fact contribute only two elements to any military operations. First ECOWAS provides a fig leaf - the media illusion that this is a "legitimate" democratic West Africa intervention to restore democracy (and not just another US or French invasion of a struggling Third World country). Second, ECOWAS provides cannon-fodder – expendable African soldiers that save the US Government from having to account for the deaths of thousands of Americans. In all material strategic and operational respects this will be an invasion to re-establish colonial rule in West Africa. **What is ECOWAS Leadership's agenda?** Why are ECOWAS Heads of State shamelessly fronting for US and French imperialism? ECOWAS leaders are willing to front Imperialist conquest because they are desperate and trapped in neocolonialism. Our leaders are firm

accomplices in foreign exploitation and oppression. Our leaders have not for example raised concern about the squalor, lack of basic amenities, or exposure of children to deadly radiation that French capital imposes on the inhabitants of uranium mining towns. Our leaders have not protested the numbers of innocent citizens killed by US and French troops in their so-called counter-insurgency operations. Rather our leaders have forced through laws granting US troops full immunity for crimes committed on our soils – essentially ceding our sovereignty to foreign militaries. Our leaders have fully supported dishonourable ploys to amend national constitutions to extend term limits to shield themselves from accountability. Our leaders have for years ignored or perpetrated arbitrary arrests and detention without charge or trial in violation of our constitutions. Our leaders have collapsed our national economies with unpayable debts, fiscal indiscipline, profligate spending, and accelerated transfer of wealth to the colonial metropolises. Having plunged us into crisis our leaders have fled back cap-in-hand to the IMF for bailouts conditioned on deepening the policy measures responsible for our suffering in the first place – austerity measures that grind working people into the dust and accelerate outflows of the wealth from our resources and labour. West Africans are no longer impressed by the theatre of periodic elections. West

Africans know that these are simply exercises in ego, empty promises, vote-buying, rigging, elite violence, and whitewashing by pliant, partisan judiciaries. Our leaders own bankruptcy - is the source of the wave of revolts and military take-overs across the subregion. Following their mismanagement and abuse of their citizens' fundamental development and human rights, the gathering in Abuja that threatened Niger with invasion was really a bunch of scared men, who having lost all moral or political legitimacy now seek to use military force to protect their privileged positions. "ECOWAS Heads of State" do not speak for West Africa. They cannot commit our youth to fight and die in the defence of hollow legalistic "constitutionalism" and elite vanity. The Socialist Movement of Ghana (SMG) rejects the positions of ECOWAS Heads of State. And we will campaign against any ECOWAS mobilisation for war on Niger. We call on all progressive organizations and forces in West Africa and especially the West African Peoples Organisation (WAPO) to also condemn the recklessness of West African leaders and work to stop any such mobilisation. What West Africa needs is to stop the Islamic insurgency in the region and hold our leaders accountable for the mess they have created and sustainably end the growing hunger facing our people. West Africa does not need war and our people are tired of our neo-colonial leaders and their machinations. Signed
Kwesi Pratt Jnr.
General Secretary