

**MS. SABINE MEITZEL, HEAD OF ABIC'S GENEVA OFFICE  
VISITS ABIC LIBERIA HEADQUARTERS**

**JANUARY 23-31, 2026**



### **Arrival- Friday, January 23, 2026**

The Liberian Office of the Angie Brooks International Centre for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security [ABIC] had the esteem honor to host an extraordinary personality- Ms. Sabine Meitzel, Head of ABIC's Geneva Office and Member of the ABIC Board. Her visit, though brief, proved extremely impactful to the morale of ABIC in Liberia. This brochure is a brief catalog of her engagements during her short stay in Liberia.

Upon her arrival, she was received at the Robert International Airport by ABIC Staff and warmly welcomed to the home of Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson, her gracious host, and her family at their C. Leona Chesson Lane residence in Monrovia, where she lodged until her departure on Saturday, January 31, 2026.

*Madam Meitzel receiving a welcome basket upon her arrival*



### **Birthday Party of Eminent Woman Maureen Shaw- Saturday, January 24, 2026**

Madam Meitzel's stay was also made special in the company of likeminded women and peers. One of such occasions was the birthday party of Ms. Maureen Shaw, an Eminent woman of ABIC's Women's Situation Room [WSR]. The occasion was one of joy, memories, and appreciation of the life of Eminent Woman Maureen Shaw.

On the dance floor are [left to right] Elder Maketa Gurley, Hon. Olubanke King-Akerele, and Ms. Meitzel dancing to the rhythm of the song *somebody calls me by my name*.



(Left to Right) Elder Maketa Gurley, H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of the Republic of Liberia, Cllr. Yvette Chesson- Gibson, and Ms. Sabine Meitzel

### **State of the Nation Address- Monday, January 26, 2026**

Within the period of her stay, H.E Joseph Nyuma Boakai Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia, on Monday, January 26, 2026, delivered his third State of the Nation [SONA] Address on the grounds of Capitol Hill, in the nation's capital-Monrovia. Madam Meitzel was invited along with a host of dignitaries from across the country, Africa, and the world, who gathered to listen to the president's annual message.

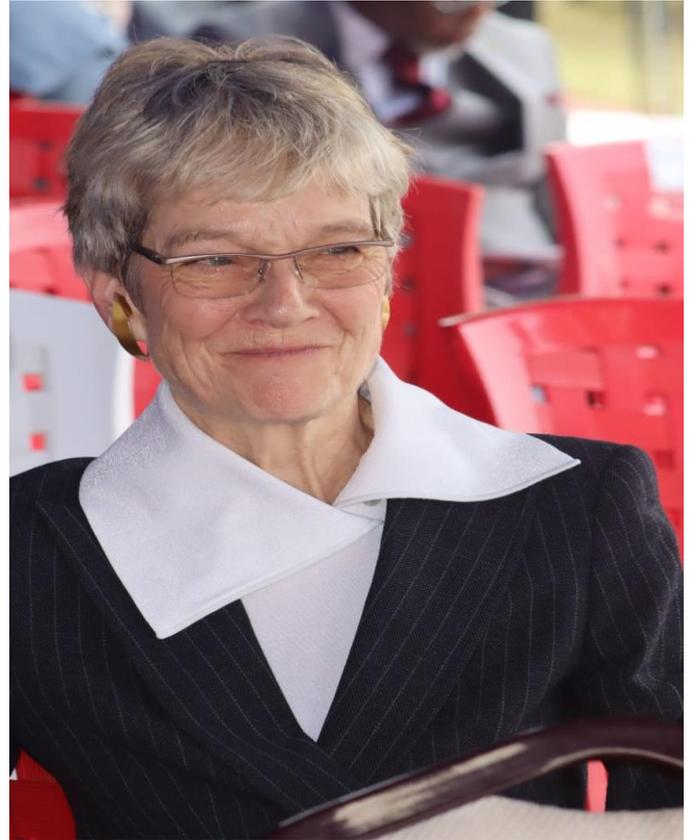
In his speech, the President acknowledged the contribution of ABIC's Women Situation Room in the quest to promote and uphold peace and democracy. The following paragraph is an extract from his address:

'We are pleased to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the Angie Brooks Women's Situation Room in promoting peace and democracy. It is also commendable that the United Nations Security Council has recognized them as exemplary mechanism for monitoring potential hotspots and incidents involving violence, harassment, and intimidation. The MRU Presidential Center will serve as a significant resource to support their future efforts''.



After his acknowledgement, ABIC in a press statement published on the front page of the Women Voices Newspaper, expressed gratitude to the president for his public recognition of its role in peace processes.

At the SONA



### **Meeting with Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson and Hon. Olubanke King-Akerele**

On Tuesday, January 27, 2026, Madam Meitzel held meeting with Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson, Executive Director and Board Member of ABIC, and Hon. Olubanke King-Akerele, Chair of the ABIC Board. The discussion focused on ABIC's Geneva Office and the research that is being conducted there, and how the Geneva Office and the Head Office could further enhance ABIC's work.

### **Meeting with the newly appointed Minister of Youth and Sports, Liberia**

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, Madam Meitzel, along with Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson, met with Ms. Cornelia Wonkerleh Kruah, the newly appointed Minister of Youth and Sports, Republic of Liberia. Their conversation centered on ABIC's collaboration with the youth of Liberia and their role in peace and nation building. Discussions were also held on the subject of the disadvantaged youths and their connection with ABIC's Geneva Research Project. The meeting concluded with the parties' commitment to work together to elevate the youth.

### **Meeting with The Women voices Newspaper**

On Wednesday, January 28, 2026, Madam Meitzel met with the Women Voices Newspaper Publisher Ms. Helen Nah. This publishing entity has worked closely with ABIC in the publication of the Institution's contents such as press releases. As stated in previous paragraph, it was the Women Voices Newspaper that published ABIC's statement in response to President Boakai's acknowledgement of the institution's role in Liberia's democracy as follows:

### **Official statement of the WSR**

"On Monday, January 26, 2026, H.E. Joseph Nyuma Boakai Sr., President of the Republic of Liberia delivered his 3<sup>rd</sup> State of the Nation Address, an annual message delivered with the purpose of reviewing the government's progress over the past year and priorities for the coming year.

In his address, the president acknowledged the role of the Angie Brooks International Centre for Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace, and Security [ABIC] in the nation's quest to foster and sustain peace and democracy. The following paragraph is an extract from his address:

“We are pleased to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the Angie Brooks Women’s Situation Room in promoting peace and democracy. It is also commendable that the United Nations Security Council has recognized them as exemplary mechanism for monitoring potential hotspots and incidents involving violence, harassment, and intimidation. The MRU Presidential Center will serve as a significant resource to support their future efforts”.

We the Eminent women of the women’s Situation Rooms across Africa, and members of the Board of ABIC hereby acknowledge and appreciate the president for his recognition of our part in this worthy cause, a cause to which we remain committed. Mr. President, we are gratified by your acknowledgment of our effort, and of a certainty, we will continue collectively combat the ills that so often threaten our peace and democracy.

### ***The Voices of the Elders Retreat, January 30, 2026***

Madam Meitzel attended the annual Retreat of The Voices of the Elders, RL (VOTE, R.L), held in Careysburg, Montserrado County, Liberia. The occasion brought together Elders and patriots of the republic. “The elders are a group of septuagenarians and older Liberians who reflect verbally on the historical evolution of the Liberian state, to engage in a continuous way with audiences (local and international) on the positive cultural values which define our ethnic tenets and Liberia in general, promoting the social values which define a refined society, and helping to imbue Liberians with a sense of duty one to the other” (VOTE, R.L).

The group exists as a legal entity, fully incorporated as of March 11, 2024 and registered under the laws of the Republic of Liberia.

At this year’s Annual Retreat, the keynote address was delivered by Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson. In her speech, she passionately stressed the need for a nation to listen to its elders, considering that in the Liberian Culture, elder hood isn’t merely defined by age, but by wisdom earned through experience. Referring to the Elders, she asserted, “You are living archives, and archives are not meant to be locked away, they are meant to be consulted”.

Her message emphasized the danger of responding to trauma with silence, and of the inevitability of chaos when violence replaces dialogue. “Peace is a daily responsibility”, she added. She charged the elders to “be the moral compass” for the younger generation, and that the youth listen to the elderly. She concluded, “The tragedy of nations is not that elders grow old but that their wisdom goes unused”.

**Photos from the Voices of the Elders Retreat**



(From bottom left) Sister Mary Laurene Browne is an elder of the Republic of Liberia and a distinguished educator whose unwavering commitment to academic excellence has transformed the landscape of education in Liberia.

(Above) Hon. Olubanke King-Akerele is an elder, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Former Minister of Commerce, Chair of the ABIC Board, and Executive Director of the Liberia Institute for “Growing” Patriotism (LIGP).



**With H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former president of The Republic of Liberia**

Madam Meitzel had the honor to meet with H.E Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, former President of The Republic of Liberia. Together with Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson, they discussed ABIC's ongoing Geneva Research Project and the significant impact that it will have on the lives of the Liberian Youth, especially the population of the young people termed as disadvantaged youths.

On January 16, 2006, Madam Sirleaf was inaugurated as Liberia's first woman president and first African woman head of state. She led the nation for 12 years, and peacefully turned over power on January 22, 2018.

In 2011, she was awarded the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize alongside Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman, for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work.

Madam Sirleaf is also the Champion of the Women's situation Room. She continues to be involved and interested in the women of Africa quest for peace in their countries.





## **Lunch with the Eminent Women of the Women's Situation Room [WSR]**

On January 29, 2026, Madam Meitzel had lunch with Eminent Women of the WSR, at the Boulevard Palace Hotel in Sinkor, Monrovia. During the lunch, they held discussions on the roles of the Eminent Woman at the WSR and the impact that have made toward the peace and stability of the nation.



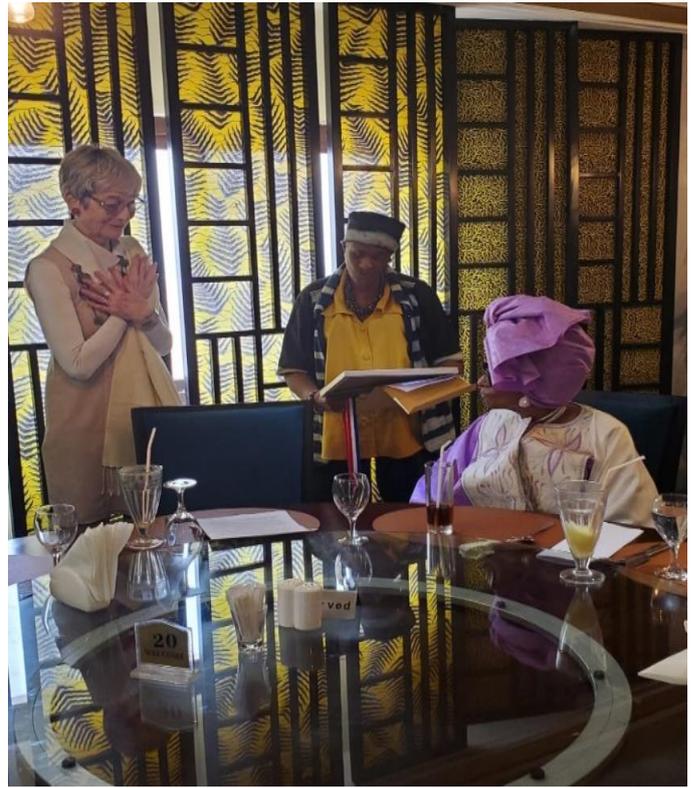
Eminent Women (L-R) Hon. Clara Doe Mvogo, Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson, Cllr. Frances Johnson-Allison, Ms. Sabine Meitzel, Hon. Olubanke King-Akerele, Cllr. Felicia Coleman Patray, Mrs. Comfort Minor, Ms. Maureen Shaw

***“The peace is in our hands”.***

### **A brief history of the Judge Emma Shannon Walser Medal**

On Tuesday, June 11, 2024, ABIC and her partners held a memorial in honor of Judge Emma Shannon Walser at the Ruth Morgenthau Reading Room of the Arthur Grimes school of Law at the University of Liberia, Capitol Hill, Monrovia, Liberia. In the connotation of the occasion, Hon. King-Akerele, Chair of the ABIC Board said the Judge Emma Shannon Medal is an honor created to recognize individuals who demonstrate strong commitments to rule of law, good governance, patriotism, peacebuilding, and nation-building, reflecting the legacy of Liberia's pioneering female jurist, Judge Emma Shannon Walser.

At the end of the lunch, Hon. King-Akerele, an Eminent Woman and Executive Director of Liberia Institute for “Growing” Patriotism (LIGP) presented the Judge Emma Shannon Walser Medal for Rule of Law; Good Governance, and Patriotism to Madam Meitzel for her work with ABIC through which she contributed to Liberia’s peace and stability.



### **Meeting with the Disadvantaged Youth**

On Thursday, January 29, 2026, Madam Meitzel held a meeting with a few of the disadvantaged youths of Liberia. These young people are commonly known to the public as ‘Zogos’, a homemade terminology that is given to drug users who are found in the streets, in market places, at parking stations where they help drivers to load their vehicles with goods , while also helping passengers to secure their spots into taxis and buses.

However, these young people have been the subject of ABIC’s Geneva Research for six years, and they were the first to be presented as disadvantaged youths in the Geneva Peace Week [GPW] by skype.

The conversation was an interactive one, where she patiently listened to their stories of how they got addicted to drugs and the experiences they have had since then. She also took notes of their recommendations pertaining to the need for rehabilitation facilities and the equipping of these facilities with provision for vocational training. At the end of the meeting, they pledged their commitment to assist ABIC in its initiatives for disadvantaged youth across the country.





### **Meeting with ABIC Communications Team**

The Communications Department of ABIC Liberia also benefitted immensely from the expertise of Madam Meitzel during her stay. She held a meeting with Mr. Ephraim F. Vonyon, ABIC's Communication Officer, and Mr. Israel Nah, IT Personnel at ABIC. During this meeting, she gave her professional recommendations relating to the structure, features, and content of the Organization's platform. The team took notes of her comments which proved very utilitarian in the updating of the website.

## **Visit to the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Group Remembrance Park**

Madam Mietzel also visited The April 22<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Group Remembrance Park, where she had a time of reflection on the roles and sacrifices of some of the patriots who once trod the path of peace. This historic Park holds memories of the April 22, 1980 illegal execution of the thirteen high-ranking officials from the overthrown administration of President William R. Tolbert Jr. who was also killed.

Among the Ministers killed was Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson Gibson's father, Cllr. Joseph J.F Chesson, Minister of Justice.

It was also a time of appreciation of the past, and of the lives of the patriots who stood for what they knew would eventually prove worthy of their sacrifices.

The Park, located at the Liberia Baptist Theological Seminary in Paynesville, was dedicated by President Joseph Nyuma Boakai Sr. on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.



# OUR HERO



HON. DR. CYRILA BRIGHT SR.  
April 25, 1929 - April 22, 1980  
Minister of Agriculture  
Republic of Liberia  
1979 - 1980



HON. JOSEPH J.F. C.  
April 20, 1919 - A  
Minister of  
Republic  
1979 -



HON. C. CECIL DENNIS, JR.  
February 21, 1932 - April 22, 1980  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of Liberia  
1973 - 1980



HON. RICHARD A.  
September 16, 1908 -  
Speaker, House of Re  
Republic of L  
1951 - 198



HON. DAVID FRANKLIN NEAL  
November 28, 1928 - April 22, 1980  
Minister of Planning &  
Economic A  
Republic



HON. P. C.  
July 6



HON. P. C. PHILLIPS, JR.  
April 22, 1980  
e  
a



HON. JAMES A. A.  
July 18, 1908 - April  
Chief Justice of the Supr  
Republic of Lib  
1971 - 1980



HON. F. REGINALD TOWNSE  
July 23, 1917 - April 22, 1  
National Chairman, True Wh  
Republic of Liberia  
1979 - 1980



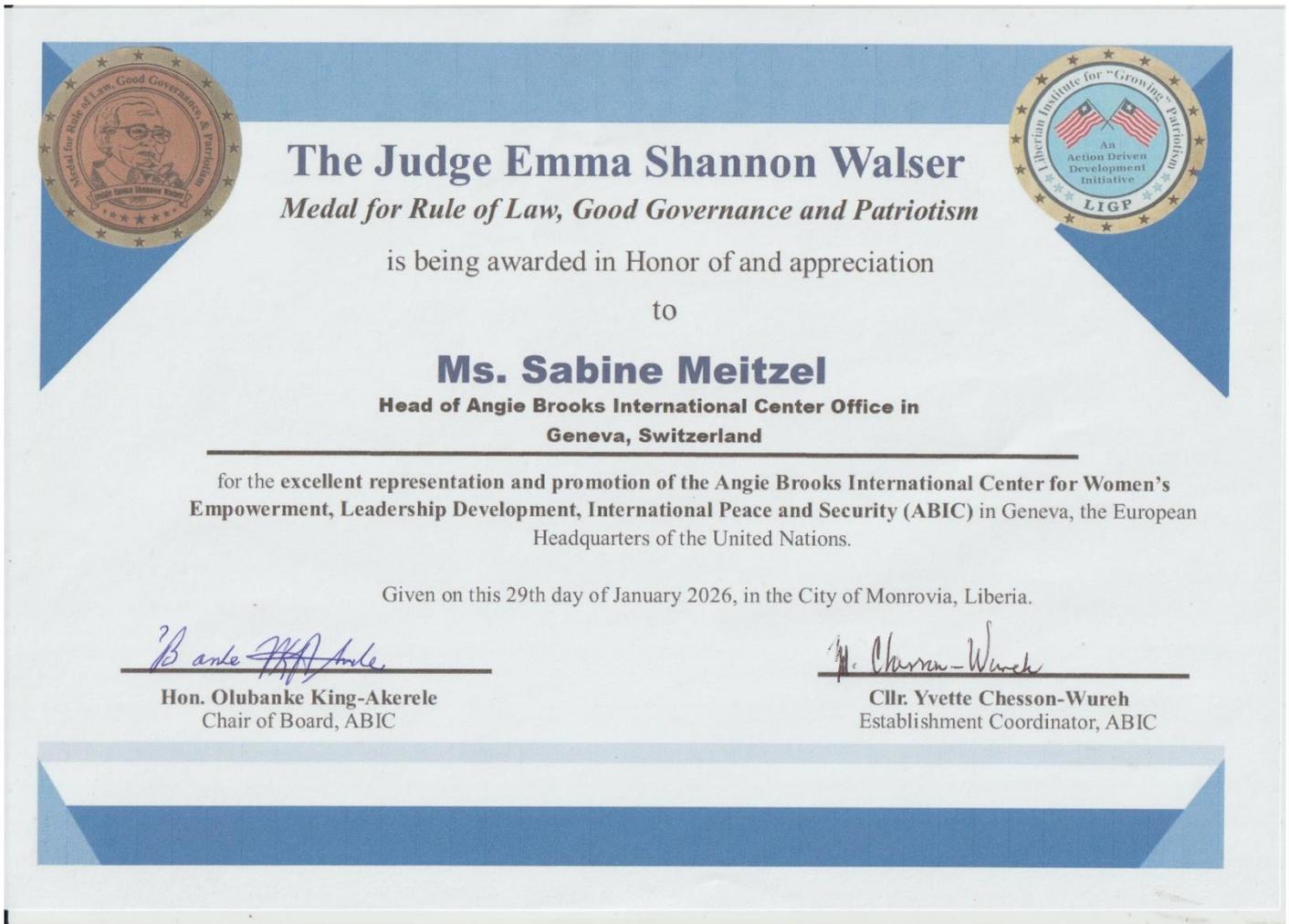
*Cllr. Dr. Yvette Chesson-Gibson [left], member of the April 22<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Group and Madam Sabine Meitzel [right] posed at the Park*



“We Will Remember Them”, words engraved on a stone at the *April 22<sup>nd</sup> Memorial Group Remembrance Park*. This is evidence that we are now the custodians of their memories.

### **Acknowledgement**

*We extend our profound gratitude to you, Ms. Sabine Meitzel, and those of the Eminent Women of the Women’s Situation Room in Liberia. Thanks for your unwavering commitment to the peace process, we have been truly blessed to have you.*



### **An insight into the contributions of Ms. Sabine Meitzel to ABIC**

Ten years after the inauguration of ABIC in Monrovia, Liberia, the Institution opened an office in Geneva, Switzerland in 2019.

Ms. Sabine Meitzel, Member of ABIC's Board of Directors was appointed on November 15, 2019 as the Head of ABIC's Geneva Office. According to the recommendations of the ABIC's Board of Directors at their meeting held in 2018, the Geneva Office through the headship of Ms. Sabine Meitzel performs the following tasks:

- Lead ABIC's Geneva Peace Week Team
- Lead and support ABIC's collaboration with the Geneva Graduate Institute
- Liaise with organizations based in Geneva as and when necessary
- Explore opportunities for regular training of ABIC staff.

