

***PETITION for the ESTABLISHMENT of WAR  
and ECONOMIC CRIMES COURT in  
LIBERIA & The TRUTH and  
RECONCILIATION COMMISSION  
RECOMMENDATIONS IMPLEMENTATION***

**SUBMITTED TO:**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**SUBMITTED BY:**

**CITIZENS OF THE REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA**

**DATE OF SUBMISSION  
TUESDAY, May 8, 2018**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Honorable Speaker, Honorable Deputy Speaker and Honorable Members of the House of Representatives, Well-meaning citizens of the Republic of Liberia, Student Body and other Government officials, Members of Civil Society Organizations, Political Parties, Our Traditional Leaders, Hardworking Media Professionals, Friends and Well-wishers of Liberia, Ladies and Gentlemen.

We bring you esteemed greetings from over 4 million citizens of the Republic of Liberia.

Recounting on major challenges of the 12 years leadership of Madam Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf; **Reconciliation and Corruption** remain key amongst many. In this light; we are requesting the Honorable House of Representatives to Act on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Report, submitted to the Government and people of Liberia on June 30, 2009, currently before the House but has suffered set-back due to reasons we don't know; through the **establishment of War and Economic Crimes Courts as per Article 34e**.

Also; note that when the War and the many atrocities were carried out constitutional issues didn't matter to the perpetrators.

## **BACKGROUND**

Liberia, a nation emerging from civil and ethnic conflicts, is riddled with systems and structural issues amongst many other things. In an environment where the issue of Reconciliation has remain a major concern and one of the Key failures of the Unity Party led government.

Key reasons why reconciliation still remains a challenge for the country is because about 250,000 persons (family members and loved ones, Liberians and foreign partners) lost their lives from 1989 – 1997; and approximately 150,000 more or less lost their lives from 1999 – 2003. Not to mention the: rapes, torture, amputations of limbs, child soldiers that were denied their rights to education and grow up for a better future, the damage of properties (both public and private), massive looting and dehumanizing of people and the trauma caused still live with us as though it took place last night.

Additionally; the Accra Comprehensive Peace Agreement (ACPA) signed on August 18, 2003 called for the setting up of the TRC and it is only prudent we adhere to the recommendations contained therein. Please see attached copy and signatures of Liberians.

## **Alternative Way Forward**

Please note below, Articles from the Constitution of the Republic of Liberia:

**ARTICLE-1:** All power is inherent in the people. All free governments are instituted by their authority and for their benefit and they have the right to alter and reform the same when their safety and happiness so require. In order to ensure democratic government which responds to the wishes of the governed, the people shall have the right at such period, and in such manner as provided for under this Constitution, to cause their public servants to leave office and to fill vacancies by regular elections and appointments.

**ARTICLE 17:** All persons, at all times, in an orderly and peaceable manner, shall have the right to assemble and consult upon the common good, to instruct their representatives, to petition the Government or other functionaries for the redress of grievances and to associate fully with others or refuse to associate in political parties, trade unions and other organizations.

**ARTICLE 31:** Each member of the Legislature, before taking his seat and entering upon the duties of office, shall take and subscribe to a solemn oath of affirmation, before the presiding officer of the House to which such person was elected and in the presence of other members of that House, to uphold and defend the Constitution and laws of the Republic and to discharge faithfully the duties of such office.

**ARTICLE 34e:** The Legislature shall have the power: to constitute courts inferior to the Supreme court, including circuit courts, claims courts and such other courts with such prescribed jurisdictional powers as maybe deemed necessary for the proper administration of justice throughout the republic.

Additionally; the following constitutional provisions were violated in their true sense:

**Article 11 a** All persons are born equally free and independent and have certain natural, inherent and inalienable rights, among which are the right of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of pursuing and maintaining and security of the person and of acquiring, possessing and protecting property, subject to such qualifications as provided for in this Constitution.

**Article 20 a** No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, security of the person, property, privilege or any other right except as the outcome of a hearing judgment consistent with the provisions laid down in this Constitution and in accordance with due process of law. Justice shall be done without sale, denial or delay; and in all cases not arising in courts not of record, under courts-martial and upon impeachment, the parties shall have the right to trial by jury.

**Article 76 a)** Treason against the Republic shall consist of:

- (1) Levying war against the Republic;
- (2) Aligning oneself with or aiding and abetting another nation or people with whom Liberia is at war or in a state of war;
- (3) Acts of espionage for an enemy state;
- (4) Attempting by overt act to overthrow the Government, rebellion against the Republic, insurrection and mutiny; and

**(5) Abrogating or attempting to abrogate, subverting or attempting or conspiring to subvert the Constitution by use of force or show of force or any other means which attempts to undermine this Constitution.**

**In keeping with Article 17, above, we hereby submit the following for your action:**

**1. Implementation of the TRC's Recommendations:**

- a. We are requesting the full implementation of the TRC's recommendations. This will help in the following:
  - i. Reconcile the many aggrieved Liberians who feel justice has not been served.
  - ii. Bring peace of mind to those who lost their loved ones and have also been going through serious trauma from the impact of the war.
  - iii. Rewrite our history knowing that the culture of impunity is finally over.
  - iv. Serve as deterrent for future acts of treason.
  - v. Reduce the daily trauma people face by seeing those who caused them serious pains and setbacks sitting at the hem of power and moving with impunity too.

**2. Justice:**

- a. This is our cry, we want justice. This country cannot have genuine peace without justice. Therefore; the establishment of the WAR Crimes Court is inevitable. Even the heavens require judgement for our actions here on earth.
- b. If the laws on rape, murder, damage of property, adoption, drug abuse, exposing kids to danger, looting can be applied now; we see no reason why the ones committed during the WAR are exceptions and should not be handled in the court.
- c. Regardless of how we term it, those were acts of treason and the laws need to be fully applied to prevent reoccurrence.

**3. Economic Crimes:**

- a. Find and prosecute individuals who have been placed on records for misappropriating state's resources up to January 21, 2018. This is important to keep the current government officials in check. And to let them know that the era of Liberia being an "**Elephant Meat**" is over.
- b. A total review of all the pending audit reports with no action needs to be totally fast tracked and those who will be guilty of any fraudulent activities be dealt with according to the law.

## CONCLUSION

If our kids, who are going to watch the videos and read other documentaries currently on the internet, ask in the future the following:

1. Mama and papa, we watched and read about the April 14, 1979 Rice Riot that turned bloody; what was done to those who committed the bloodshed?
2. Mama and Papa, we watched and read about the April 12 & 22, 1980 coup d'état in the name of **Rampant Corruption, Poor Living Standards, etc**; why is corruption still high more than before, and we have very poor living standards? What was done to the people who used guns as a means justice instead of the court house?
3. Mama and Papa, we watched and read about the 1985 coup d'état that failed and the subsequent Nimba raid, what was done the culprits?
4. Mama and Papa, we watched and read about the Brutal War from 1989 to 2003 – with more than 250,000 people killed- during which time: pregnant women stomachs were opened with bend knives to identify the gender of the child being carried; people were made to have sex in public; fathers were made to have sex with their daughters and mothers with their sons; people were beheaded; people were amputated; women were raped in front of their defenseless husbands, sons, fathers, and brothers; people were massacred in Churches with no fear and respect for God; people properties were damaged and they were forced to be homeless; kids were drugged and given guns to kill- today we are struggling with the growing issue of drug abuse and prostitution; millions were looted; what were done to the perpetrators?

Honorable Lawmakers; what will be your answers, to the above questions, to your children?

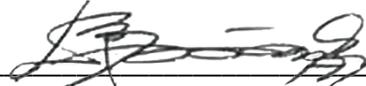
We will be back on **May 22, 2018** anticipating your favorable response; because, Justice delayed is Justice denied! The culture of impunity must end and the future of Liberia is in your hands.

The Liberian words of wisdom “**99 days for rogues 1 day for masters.**” The day of the masters has come and we are demanding justice. The rebels and those who committed atrocities had always decided their fates. Now is the time the people of Liberia to decide what we want.

Signed on behalf of the citizens of Liberia on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of May 2018:



Fubbi F. A. Henries (Fubbi Foundation for Dev. & Sus. Inc.)



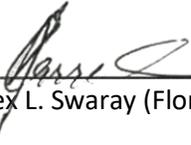
Duke Murphy Dennis (Radio Monrovia)



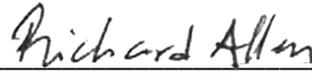
Franklin K. Wesseh (Citizens Action)



Jacob A. D. Kollie (National Student Movement)



Alex L. Swaray (Flomo Theatre Inc.)



Richard Allen (Citizens Action)



Jonathan T. Dolakeh (Citizens Action)



Lawrence C. Konton (Citizen Action)



Siaffa Kanneh (National Student Movement)



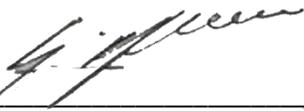
Success Williams (Fubbi Foundation)



Global Justice & Research Project



Liberia Trust Communications



Lovetta Tugbah (Coalition for Justice)



Asatu Toure (Citizens Action)