



# The Liberian Senate

CAPITOL BUILDING, CAPITOL HILL, MONROVIA, LIBERIA  
WEST AFRICA

May 12, 2021

Mr. Charles Coffey  
President  
Press Union of Liberia (PUL)  
Monrovia, Liberia

Dear Mr. PUL President:

**Subj: Letter of Complaint**

I extend good tidings and felicitations to you and the entire Liberian Media in this special month of Press Freedom which began on the 3rd of May—World Press Freedom Day. And as we observe this month of global Press Freedom, I reaffirm my commitment to a pluralistic, professional, ethical, independent, pragmatic, intelligent, and responsible Liberian press.

Mr. President, with profound emphasis, I write to issue a **FORMAL COMPLAINT** against the malicious, callous, unethical, mendacious, fallacious, and scandalous commentary the Joy F.M. and a few other radio stations are currently running against me—purposefully to injure my reputation.

The lead Commentators at Joy F.M. in persons of Obed Gibah and Emmanuel Dazee are audaciously playing a recording of me in which I am inquiring information on the status of a legitimate budgetary allocation appropriated to the Liberian Senate and the Office of the President Pro-tempore as operational funds.

Interestingly and shamefully, the two Joy F.M. commentators are rolling a advertently disjointed and distorted version of the recording on their station and using same to ridiculously incriminate my discussion, wrongly and purposefully suggesting that I was making a deal and/or inducing an Assistant Minister at the Ministry of Finance to make some illegitimate or shady payment to my office—in effect, broadly accusing me of corruption even though the recording in their possession doesn't back such outlandish and erroneous claim.

If you can recall almost a little over a year ago, I brought the same matter to your attention after the very Joy FM began playing the very audio by which they are now trying to misinform and mislead the public that it is a new recording.

This is nothing more than a barbaric expedition to smear and malign my hard-earned reputation as a political leader. Whatever or whoever motivated such erroneous, slanderous, and disingenuous commentary against me, it is downright disgraceful and condescending that a media institution that MUST be guided by the highest degree of ethics and professional standards will woefully and intentionally attempt to reframe and misinterpret a lawful conversation into something scandalous against the glaring facts. If this is not vicious, then I know no other way to describe it.

In the recording in question, I am simply inquiring information and demanding the payment of lawful budgetary allocation to the Liberian Senate and office of the President Pro-tempore, which is my duty right to do. Without the financing of the Senate and my budgetary appropriation, I cannot effectively and efficiently conduct the affairs of the Liberian Senate and the Office of the President Pro-tempore and execute the constitutional duties and programs thereof. How is that unlawful or wrong?

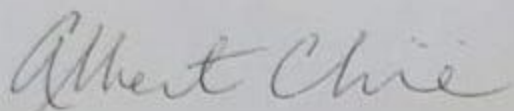
Mr. President, in a bid to execute their embedded motives of crudely tarnishing my reputation, the Joy F.M. commentators herein referenced willfully failed to contact my office to ascertain the facts, which runs contrary to the elementary precepts of journalism that compel media institutions or journalists to always ensure accurate, balance, and credible reporting—under the ABC theory of journalism.

Given the above, I hereby demand, through your immediate intervention, that Joy F.M. instantly stops and retracts the malicious onslaught on my character and publicly issues an apology for injuring my reputation. I have chosen a complaint to the PUL as a first option trusting you will ably intervene and bring Joy F.M. to the proper order by which it must conduct itself.

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize the viewpoint that as the press holds public officials to account for their stewardship, the PUL must firmly hold journalists and media institutions to the highest degree of ethical standards, and ensure that media institutions and individual journalists be appropriately penalized for ethical transmission of any magnitude. This must be the charge of the PUL and it must uphold it at all costs. The charge to foster good governance and strengthen our fledgling democracy is only doable if all stakeholders including the Liberian media dedicate themselves to ethical standards, integrity, transparency, probity, and responsibility in the line of duty in our various roles.

The media cannot be permitted to hold public officials to integrity standards but at the same time be permitted to go about unethically and unlawfully—by going amok ravishing the reputation of others. The media is not and must not be "beyond reproach".

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Albert T. Chie".

Albert T. Chie (Senator)

President Pro-tempore

Cc: Ministry of Information, Cultural Affairs and Tourism(MICAT)  
: Ministry of Justice