
Liberia: 'Insecure State' - Jewel Howard Wants Probe Into Greaves' Death

By Henry Karmo

Monrovia — Senator Jewel Howard Taylor (NPP, Bong County) says Liberia is still insecure, days after President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf declared in her annual address that the country is safe and secure in the wake of UNMIL's drawdown. Senator Taylor's comments come in the wake of the mysterious death of Mr. Harry A. Greaves, Jr., a prominent businessman and former head of the Liberia petroleum Refinery Company (LPRC). She called for an urgent investigation into circumstances surrounding his death.

Said Senator Taylor: "It is an alarming situation. I was just reminded yesterday as I came back from Bong County on the President saying that the nation is secured. This death proves that the nation is not secure. If something like this could happen to a prominent son of Bong County, how about those many sons and daughters that are getting missing throughout the length and breadth of our country?" Though Senator Taylor did not recommend UNMIL to remain in Liberia, however, she claimed that the presence of UNMIL's checkpoints over the years would have made it difficult, if not impossible, for anything to have happened to Mr. Greaves.

"I would like to--on behalf of the women of Liberia--say that what has happened is unacceptable and we call on the government to urgently look into this issue and let us know what is happening in our country. Many people in Monrovia and its environs over the last few days can only say this is very scaring if a prominent person can go to a recognizable place like RLJ and get lost and actually end up behind the executive mansion--it calls for worrying and we are concerned."

The senator also added: "The people of Bong--as their senior senator--have received many calls this morning as to what is happening in Monrovia. So this is a very serious thing and we want to say that it is unacceptable and government must do a little bit better in protecting the lives of its people." During her state of the Nation address, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf assured Liberians that the state is safe in the wake of the drawdown of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

"Liberia is safe and secure. The decision of the Security Council of the United Nations to undertake a drawdown of its peace-keeping mission in the country bears proud testimony to how far we have travelled since the end of our protracted conflict in 2003; we have kept the peace and conducted of two successful democratic elections," the President said. The late Greaves, prior to his death, was the lead advocate behind the privatization of the Liberia Electricity Corporation. He, on two occasions, appeared before the Senate committee on Energy and Natural resources to convince that august body to pass a law that would privatize the LEC.

Greaves' death is the second mysterious death in less than two weeks. The news about the mysterious drowning and subsequent death of Mr. Dan Orogun President of the Guarantee Trust Bank (GT Bank) while on a boat ride with his colleagues Mr. George Kalondo owner of the Kalondo enterprise in Liberia. Atty. Michael Allison who served as a consultant to the National Legislature providing legal services on a nationwide oil consultation died who similar circumstances as his body was found the beach like the case of Greaves.

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