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LIBERIA: Former GVL workers receive settlement over illegal dismissal

🕒 October 24, 2021 👤 Cholo Brooks 📁 Other News 💬 0



OPINION POLLS

In The CDC-Led Government Which One Of The Cabinet Ministers Is Working Hard?

- Mr. Samuel D. Tweah (Ministry of Finance)
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- Mr. Nathaniel McGill (Ministry of State)
- Cllr. Charles Gibson (Ministry of Labour)

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DRC: MSF Suspends Activities in Bambu, Ituri Following Attack on One of its Vehicles

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 16:53:47

The convoy came under fire even though it was clearly showing the MSF name and emblem



GREENVILLE, Sinoe County – Sixteen former workers of Golden Veroleum Liberia (GVL) have received their severance benefits following a settlement with the company, one year and eight months after they filed a



Adapting to Keep People Living with HIV Taking their Treatment in the Central African Republic

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 15:45:56

Certain community members deliver antiretroviral treatment to people living with HIV, especially in rural or conflict-stricken areas



United Nations Support Mission in Libya
بعثة الأمم المتحدة للدعم في ليبيا

Statement by the United Nations Support Mission in Libya regarding the legal framework for Libya's parliamentary and presidential elections

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 14:33:04

UNSMIL calls for the adoption of the necessary adjustments, including those put forward by the High National Commission for Elections (HNEC)



complaint with the Sinoe County Labor Office over their illegal dismissals.

The former employees, mainly fieldworkers, had been dismissed by the Indonesian company without benefit for allegedly participating in the May 25, 2015 riot in Butaw, according to documents from the Labor Office on the case. The disturbance left one dead and over US\$7,000 of the company's properties destroyed. They were all jailed without trial and released a year later. One inmate died in prison and another shortly after their release in 2016.

"I feel happy but I am also sad because when I was in prison, my father, who used to feed and clothe me, is no longer alive to enjoy this money," said Adolphus Tarpeh, who received US\$2,111.40, like all the other former workers, except a woman who received US\$3,484.

In total, GVL paid them US\$35,541.

"I can only sing praises to God for protecting my life... but I am not also happy because the one who is supposed to enjoy the fruit of her labor is not alive today," Felecia Karwell, who received the money for her mother Beatrice Koon, a former GVL worker, who died in 2018.

The other workers include: Sunday Okusu Sackor, Vincent Koon, Otis Chea, Franklin Duaryenneh, Luton Snohtee, Edwin Palay, Obie Karbah, Josephus Weagbah, Rufus Tiawroh, Titus Teah, Fred Henry and Samuel Yabbah and Erick Dayklee. They worked in GVL's palm plantation in Butaw.

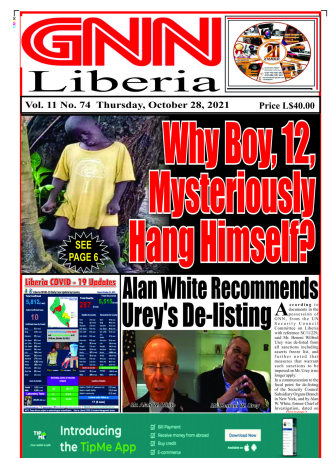
Jubilant former workers took selfies, shared hugs and laughter before and after the payment ceremony at the County's service center, where local government activities take place. The Heritage Partners and Associates, the law firm that represented the former workers, and the Sustainable Development Institute (SDI), which supported the ex-employees, oversaw the payments.

"This is real victory for justice," Sackor Sunny Okusu Sackor, a victim of GVL's bad labor practice said in a separate interview with this online news platform.

Pres. Weah



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Coronavirus - Zambia: COVID-19 Statistics Daily Status Update (31 October 2021)

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 14:16:16



AMISOM Troops Trained on Using Drones for Combat Effectiveness

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 13:31:26

AMISOM Force Commander, Lt. Gen. Diomedede Ndegeya, said the technology of drones was an important tactical asset in gathering intelligence, surveillance and in reconnaissance missions



H.H. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed receives Lesotho's FM

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 13:12:28

The meeting dealt with friendship and cooperation relations between the UAE and the Kingdom of Lesotho

“The payment today shows that a poor man can fight a rich man and get justice,” he said after receiving US\$2,111.40 as his payoffs.

SDI relished the payments. “We joined this fight because we wanted to send out a clear message of deterrence to GVL and other big concessions in this country said Sampson Williams, SDI’s national program assistant. We want them to realize that it is always important to protect the rights of the people and communities who give you land to operate.”

On February 18 last year, four years after their release, the onetime GVL employees filed a complaint at the labor commissioner office in Greenville, Sinoe County, claiming “constructive dismissal and unfair labor practice.” The workers said they were verbally told of their dismissals and denied access to their workplaces, the case’s documents show.

Following its investigation, the Labor Office in Sinoe ruled against GVL and urged the company to reinstate or negotiate with the dismissed employees but GVL rejected the report and requested a transfer of the case to Monrovia, where labor authorities intervened after it moved to a full-scale investigation. The case finally reached a conclusion after authorities at the Labor Ministry found GVL guilty and urged the company to settle with its ex-workers.

Larry Noah, a labor inspector in Sinoe, described the workers’ legal victory over GVL as an important milestone in the country’s quest for fair labor practice. “Our report from the investigation shows that the workers were never served letter of dismissal. It also showed that the workers were not investigated internally and found guilty of the charges brought down against them by the GVL, and all of this went contrary to the labor law of Liberia.”

A former fieldworker of Golden Veroleum Liberia receives US\$2,111.40 as severance pay after he and other workers reached a settlement with the company. The DayLight/Harry Browne

GVL, Liberia’s largest oil palm company, holds 220,000 hectares of land in Sinoe, Maryland and Grand Kru for 65 years in a 2010 deal worth US\$1.6 billion. But



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United States Donates 3.6 Million More COVID-19 Pfizer Vaccines to Egypt

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 12:22:12

Largest Pfizer Donation to Egypt ever Brings Total to 8.25 Million Doses Delivered in a Month



Egypt: Stop trials by emergency courts

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 11:32:16

On 25 October 2021, President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi announced that he would not extend the state of emergency, in force since 2017



communities are not happy about its operation. GVL's decade and a year stay in Liberia has seen its oil palm production engulfed by issues of land-grabs, complaints of bad labor practices and reports of deforestation.

The original version of the story was first published by The DayLight on October 23, 2021.

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About Cholo Brooks

> 15674 Articles

Joel Cholo Brooks is a Liberian journalist who previously worked for several international news outlets including the BBC African Service. He is the CEO of the Global News Network which publishes two local weeklies, The Star and The GNN-Liberia Newspapers. He is a member of the Press Union Of Liberia (PUL) since 1986, and several other international organizations of journalists, and is currently contributing to the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation as Liberia Correspondent.

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Readout of President Biden’s Meeting with President Felix Tshisekedi of the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 10:58:08

President Biden welcomed President Tshisekedi’s efforts to promote transparency, tackle corruption, and respect human rights in how the DRC manages its vast natural resources



Opening Remarks by Raila Odinga

Language: en | Date: 2021-10-31 09:52:32

The African Union in collaboration with the United Arab Emirates government and Expo, will host its second event at the Expo 2020 Dubai under the theme of Infrastructure Development in Africa

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