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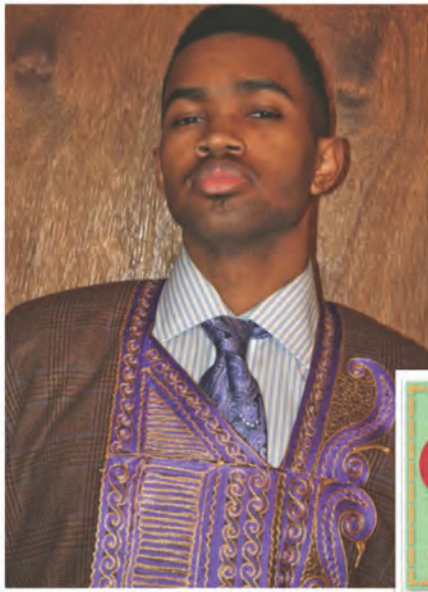
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FUNDINGS FOR AFRICAN SMALL BUSINESSES

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Mayor Bloomberg announces Workforce Training Grants to help small businesses expand and create jobs in all five boroughs.

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Mayor Outlines How Businesses Across the City Can Take advantage of the Grants at a Brooklyn Wholesale Food Manufacturer that is Expanding as a Result of the City's Workforce Assistance

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Robert K. Steel and Small Business Services Commissioner Robert W. Walsh today announced the latest round of NYC Business Solutions Training Funds to four businesses in Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan. The grants help businesses train new and existing employees to give them the up-to-date skills they need to grow their businesses. So far in 2011, the Department of Small Business Services has awarded nearly \$700,000 in grants to 16 businesses, providing training to 300 New Yorkers and resulting in 45 new hires and an average wage increase for existing employees of 13 percent. Mayor Bloomberg and Commissioner Walsh made the announcement at Terrafina, a wholesale food manufacturer in Sunset Park, Brooklyn, which is expanding, adding 25 jobs and seeking to relocate to a larger facility in New York City.

"Creating jobs is the primary goal of our economic development strategy, and the most effective way we're doing it is creating conditions for growth and making it easier for businesses – large and small – to locate and expand in New York City," said Mayor Bloomberg. "These workforce training grants give hundreds of small businesses like Terrafina the capacity to hire and train New Yorkers and increase their wages. It's just one of the things we're doing to help businesses and New York City's economy grow, and it's working."

The awards announced today – totaling more than \$180,000 – will be matched by employer contributions of more than \$104,000 and will be used to train 63 New Yorkers,

To be Continued on page 11

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President Obama's address
at the 66th UN General Assembly



arguing that “peace will not come through statements and resolutions at the UN – if it were that easy, it would have been accomplished by now.” Much of his comments of the Israeli-Palestinian deadlock could be read as a defence of his own record on the

peace initiative, an approach which arguably alienated both the Israelis and Palestinians and contributed to the current stalemate. His emphasis on Israel's right to defend its borders from continuous attacks from terrorist groups and hostile neighbours was expressed

President Obama's address to the UN General Assembly yesterday was, for the most part, an encouraging expression of support for universal human rights and the indispensability of political freedom. Obama emphasized the positive developments taking place in the Middle East and North Africa with the Arab Spring, and reiterated his call for democratic change across the region.

President Obama paid tribute to the Libyan people and to the international community for their part in liberating Libya. Perhaps his most successful foreign policy initiative to date, this represented a personal high point for Obama in the speech, and gave him an opportunity to bask in the apparent vindication of his—albeit sceptical—acceptance of the need for international intervention. Obama endorsed the Syrian opposition and heavily criticised the Assad regime for its brutal crackdown against protesters—adding weight to his recent calls for Assad to relinquish power. He called upon the UN Security Council to pass sanctions against Assad, a measure which would intensify the financial pressure currently being applied through US and EU sanctions against the regime. The Syrian revolution may have begun on the ground six months ago, but the diplomatic revolution has only just started, and certainly appears to have a long way to go.

Obama also supported calls for reform in Yemen, calling upon President Saleh to allow a peaceful transition of power followed by free and fair elections. Compared to his critique of other regimes in the Middle East, his criticism was noticeably weaker and even more so with Bahrain, which he describes as a ‘close friend’. The ruling elite's bloody clampdown of the majority Shia protest movement was not even mentioned, indicating that the US is not willing to jeopardise relations with close regional allies in the Gulf—most importantly, Saudi Arabia.

Ahead of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas scheduled speech explaining his reasons for seeking recognition of Palestinian statehood from the UN this week, Obama reiterated his argument that such a move will not advance negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel. Obama adopted a decidedly more critical tone towards the Palestinians than past speeches,

firmly and clearly, indicating that he may be sensitive to accusations of “anti-Israel” policies by both Israeli politicians and his political opponents in the US.

Abbas was noticeably displeased throughout Obama's speech, yet it emerged last night that the Palestinians are prepared to delay seeking a vote on their bid by the UN Security Council, which the US was sure to veto, on the condition that peace talks were resumed. However, Abbas will still take to the podium tomorrow to address General Assembly members.

Perhaps the most disappointing omissions from the human rights abusers cited in the speech were Russia, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia's abuses were predictably not mentioned; Iran's continued and systematic human rights abuses were not given the full recognition they deserved, while Russia's horrendous record was not even cited. With the collapse of Obama's much-vaunted “reset” policy—a tacit practice of ignoring Russia's corruption and human rights abuses in the hopes of securing better diplomatic relations—Obama missed an important opportunity to stand up to the Kremlin. He did, however, seem to make a coded reference to Russia when he mentioned the importance of passing laws banning human rights abusers from entering the US—possibly a reference to the recent State Department visa ban on individuals associated with the death of Russian lawyer Sergei Magnitsky.

Obama's embrace of the Arab Spring and the affirmation of the necessary connection between democracy and the expansion of peace and security hit the right note. However, his borderline-appeasement of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia, and arguably Russia was disappointing. As Obama rightly pointed out, the world has indeed changed for the better in the year that has passed since his last address to the General Assembly. Osama bin Laden is dead and al-Qaeda's central leadership is now in a weaker position. The oppressed populations living under dictatorships in Africa and the Middle East have awoken and are calling for the same rights that those in Western countries are able to enjoy. It is now up to the administration to continue to show the leadership and implement the vision which Obama laid down yesterday before the General Assembly.

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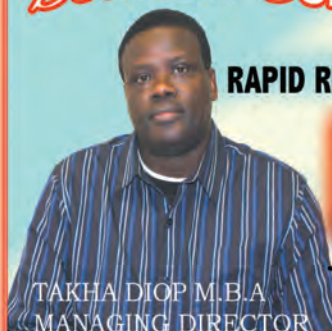
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Wangari Maathai , Nobel Peace Prize Winner, dies at 71

Kenyan social activist and environmental crusader who founded the Green Belt Movement has died of cancer

Wangari Maathai, Nobel peace laureate at the Hay festival in 2007. Photograph: Martin Godwin for the Guardian

Wangari Maathai, the first African woman to win the Nobel peace prize, died on Sunday night of cancer. She was 71.

A towering figure in Kenya, Maathai was renowned as a fearless social activist and an environmental crusader. Her Green Belt Movement, which she founded in 1977, planted tens of millions of trees.

Maathai's death was confirmed in a statement on the movement's website.

"It is with great sadness that the family of Professor Wangari Maathai announces her passing away on 25 September 2011, at the Nairobi hospital, after a prolonged and bravely borne struggle with cancer. Her loved ones were with her at the time."

Maathai was a pioneer from an early age and in many spheres. After winning a scholarship to study in the US, she returned to a newly independent Kenya, becoming the first woman in east and central Africa to obtain a PhD. Maathai was also the first woman professor at the University of Nairobi, where she taught veterinary medicine.

Her work with voluntary groups alerted her to the struggles of women in rural Kenya, and it quickly became her life's cause. Noticing how the rapid environmental degradation was affecting

women's lives, she encouraged them to plant trees to ensure future supplies of firewood and to protect water sources and crops.

Maathai's agenda quickly widened as she joined the struggle against the repressive and corrupt regime of Daniel arap Moi. Her efforts to stop powerful politicians grabbing land, especially forests, brought her into conflict with the authorities, and she was beaten and arrested numerous times. Her bravery and defiance made her a hero in Kenya. Awarding Maathai the Nobel peace prize in 2004, the Nobel committee said that her "unique forms of action have contributed to drawing attention to political oppression – nationally and internationally".

Maathai served as an assistant minister in President Mwai Kibaki's government from 2003 to 2005, but her refusal to keep

silent on some issues saw her politically sidelined, and she lost her seat after a single term. Her work schedule remained hectic however, and she wrote several books and travelled widely.

Maathai had been in and out of hospital this year, though most Kenyans were unaware of her illness until it was reported in the local media late last week.

"Professor Maathai's departure is untimely and a very great loss to all who knew her – as a mother, relative, co-worker, colleague, role model, and heroine; or who admired her determination to make the world a more peaceful, healthier, and better place," the statement from her organisation said.

Maathai is survived by her three children and a granddaughter.

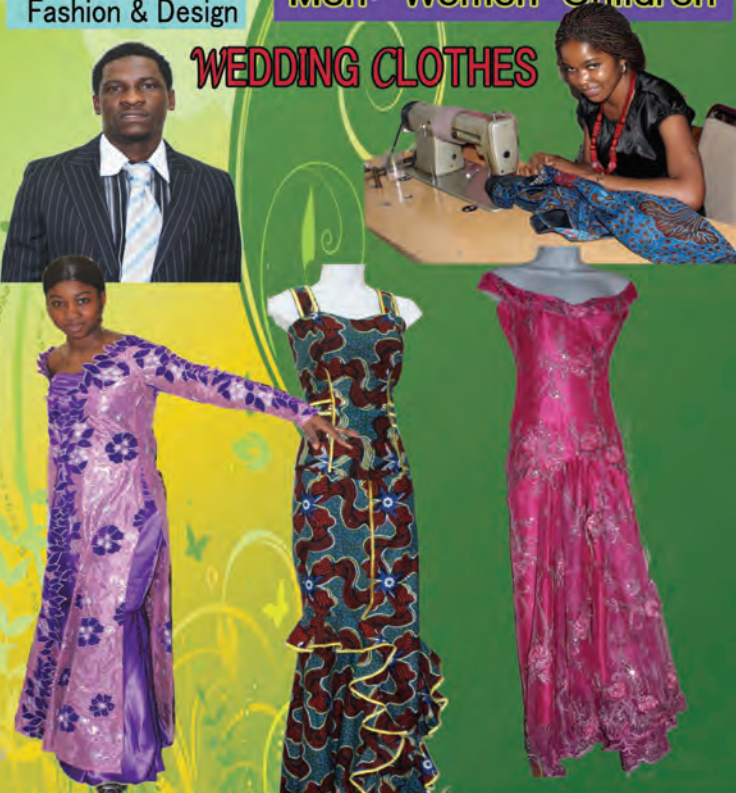
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Waly Mody Ndiaye, Program Director Children's Programs at the Harlem Islamic Cultural Center (HICC)



-You have created the Children's Lecture Series: What is the meaning and what was your motivation to create it?

-The Children's Lecture Series is a program dedicated to the children at the Harlem Islamic Cultural Center in New York. It is located at 108 East 128th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues, in the heart of Harlem, in New York City.

My motivation to create this program came from a recommendation to us, the Dahira Tidiane of New York, by one of our spiritual leaders Mouhamadou Mansour Sy Ibn El Hadji Abdoul Aziz Sy, rta. Last year, in November 2010, he came to the mosque and noticed that the mosque was full of people but there were no children among them. He told us his disappointment to that respect, telling us that the Zawiyya should be a place for children to come mosque on Friday, pray and leave as fast as they can. After he left that month, I decided to take this matter in hands and without further thinking started this program on January 8, 2011.

-How did you start it? Were you confident? Was it easy? How did parents welcome this idea?

-I did not have any money to start it, nor could I get seed money from the HICC Executive Committee, just because they do not have the money to start a new program. We are in the process of raising funds to renovate the building hosting the center. But I was very confident that I will succeed to implement the program just because it was the will of my spiritual guide and leader, and because I did not question his ideas about doing something for the children in the Center.

Without money, it is hard to do a thing. After consulting with my second supporter in this venture, Sokhna Oumou Sy Djamil, I decided to ask parents to register with \$30 per family for each

year and I started with 9 families and 15 children. I also asked the parents to help with a small monetary donation once in a while. One of the children advised me to raise funds by selling chocolate. We need money on a daily basis because we feed the children every time before we start the program. We gather around a delicious meal, enjoy it as a family, the same way we do in our country. Parents are frilled about the program for several reasons: it lets them get a break from the children; allows the children to be out of the house in a safe and secure environment; keeps them out of the streets; teach them more about their culture and their religion, and especially about facts of life. My first supporter in this venture is our Honorable Imam, El Hadj Djibril Dieye, the moral and spiritual leader of the Zawiyya El Hadji Malick Sy.

-Have they learnt much today so far?

I guess they are learning a lot, because a few weeks ago on May 7 of this year, we were able to put up a presentation the Zawiyya to try to raise funds in order to set up more activities for the children. Many people were there to witness the children showing on stage what they have learned about their religion, their culture and about life in general. The program is a cultural, religious and fun event. We talk about African leaders, religious and temporal, we watch movies and discuss them, we promote historical African storytelling, and we talk about morals and any other subject the children want to talk about, just because it is their Program.

-How many children do you have and where are they from?

We started with 15 children, and today they are 35, and the number is growing. I never wanted to broadcast the Program because it is difficult to take care of children, I need a lot of help from volunteers because we have children between the ages of 5 to 15 from several West African Countries. This is a call for those of you who can volunteers their time to call me and discuss their availability.

-Are you only doing all this by yourself?

-To date, I have one parent, Cheikh Dieng, coming every Saturday to help, as well as Sister Yacine Wade, my niece Haby Bary, and another brother, Ace Gueye. They come to help almost every weekend.

-You have organized a fundraiser on May 7, 2011 at the Masjid Zawiyya El Hadji Malick Sy. What was it about?

-We were trying to raise money to create more programs because

To be continued on page 14

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PRESIDENT OBAMA MET WITH FOUR AFRICAN LEADERS



WASHINGTON: President Barack Obama pledged Friday that the United States would remain the “stalwart partner” of democracies in Africa, as he called for global aid for famine victims in the continents parched east.

Obama was speaking after talks at the White House with the leaders of four French-speaking African nations — an unprecedented meeting for a president with close ties to the continent, and a break from the rumbling debt crisis. The US leader welcomed the new president of Ivory Coast, Alassane Ouattara, along with Benin’s President Boni Yayi, President Alpha Conde of Guinea and President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger. He praised them as “four leaders of nations that represent Africa’s democratic progress, which is vital to a stable and prosperous and just Africa but is also critical to the stability and prosperity of the world.” I emphasized that the United States has been, and will continue to be a stalwart partner with them in this process of democratization and development,” Obama told reporters.

“All these leaders were elected through free and fair elections,” Obama said after the talks in the White House’s Cabinet Room, usually reserved for meetings of US cabinet secretaries and advisers. “They’ve shown extraordinary persistence... despite significant risks to their own personal safety and despite enormous challenges, most recently in Cote d’Ivoire,” he added. “Africa doesn’t need strongmen. Africa needs strong institutions.” Obama said the leaders had discussed the devastating famine in the drought-stricken Horn of Africa, which he said had not been given “as much attention here in the United States as it deserves.” This is going to require an international response and Africa will have to be a partner to make sure that tens of thousands of people don’t starve to death,” the US president said. Millions are in danger of starvation due to a prolonged drought in the region. Nearly half of Somalia’s 10 million people are in need of relief assistance. The UN on Friday raised its humanitarian aid appeal, announcing that it was now looking for dollar 2.48 billion for 12.4 million affected people and warning the famine could spread if donors were to default. Born in the United States to a Kenyan father and a white American mother, Obama has visited sub-Saharan Africa once since he began his term two and a half years ago, taking a trip to Ghana in July 2009.

During his visit, he had urged the continent to take its destiny into its own hands and fight undemocratic practices. First Lady Michelle Obama also focused on democratic progress during her June visit to South Africa and Botswana, saying the two countries could serve as models to their neighbors. In early June, President Obama received the leaders of oil-rich Nigeria, Goodluck Jonathan, and Gabon, Ali Bongo, calling on them to fight corruption.

SOURCE : Dawncom/world

Entrepreneurship

resulting in 15 new hires and projected wage increases averaging 10 percent for currently employed trainees. Since the program's inception in 2005, New York City has awarded more than \$8.1 million to 117 companies to train nearly 5,000 workers. The awards have been matched by more than \$7.7 million in employer contributions. The Center for Economic Opportunity, established by Mayor Bloomberg in 2006 to implement innovative ways to reduce poverty in New York City, provides two-thirds of the program's funding, with the fed

eral Workforce Investment Act providing the remainder. Training Funds primarily support businesses engaging in training for the following reasons: investment in new equipment or software; investment in new products or markets; teaching employees to perform new or different jobs; updating obsolete skills or teaching advanced occupational skills. Applicants are judged based upon their ability to impact economic activity in New York City, provide entry-level and current workers with career advancement opportunities, and increase trainee wages.

The most recent NYC Business Solutions Training Funds were awarded to:

Terrafina LLC, a Brooklyn-based wholesale food manufacturer, will use a \$27,824 Training Funds award, to train 12 incumbent employees in lean manufacturing, food safety training and English as a Second Language. The program is projected to result in an average wage increase of 10 percent for all trainees. The award will be matched by an employer contribution of a \$15,900.

Abtron Associates is a Brooklyn-based business environmental contracting and demolition firm. Abtron will use a \$100,131 Training Funds award to train 26 employees in advanced asbestos and lead remediation techniques and specialized computer software. The program is projected to result in 11 new hires and an average wage increase of 12 percent for all trainees. The award will be matched by an employer contribution of \$57,218.

Jamaica Physical Therapy, a Queens-based physical therapy and rehabilitation office, will use a \$29,785 Training Funds award to train 10 employees in electronic records management, billing and coding, and business communications. The program is projected to result in an average wage increase of 16 percent. The award will be matched by an employer contribution of \$17,020.

Rennert International (Wall Street Languages), a Manhattan-based English and foreign language school, will use a \$25,007 Training Funds award to train 15 employees in graphic design and advanced management skills. The program is projected to result in an average wage increase of 7 percent for all trainees. The award will be matched by an employer contribution of \$14,290.

An additional \$500,000 in Training Funds are available. Applications for this round of funding are due Thursday, September 15 and pre-applications for the next round are due November 14. New York City businesses can apply at www.nyc.gov/training, or by calling 311 and asking for "NYC Business Solution

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When she was working as a nurse Adama Bah could never imagined that she will end up doing her own business after fifteen years working tirelessly in nursing. She decided to try herself into business. In just five years , she has become very successful. Adama Bah is a wholesaler of clothes, shoes, hand bags and many more items. She spends her time travelling all over the world from Dubai to Europe, Asia, Africa, and Mali.

For her to successfully launch and run her business Adama relies on her husband who she considers as her inspiration and advisor. In addition, she is pationate about her business, and she loves doing it. Adama believes that honesty is a key to keeping trust with clients. However it doesn't always come from some of the clients.. Recently she has sued and won a court case against a senegalese woman who has refused to to pay her twelve thousand dollars.

Adama Bah says she is happy to be able to take care of her family's needs as well as others people. Dreaming big , her next step will be extending her business across the United States.

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Entrepreneurship

we have a lot of programs to be implemented for the children.

The existing one is called Children's Lecture Series; It is like an after school program where they learn Quran from 2 to 5pm, and from 5 to 8pm, one thing we do is to give them food, and after that we start our lecture.

-Fundraiser means to bring people to donate; did you make money at your fundraiser?

Regrettably, we did not reach our goal. It's maybe pretentious to say it, but my goal was to collect \$50,000, 00 fifty thousand dollars that day. We need to create more programs for the children so that they can go to parks, visit museums and many others places. We need to hire people to take care responsibly of the kids we cannot keep on working with only volunteers because sometimes they can make it and some days none of them is able to come and I find myself alone with thirty something kids.

We did not even reach 8% of our goal because people underestimated the Program. They just think of it as a place where parents can drop their kids and come back to pick them up later for free or a tiny fee. Now that they have seen the program and seen the children's potential and dedication to the Program, may be they will be willing to help more.

-Senegalese communities are generous and devoted in terms of helping kids; did you go to them?

-I think I did everything I could do, because I made flyers and invitations, broadcasted the event on the radio and sent emails to people. I also talked to people, most promised to come but they did not and did not give the contribution they pledge. I'm not disappointed because I'm very perseverant, have faith in this Program and know that, incha Allah, it is going to work one day,

because it is our children's future.

-During the fundraiser you gave a lot of gifts to the kids. What was the content and who gave you money for it?

The gifts were donated by a local organization. I asked for 50 gifts, but it donated 80 gifts and that is why I was able to give gifts to all the kids, even those who are not part of the program. It was the Children's Afternoon, after all. And the next day we organized a picnic to celebrate the children's Moms for Mother's Day, and the food was donated by Sister Rama Dial and her friends, and the gifts were donated by Oumou Hair Braiding Salon, Fa Salon and Touba Boutique.

-During the fundraiser people saw you crying what touched your heart?

-I was moved by all the love the children are giving me, day in day out. That makes me feel so special and fulfilled, and will make me their humble servant evermore.

-What else do you like about children?

-I do not know, I just love children, and my own kids are my best friends since they were babies. A smile illuminates my face each time, and I mean this, each time I see a human being from one day old, to at least, 12 years old, more or less. I never knew why, but I am always ready to be of service to them, help them or just make them happy and feel comfortable around adult people who most of the times let them isolated or secluded from them. I put the children always first.

-What is your last message?

-My last message is to call everybody, parents or not, Muslims or not, to help me help the kids. This is a program that keeps children out of the streets, therefore out of trouble, when they leave school, they come here to learn and have fun at the same time.

They learn here how to become better Muslims, in order to be better leaders tomorrow. We can succeed if parents help us so that we can keep this program running and implement all the programs in our agenda. We want to expand and create pen pal programs with children from California, and from Georgia. I also pray that one day, we are going to be able to send our children in college because I want them to get the highest education with which they will be high ranked professionals, and be part of the most productive people in the world. Parents, please help me, because this is for you and for all of us. Thank you for time
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Cellou Dalein Diallo

MEETS WITH HIS COMMUNITY

El Hadj Cellou Dalein Diallo has met with his community (Union des Forces Democratiques de Guinee UFDG) sunday June 19, 2011 in New York. Accompanied by his campaign director of the presidential election in Guinea Fode Oussou Fofana and many more national and international personalities. After Chicago, Atlanta, Boston, New Jersey where he has met with some Americans personalities, El Hadj Cellou Dalein ended up his trip in New York. He has talked about Peace and unity. The conference room was plenty of thousand of people coming all other the US. The president of UFDG will say this key word:” You should refuse to fall in the tribalism, ethnic hate and exclusion. There is no tribalism ethnic but tribalism people. Every ethnic group has good and bad people. There is no major problem between Poular, Mandingo, Susu, there are bad politicians who are trying to divide us because of their ego. I urge guineans medias of the US to play their partition for peace and reconciliation between guineans. I decided to lead his this political fight for Guinea but not for an ethnic group. UFDG is national party for all Guineans ”. These are few words of El Hadj Cellou Dalein Diallo. El Hadj has also talked about the economy failure, the dictatorship, the arrest of his militants and many more .The meeting was honored with the presence two important personalities, congressman Eric A. Steverson of New York who awarded Cellou Dalein Diallo to accept the results of presidential elections avoiding the civil war



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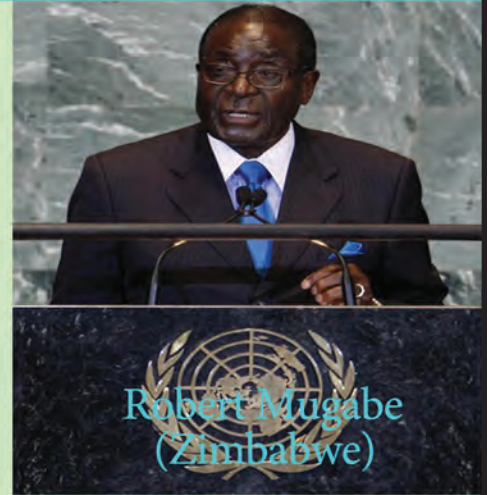
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The Nobel Peace Prize for 2011

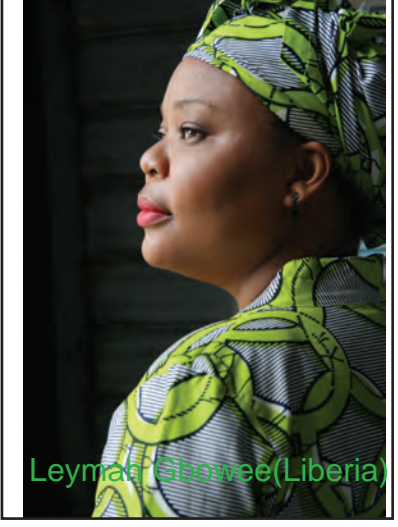
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf - Leymah Gbowee - Tawakkul Karmah



Tawakkul Karman(Yemen)



Ellen Jhonson (Pr Liberia)



Leymah Gbowee(Liberia)

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2011

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2011 is to be divided in three equal parts between **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, **Leymah Gbowee** and **Tawakkul Karman** for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work. We cannot achieve democracy and lasting peace in the world unless women obtain the same opportunities as men to influence developments at all levels of society.

In October 2000, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325. The resolution for the first time made violence against women in armed conflict an international security issue. It underlined the need for women to become participants on an equal footing with men in peace processes and in peace work in general.

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is Africa's first democratically elected female president. Since her inauguration in 2006, she has contributed to securing peace in Liberia, to promoting economic and social development, and to strengthening the position of women. Leymah Gbowee mobilized and organized women across ethnic and religious dividing lines to bring an end to the long war in Liberia, and to ensure women's participation in elections. She has since worked to enhance the influence of women in West Africa during and after war. In the most trying circumstances, both before and during the "Arab spring", Tawakkul Karman has played a leading part in the struggle for women's rights and for democracy and peace in Yemen.

It is the Norwegian Nobel Committee's hope that the prize to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman will help to bring an end to the suppression of women that still occurs in many countries, and to realise the great potential for democracy and peace that women can represent.

Oslo, October 7, 2011

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