

# A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

[www.a-choicesmagazine.com](http://www.a-choicesmagazine.com)

December, 2020

  
REST IN PEACE



A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO

# JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS

-1947 - 2020-



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# ABOUT US

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A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

**A**-CHOICES magazine is an online African lifestyle magazine for ordinary-educated reader in English. It is not entirely about entertainment but covers other broad topics including business and economy(market) arts & culture fashions, personality stories, sports, etc. It is a channel through which we celebrate African achievers at home and in the diaspora. A-CHOICES hopes to entertain, empower and inspire Africans around the world.

## ***Write for Us***

*We're accepting submissions from writers, thinkers, makers, scholars, and readers of online publishing and editorial work. We re currently accepting submissions for our next Issues . We accept submissions on a rolling basis, and generally don't close submissions until halfway through a given issue, so there are no set closing dates.*

*We do not accept work that has been previously published o blogged.*

*Please send submissions to [achoices@a-choicesmazine.com](mailto:achoices@a-choicesmazine.com)*

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# EDITOR'S LETTER



*As hard as it may be to believe, another year is drawing to a close. We have never seen a year quite like this one. But after a summer where our lives and plans were put on hold, we are looking forward to a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. I would like to say a big thank you to A-CHOICES TEAM for your maximum support over the past four months and also, would like to wish all our readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, however you choose to celebrate. Thank you, as always, for all your support through the past four months. Now, take a well deserved break and enjoy the festivities!*

*Thanks again for reading A-CHOICES, and however you celebrate, may you be happy.*

**Editor-in-Chief**

**Gbenga Teejay Okunlola**

## Bulgarian Santa for the Orphans in Africa



By: Albena A. Jones

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I am a great believer in the potential of Africa, its vibrant nature, resources, culture, traditions and people make it the most diverse continent in the World. Africa is often referred to as the “Mother Continent” due to it being the oldest inhabited continent, humans have lived in Africa since 5 million years ago, it is proven that much of the early human evolution started here.

The people factor remains Africa’s most valuable resource; the current population of Africa is approximately 1,352,968,000 based on the latest United Nations estimates. The African people are still guided by the moral virtues of the past, where family and faith are the lead characteristics of the nations across the continent. Despite the strong heredity principles and belief systems most of the people in African face serious well-being challenges with health, education, poverty and freedom of choice.

As the festive season approaches and this hardest for humanity year comes to a close, I would like to

introduce you to a remarkable person with a “Big Heart” who also shares my passion and love for Africa, its people and especially the young generation.

His name is Daniel Delibashev a 39 year old, Bulgarian, whose mission is to bring smiles to countless African orphans through his Charity foundation “Smile for Africa”.

Daniel spent his childhood living in a village in the Bulgarian Rhodope Mountains. He moved to Sofia when he was 17 years old, completed a Bachelor’s degree in Finance at the University of National and World Economy and did his Master’s program in Bank Management at the New Bulgarian University. After pursuing a career in banking and finance, he decided to combine his hobbies of travelling the world and getting to know people from different cultures, while doing international charity work. Find out how this has now become his mission, cause and work in this exclusive interview with Daniel, who is currently in an orphanage he set up in Kampala, Uganda:

**A-CHOICES:** *How and when was the idea born for your foundation "Smile for Africa"?*

**DANIEL:** The idea to establish a foundation was born just before I became a volunteer in Ghana in 2017. I told my friends and acquaintances that I was going to take up this challenge and asked them to help me buy the basic necessities for the orphanage where I was going to volunteer, many of them immediately agreed to support me with donations. At that moment, I decided that if I wanted to help further, I had to establish a foundation which would be an important step towards achieving better results in providing food and health care for those children. Thus, after I not only witnessed, but lived in the same challenging conditions as the children there did, I was convinced that I would never stop helping people in Africa and that such a foundation was needed more than ever.

**A-CHOICES:** *Daniel, why Africa?*

**DANIEL:** Gut feeling! The past and current hardship of Mother Africa resulting in a lot of suffering, as well as the inexplicable and mutual love between us are all deeply rooted in this gut feeling.

**A-CHOICES:** *What have you already achieved in your past visits to Africa and what do you hope to accomplish now and in 2021?*

**DANIEL:** We have committed to various activities and projects in Uganda and Ghana, such as food and water supply, education, medical care, daily needs, improving the living conditions, cultural activities and others. Apart from that, we contribute to the generation with positive emotions by giving attention, hope, love and smiles to the people here.

The aim that we would like to accomplish in 2021 is to build a school here in Uganda. In addition to that, we are planning to build a kindergarden and bedrooms, serving as a shelter for orphans and abandoned children. Even though we do not have specific projects in other countries on the agenda, I hope that in the next 1-2 years we will expand our work to other regions in Africa.

**A-CHOICES:** *What are the effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic in Uganda, are many children currently affected locally?*

**DANIEL:** COVID-19 has impact on almost every child here. They have been receiving education solely through TV channels for more than 7 months now. However, the children who have access to a TV/internet connection are very few. Most of the adolescents and adults live off activities that have been restricted due to the pandemic and this has made their survival even more difficult.

**A-CHOICES:** *What similarities and differences have you found between the African and Bulgarian people and culture?*

**DANIEL:** One of the similarities between Bulgaria and Africa is that both nations crave for a better life and a change in the political status quo. The continuous protests in both countries serve as evidence for that. In terms of the cultural similarities, I can say that we have been discovering more and more similarities in the last couple of months. Our partner groups and organisations in Uganda managed to touch the hearts of millions of Bulgarians around the world through performing various



Bulgarian songs and dances. In return, the Bulgarian people's positive reactions have made the Africans more than happy and have encouraged them to continue learning new things and prepare new performances.

here are a lot of differences between Africa and Bulgaria and also between Africa and Europe (and not only) in general. The sense of life, happiness, and gratefulness are quite different. And this difference gave more meaning to my life in Africa, where the material security is very low, but the feeling of happiness is based on the relationships between the people and especially between the children.

**A-CHOICES:** *What is the most valuable lesson that you would like to pass on to the orphans that you work with?*

**DANIEL:** The most valuable lesson that I would like to pass on to the orphans that I work with is that happiness does not come from the material things. On the contrary, the more material possessions one has, the more one serves them as a slave. And even though I have had the chance to see both of these worlds – with and without possessions and I can see the difference between them, I suppose it is difficult for these children to sense the difference, as the only material things they have is several pieces of clothing hidden in their backpacks. And unfortunately, some of them do not even have that.





ime in their life.

My deepest gratitude and appreciation goes to this brave, young man Daniel Delibashev, who has single-handedly embarked on a charitable mission to bring a “*Smile for Africa*”.

*To support Daniel in his mission and contribute to a small Christmas miracle that will bring a big smile, please follow this link: <https://smileforafrica.eu/donate>*

Best festive wishes to all A-Choices readers around the Globe,

Handwritten signature of Alberta A. Jones

Associate Editor

**A-CHOICES:** *What Christmas miracle are you wishing for?*

**DANIEL:** Everything that these kids receive is a small miracle, including having roof over their heads, receiving food, being healthy, having the love of the people who take care of them – things that millions of children in Africa do not have. I can see the joy they express even when they get a candy and this makes me think that even one candy is some sort of a miracle for them. Every child dreams of a little something which will make him/her infinitely happy. However, we do not have many opportunities to fulfil the Christmas dreams of these kids, as their daily needs are our priority at the moment. We sometimes manage to provide them with toothbrushes and toothpastes, as well as with rubber shoes and towels. Nevertheless, I am certain that my wish for a Christmas miracle will come true and through the generosity and good will of well-wishers we will bring a lot of children’s smiles while receiving gifts from Santa Claus for the first t

## Kamala Harris The Wicked Witch Of The West Is Alive. Ding Dong!



By: Akosua Darko  
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The first female of colour vice president and female vice president of the United States is okay with putting innocent people in jail and keeping them there for cheap labour on legal technicalities even if they have been proven innocent. Even if the person is serving life in prison. To build up her quotas to climb her career ladder. It is very sad that someone with morals the size of a dot could possibly be the first female president of America. Eleanor Roosevelt is sad. She would have been a president that summoned pride. Even though I'm black and ridiculously proud! It's a shame from great women like Maya Angelou, Nina Simone, Madame C J Walker, Harriet Tubman and Rosa Parks. The first woman of colour vice president laughs at jailing parents of truant kids.

The first woman of colour vicepresident mocked those who preferred building schools instead of prisons. Now Kamala Harris is all for defunding the police and a Black Lives Matter activist because she knows that is what will make her popular enough to hold the presidential and vice presidential posts in America. This woman is an opportunist and opportunists don't have morals.

Kamala Harris is apparently well qualified for the top jobs and 'smart' yet when she was lawyer she couldn't follow the law. She wasn't smart enough to climb up her career ladder by getting fair convictions or giving fair sentences. She had to hide evidence and make up laws about truancy in her head and give people ridiculous sentences for small marijuana possession. Which she said she took herself in college.

How fantastic it is She didn't get convicted for it and it didn't ruin her rise to the top, with a criminal record, She never got for perverting the course of justice. Kamala Harris loves putting black, poor and marginalised people in jail. For once I agree with Donald Trump, Kamala Harris is a monster! Unless you are a dirty police officer, rich or an alleged Catholic priest sexual abuser then she won't prosecute you.



In 2010, a California Superior Court judge showed evidence of Harris's DA office of violating defendants' rights by covering up detrimental information about a drug-lab technician. The failure of Harris' prosecutors led to the dismissal of more than 600 drug cases. Kevin Cooper was innocent of a crime and put on Death Row, unsurprisingly the police framed him but Kamala opposed his release until the New York Times reported it. Another man George Cage has a 70-year-old sentence for child sexual abuse, the charges were proven false but Harris decided to hold them up on a legal technicality. Cage is now 80, partially blind and still incarcerated. A little Google search on Kamala Harris and false imprisonment brings up too many cases for comfort and Harris has never apologised.

A little Google search of Kamala Harris and dirty cops, Kamala Harris and Catholic priests, Kamala Harris prosecution record and Kamala Harris and marijuana brings up shocking results. When Tulsi Gabbard ripped Kamala Harris about her prosecution records Kamala Harris like Pinocchio's nose started twitching and she couldn't answer questions about malpractice, she said she was proud of her record.

Martin Luther Kings words still stand though. We judge by the content of character not the colour of skin. Kamala Harris's character is an F.

The Wicked Witch Of The West Is Alive. People of colour, poor and marginalised hide yourself, hide your kids, even if you are innocent for cheap labour you maybe institutionalised.

# KAMALA HARRIS MAKES HISTORY AS FIRST WOMAN OF COLOR ELECTED US VICE-PRESIDENT



**By: Dr. Funmi Awoleye -Beckley**  
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**A** big congratulations to Madam Kamala Harris on becoming the first black woman elected as vice president of the United States of America. Joe Biden has officially been elected as the next President of the United States, after defeating incumbent Donald Trump in the 2020 election. The historic election makes the 56-year old California senator the first woman, first Black person, and first South Asian American person to be elected vice president.

As the highest-ranking woman ever elected in American government, Kamala Harris' victory gives ray of hope to women who were devastated by Hillary Clinton's defeat four years ago.

Harris has been a star in the making in Democratic politics for much of the last two decades, serving as San Francisco's district attorney and California's attorney general before becoming a U.S. senator. After Harris ended her own 2020 Democratic presidential campaign, Joe Biden picked her as his running mate. They will be sworn in as president and vice president on January 20, 2021.

Even though during the campaign, President Donald Trump and his campaign team attempted to portray Harris as a far-left influence who would bring a radical agenda to the Biden administration. Trump's campaign called her Biden's 'liberal handler' and Trump accused Democrats of plotting to remove Biden and install Harris in the presidency if he won. As Biden being officially announced the winner of the election, Harris tweeted:

'This election is about so much more than Joe Biden nor me. It's about the soul of America and our willingness to fight for it.'We have a lot of work ahead of us. Let's get started'.



Kamala Harris was born in 1964 to two parents active in the civil rights movement. Shyamala Gopalan Harris, from India, and Donald Harris, from Jamaica, met at the University of California, Berkeley, then a hotbed of 1960s activism. Kamala's parents divorced when she and her sister were girls, and Harris was raised by her late mother,

whom she considers the most important influence in her life. Kamala is Sanskrit for 'lotus flower,' and Harris acknowledges to her Indian heritage throughout the campaign. Harris' mother raised her daughters with the understanding the world would see them as black women, Harris has said, and that is how she describes herself today.

Kamala attended Howard University, one of the nation's historically black colleges and universities. She campaigned regularly at Hocus and tried to address the concerns of young black men and women eager for strong efforts to dismantle systemic racism. Harris is married to a Jewish man, Doug Hoff. Despite the excitement surrounding Harris, she and Biden face difficult challenges ahead, including deepening racial tensions in the U.S. in the wake of a pandemic and protests over racial injustice. Her past work as a prosecutor has prompted scepticism among progressives and young voters who are looking to her to back sweeping institutional change over incremental reforms in policing, drug policy and more. According to Jessica Byrd, who leads the Movement for Black Lives' Electoral Justice Project and The Front-line, a multiracial coalition effort to galvanise voters, said she plans to engage in the rigorous organising work needed to push Harris and Biden toward more progressive policies. 'I am deeply believe in the power of black women's leadership, even when all of our politics don't align,' Byrd said. 'I want us to be committed to the idea that representation is exciting and it's worthy of celebration and also that we have millions of black women who deserve a fair shot.'



Harris is the second black woman elected to the Senate. Her colleague, Senator Corey Booker, who is also black, said her very presence makes the institution 'more accessible to more people' and suggested she would accomplish the same with the vice presidency. Her ascension to vice president could usher more black women and people of colour into politics. In 244 years of United States of America politics, Harris is the first woman to serve in one of the two country's two highest exalted offices. The key question is what might she do in the White House? Of course, she has a record on criminal justice that is troubling. But I am very hopeful that grass roots and national organisations will push her to the left. I hope she is ready to address the harm the criminal justice system has done to Black and Brown communities up close.

I look forward to watching Kamala Harris walking out of the White House for the first time, so that I can show my children: look, there's a Black woman as vice-president. But representation is only representation: we need actual results. Black women are going to rejoice that she's won, and wish her all the joy she can handle, Harris isn't going to get a honeymoon period, because she's a Black woman in a racist and sexist country. Finally, we can all now heave a sigh of relief that Trump's presidency will soon come to an end. Four years of turmoil, nativism and racism are over in January. Joe Biden's imminent administration heralds a turning point for the US and the world, promising greater international collaboration, consensus and reconciliation, a chance for the world to address its problems with civility, diplomacy and expertise. Congratulations Madame VP.

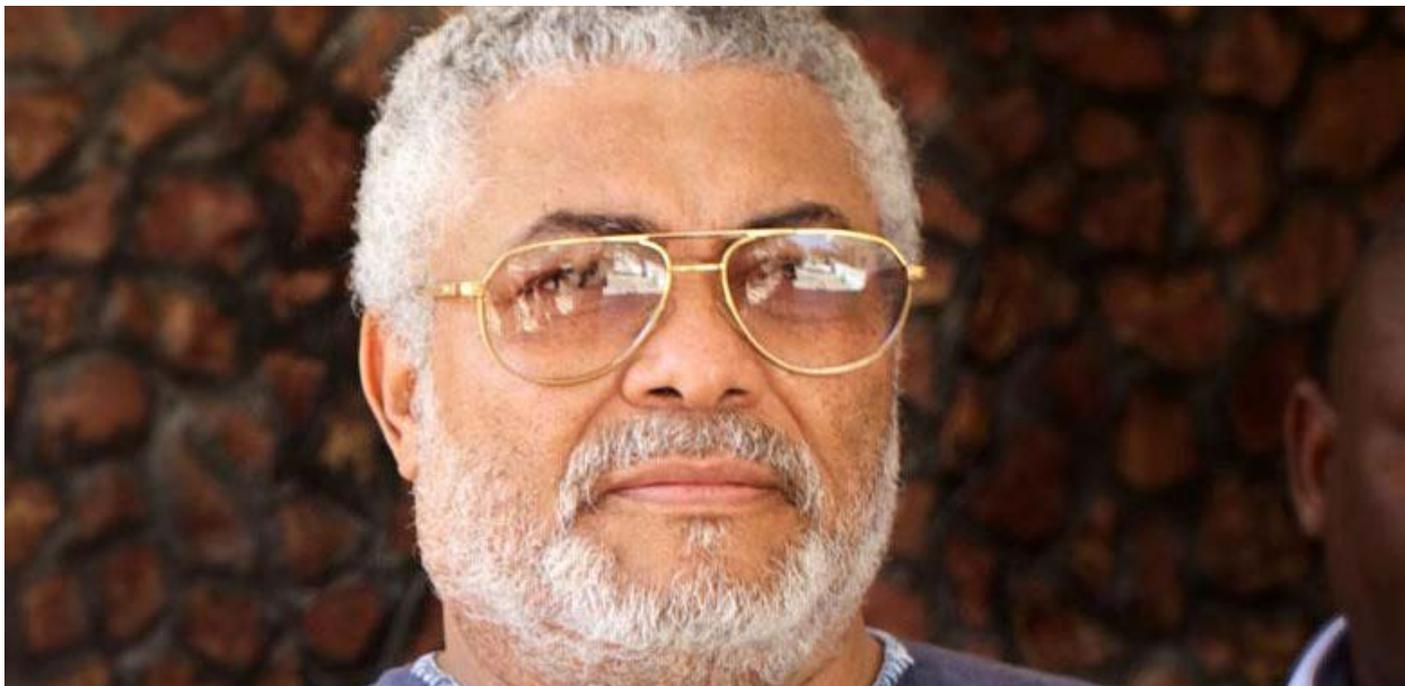
# SPECIAL TRIBUTE FOR JERRY JOHN RAWLINGS



**By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola**

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With the demise of 73 year old former President of Ghana Jerry John Rawlings, another tree from Africa has fallen, taking Ghana to the prosperous shift from a military dictatorship to a prosperous democracy.



## Early Life and Career

On June 22, 1947, John Jerry Rawlings was born in Accra, Ghana. After his demise, historians take the fragments of their lives and examine them and eventually give them a position in history. Born to a mother from Ghanaian-African origin and father from White- Scottish origin, Jerry John Rawlings was a man of people.

In 1967 Rawlings completed his high school at Achimota College. A short time after he became the part of the Air Force of Ghana. In January of 1969 he graduated and was designated as pilot officer. Just after the coup of 1979, he entered a student group at the University of Ghana where, reading and learning about political and social theories, he established a more leftist ideology

Rawlings is loved to express the truth to authority with his charm and bravery. In Ghana's past. He is Ghana's longest serving President ruling from 1981 till 2001. After having decided to restore the nation to democratic rule after its military rule for more than a decade, moreover he is first Ghana's President of the Fourth Republic.

After the coup which took place on 31 December 1981, he became Head of State in 1981. Rawlings expelled Hilla Limann who said that civil rule was poor and the economy deteriorated. While not ideal, many note the man with his view and viewpoint was principled and genuine.



## Rawlings' Civilian Rule

Prior to his victory in 1979 and in 1981, Rawlings planned two coups. But with the transition from Ghana to democratic elections, he shocked the detractors. Prior to the 1992 elections, Rawlings founded the National Democratic Congress (NDC) and used it to analyse civilian views in order to promote democratic change. The NDC has published a study which recommends the establishment of a national assembly and the formation of a Prime Minister's post. This study paved the way for Ghana's democracy. After leaving, Rawlings remained an African Union delegate in Somalia, a democratic force broker in the Ghana region, whilst working in a variety of foreign diplomatic roles.

"The most remarkable thing that Ghanaians will remember Jerry Rawlings for is that he handed over power to a civilian moreover from the opposition something unheard of not only in Ghana but across Africa," Micah said. "The Ghanaians liked Jerry for being transparent. In his affairs and everything he said stalwart parties or high officials, he was truthful. They loved him.

## Vision 2020

In 1995, he delivered a paper named Vision 2020 to Ghana's Parliament, proposing an ambitious long-term strategy to enhance the human and economic growth of their countries and their networks, as well as rural and

urban development.

In the 1960s, Singapore had been a middle revenue nation, according to Rawlings, but its illusion was shattered after his replacement John Kuffour had different ambitions for growth. The first move was to pursue Singapore's example.

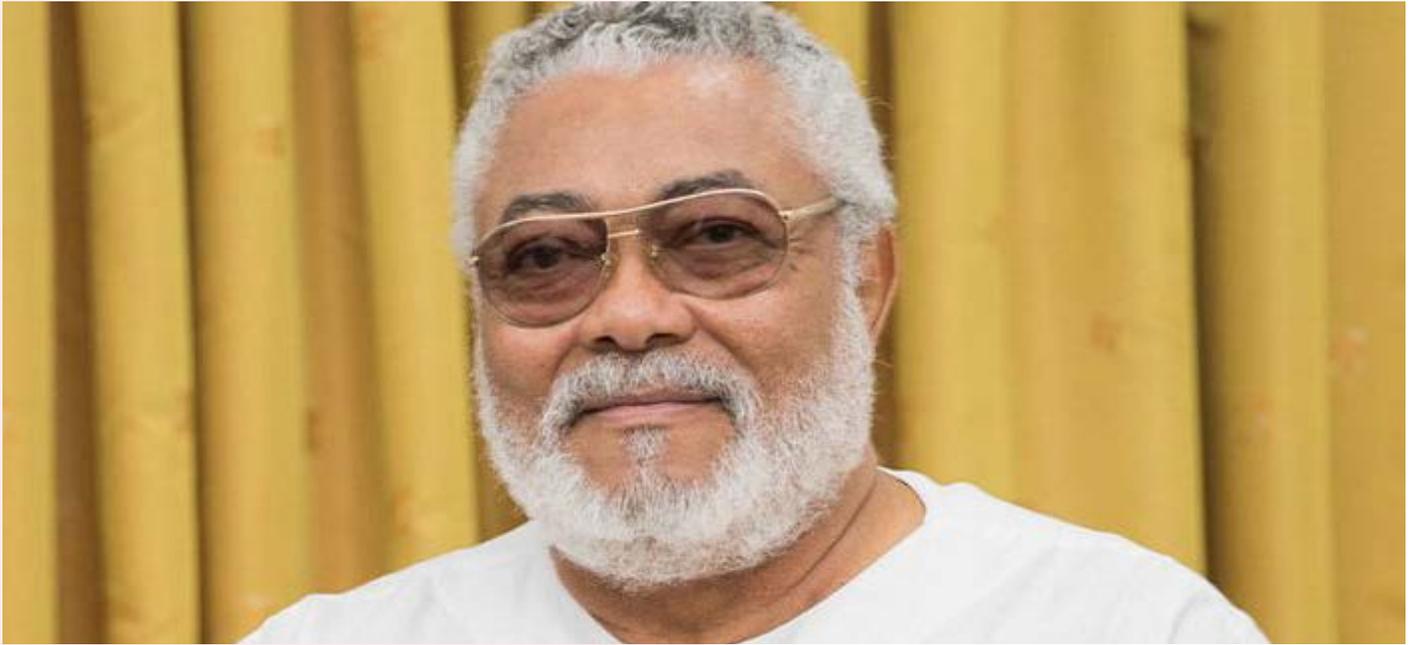
## Alliance with other Nations

In a "Solidarity of the struggle" Mr. Rawlings allied with the countries of Suriname, Nicaragua, Cuba, Burkina and Faso; he also formed strategic partnerships with the Caribbean countries and some other African countries.

In 1989, Mr. Rawlings welcomed Hon. Minister Louis Farrakhan in Ghana to open a Nation of Islam office which would serve the African Region, against the desires of many advisors who were risking the wrath of America and Britain, and made a move against a determined attempt by the U.S. government to obstruct the reception of Minister Farrakhan by African politicians.

## Man of People

Mr. Rawlings claimed he abstained even after his rule, according to observers of his management. After having stepped down, Mr. Rawlings advocated the common man and was close to the citizens owing to constitutional terms limitations.



Ghanaians recall him in Ghana, where Rawlings is nicely recognised as ‘Papa Yay’ – as a warrior in all times who after his time of office, instituted peacefully and democratically shifted influence. The supporters kept the group that they established and worked twice as the elected president of Ghana – the “National Democratic Congress” or NDC, during a vigil in Accra.

“Our founder who has been a legend, and he is still a legend for centuries to come, his legacy reigns, and we are still going to have him in our memory. NDC, as a party, we are going to celebrate a week-long for our departed hero” said the Hajai Mariama Zakeri, NDC organisers

In 2001, Rawlings shocked analysts, but he managed to dominate Ghana. In 2001 he quit office again. The supporters wept outside his home in Accra after Rawlings’ death on November 12 when the top officials of his party came to meet his family.

## **Treatment with Refugees**

Hundreds and thousands of refugees from Liberia were hosted by Mr Rawlings, displaced in Ghana by a vicious civil war which he had managed to alleviate as a leader of Ghana. President Rawlings has survived by his wife, Nana Konadu Agyeman-Rawlings, a candidate for president in elections next month; his 3 daughters; and one sibling, who has passed away two months after Victoria’s mum. President Rawlings will not be overlooked as they leave a global family benefitting from his commitment.



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# America Decides 2020 What next for the United States? Donald Trump's Refusal to Concede is No Joke - It is a Dangerous Precedent.



By: Seyi Awoleye

Los Angeles, CA

*On 7th of November, Joe Biden surpassed the threshold of 270 votes in order to claim success in the US presidential election of 2020 and beating Donald trump.*



Joe Biden of Democrats is announced President-elect, but Trump in certain main states, accusing electoral manipulation, opposes this result. The next president shall be officially nominated by electors from each of US State on December 14. Actually, this is when the window ends for legal challenges, though distant situations which continue to occur after this date.

## The Presidential Transition

The presidential transition is the duration from the outcome of the election and the beginning of the new US presidency of 20 January. The new president puts together a collective entitled a transition team that plans

to take over just after the inauguration and the team of the Biden has also developed a website on transition. They would choose candidates to participate in the cabinet, negotiate strategies and plan for leadership.

## Trump Planning Legal Challenges

In Pennsylvania the campaign of Trump is active, on the basis of unequal election procedures to prevent verification of elections in the county. More than 690,000 postal votes were also alleged to have been counted without adequate supervision by poll watchers.

In Michigan, an action brought in Michigan on November 9, sought to prohibit the validation by poll

watchers (people monitoring the count of ballots to maintain transparency) of outcomes in Wayne County. On November 13, this was denied. Similar Lawsuits have also been filed in Georgia, Arizona and Nevada as well.

## **What Biden is doing?**

Joe Biden has spent months building and collecting funds to support his transformation team. However the General Services Department has been thus far reluctant to recognise the triumph of Mr. Biden, who is entrusted with institutional acknowledgment and connections to the government organisation that his team requires.

His administrator, an appointee of Trump Emily Murphy, said that no “ascertainment” has been created on the winner. If the trump management continues to avoid the move, the Biden team is currently being reported to be planning for legal action.

## **Response by Former National Security Officials**

Over 100 former officials of National Security requested that politicians condemn the denial by President Donald Trump of his electoral defeat and termed it an “anti- democratic” attack on the integrity of presidential election.

They have denounced the lack of various Republicans to denounce Trump’s reluctance to recognise Joe Biden’s win in the elections of November 3 and blamed the representatives of the Republican Congress.

## **Response by Republican Leaders**

The bulk of Republican politicians were mostly quiet as Trump questioned the outcome of the referendum with unsubstantiated allegations of systematic electoral irregularities, with his lawyers seeking to overturn Biden’s win in an increasingly unsuccessful and desperate way.

## **Going to the Supreme Court**

Mr. Trump claimed of voting fraud without presenting evidence on 4 November and said: “We’ll be going to the US Supreme Court”.



If the electoral outcomes were contested, defence teams will typically have to appeal the election in the State courts. If the electoral outcomes were contested, defence teams will typically have to appeal the election in the State courts - however federal attorneys had been approved by the US Attorney General to prove the charges.

While Donald Trump does not have to concede or even place a good reputation on his head and participate in Mr. Biden’s inauguration but he is bound by legal obligations. He needs to allow his government to take over Biden’s team’s logistical preparations.

## **A Dangerous Precedent**

Despite optimism that Trump was about to concede but he was back on his old tricks with a speech seeming to admit the prospect of a Biden presidency, claiming Biden might have “have won in the eyes of the FAKE NEWS MEDIA” but that “I concede NOTHING ”. And if Trump does not give up, even when a law is violated every day and the US democracy has a deep splash, the danger is reduced his danger is minimised.



This circus was not wasted by elder statesmen one minute. In an interview, Tony Blair was challenged last week regarding Mike Pompeo's suggestion that a smooth transition to a second Trump administration" will take place. He tried to draw together to convince us that America has good political structures and institutions, and we need not detain ourselves on Trump's bones: "The things shall go very quickly." A grin played on Tony's lips as he said, "I assumed that this was an ironic remark."

The episode is "terrible for democracy, but ultimately a bad case of Trumpian bluster rather than an ominous portent of tanks in the streets" the New Yorkers expect. The lesson they frequently do not understand is that with Trump it appears to be difficult to conceive before it is imminent. It's too late at that point.

# Adieu Jerry John Rawlings!



By: Akosua Darko

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*Ghana's human lion King is now a legendary ancestor.*



**M**y heart was shattered on 12/11/2020. A great king Jerry John Rawlings died and I was speechless. I had always wanted to meet the one who led Ghana from a dire economy to economic stability, who transformed a nation plagued with coups into a stable country and though he had his doubts about democracy, allowed Ghana to be a democracy because the people asked. Rawlings ruled Ghana for almost 20 years. He was a good man who took on the challenge of being Ghana's king. Ghana was lucky to have him and no words I could ever write could ever be enough to glorify Ghana's strongman human Hercules.

His accomplishments are all over the Internet. You are welcome to go read and digest them. However, I want to speak on the man with a heart for his people.

Especially the poor, vulnerable and women. Rawlings made universities in Ghana cheaper, his wife posted free nurseries in market places and Rawlings endeavoured to make life easier and fairer for the poor, vulnerable and women. He was a man not afraid to be African, not afraid to display his Ghanaian culture and identity to the world. He was a man who spoke Ghanaian languages with pride. He spoke in his local ewe tongue and though his twi wasn't perfect he articulated himself in twi too. He also spoke Ga, even though he was well versed in English.

“ If our people lose the courage to confront what is wrong then we become collaborators. “ is one of my favourites quotes by JJ Rawlings. He was a president brave enough to fight corruption and those in the upper classes, those with high positions and those in authority without fear. He waged a war on corruption and tried to



bridge the gap between the rich and poor. I pray one day Ghana will once again fight corruption aggressively. Rawlings made women the backbones of his parliament and other governmental offices. He was always seen speaking on how fabulous women were and how all should be grateful for women and the awesome things they do on this planet. His deep gratitude for the female sex could be seen in the way he loved his wife and adored his daughters. As well as his mother who lived to be a 101 and passed away on the 24/09/2020. Rawlings's mother was a governmental caterer in Ghana's Golden Jubilee House and his father was a Scottish chemist. His father did not claim him. Yet it's inspiring to see the child of single mum whose father abandoned him rise to height of president which such a good cause in his heart to make his country peaceful, kind and a place people of all classes could call home.

Rawlings chemistry with his wife Nana Konadu Agyemang Rawlings was awe inspiring, they were married for 43 years before Rawlings passed. Theirs was a marriage of passion, love, affection and equality. They exalted and stood by each other for better or for worse. It was a fantastic example for Ghanaians to follow. He believed his wife was his equal and gave her the power to lead and she in turn supported him in everything he did with her intelligence and brilliance.

Farewell Ghana's dove who brought peace, stability and love to the country. Go with peace and love ancestor. You have done your part excellently. Thank you for your brave, valiant and remarkable service.

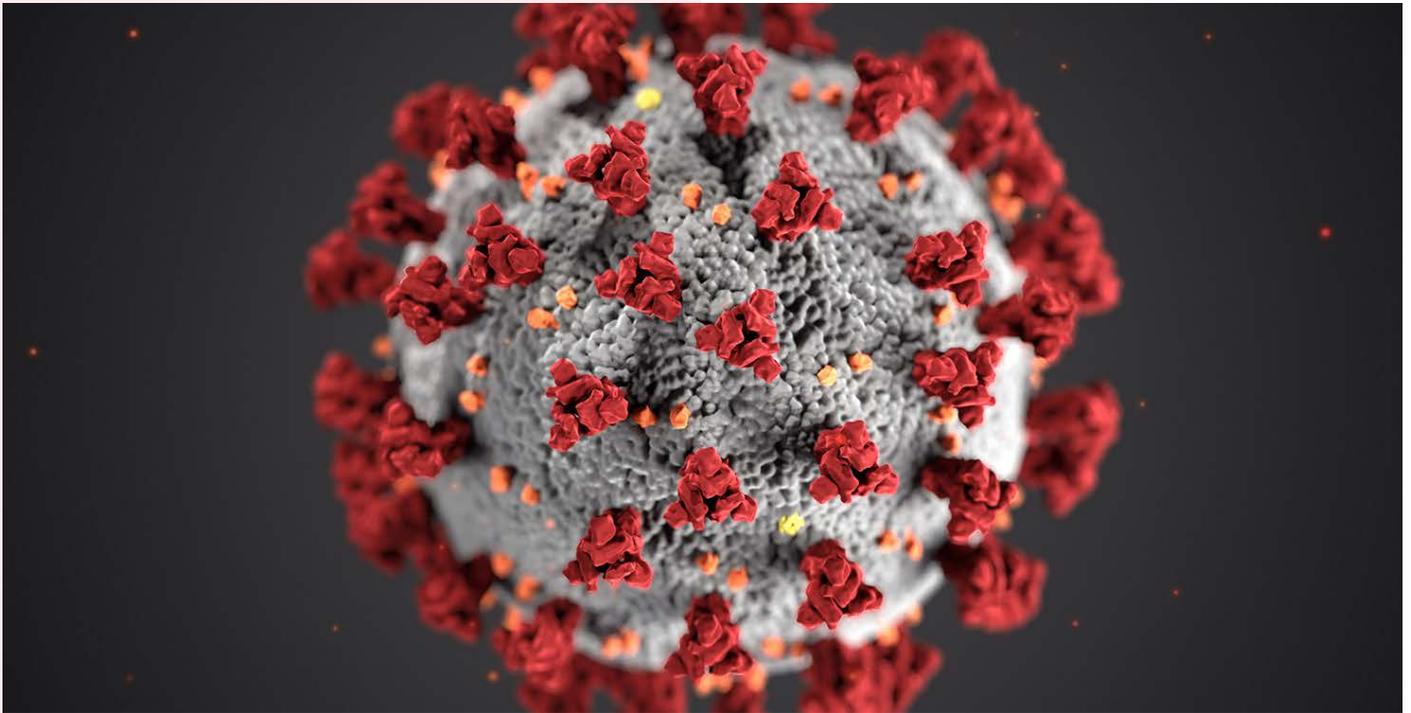
# Coronavirus Vaccine

By: Andrew Collins

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# Health

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You have probably heard -a new vaccine can prevent more than 90% of people from getting Covid-19, a preliminary analysis shows. Once the vaccine is approved, the Government has said that the NHS stands ready to begin a vaccination programme for those most at risk.

This could be the light at the end of the tunnel of the coronavirus pandemic – but it's crucial that we get it right. The current list of who will get the vaccine first does not prioritise people with learning disabilities, even though they are six times more likely to die of coronavirus according to Public Health England.

I think we must start a petition for people with learning disabilities to be included in the vaccine priority list. As a former manager of a care home for people with learning disabilities, I have seen first hand how hard people have been hit by this pandemic.

This group has suffered not only from the virus itself but the isolation and loneliness too. It is just not right that people with learning disabilities are at such a higher risk dying of coronavirus but are not going to be prioritised for the vaccine.

I agree that older people and care home workers should be vaccinated first, but adults under 65 who are at high risk from the virus are only sixth on the list of priorities - surely this can't be right? Please join me in urging the Government to re-think this strategy.

Over and over the Government has failed to protect one of society's most vulnerable. Now they must take this opportunity to make it right. This vaccine could be groundbreaking, but we must ensure it's distributed fairly and protect those who need it the most.

# CRY FOR ME ARGENTINA-MARADONA DEATH

Sport



**By: Bunmi Johnson**  
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Argentina's football legend Diego Armando Maradona is finally in the hands of God. The Football icon has passed away aged 60 after suffering a cardiac arrest on November 25, 2020 and was pronounced dead at the property near to where one of his two daughters with ex-wife Claudia Villafane lives. Maradona underwent surgery earlier November to remove a blood clot from his brain. He died after two weeks of being released from the clinic in Buenos Aires. The Argentine FA confirmed the news on social media, releasing a statement on Maradona's death. "The Argentine Football Association, through its President Claudio Tapia, expresses its deepest sorrow for the death of our legend, Diego Armando Maradona." "You will always be in our hearts."

Immediately after the official announcement of his demise, current and former footballers all over the world began paying tribute on social media after hearing of the sad news of Maradona's passing. Former England's international Gary Lineker tweeted: "By some distance the best player of my generation and arguably the greatest of all time. After a blessed but troubled life, hopefully he'll finally find some comfort in the hands of God. #RipDiego" Marcus Rashford also paid tribute by posting a photo of a young Maradona captaining Argentina with the caption: "Legendary" Brazil icon Pele mourned Maradona's death, sending a poignant message: "Certainly, one day we'll kick a ball together in the sky above," he said. Argentina President Alberto Fernandez has also tweeted: "You took us to the highest place in the world. You made us immensely happy."

You were the greatest of all,” Maradona also became synonymous with England supporters at the 1986 World Cup for his ‘Hand of God’ goal, which eliminated the Three Lions from the tournament.

Diego Maradona’s personal life was chaotic, but his football talent was unrivalled. In April 1991, Diego Maradona was banned for 15 months after he tested positive for cocaine before a Serie A game for Napoli. Maradona helped his side win the Uefa Cup in 1989 and a second league title the year after that. It completed the most successful period in Napoli’s history, which began with a famous league and cup double in 1987. However, while Maradona’s illustrious football career was starting to take shape in Italy, so was a cocaine addiction. He was slapped with a 15-month suspension for violating drug regulations in 1991 and was thrown out of the 1994 World Cup after testing positive for ephedrine. The final years of his career were masked in controversy, but his talents on the football pitch inspired a generation. Lionel Messi, now regarded as the greatest footballer, admitted some few years ago that Maradona helped shape his path into football. “I never followed anyone in particular, although when I started to think for myself Diego [Maradona] had recently returned home,” he said in 2015.

When he left Naples, it was in disgrace. He missed training, then he missed matches. He fell out with the players, the manager, the president. He piled on weight and had very public affairs. He fell out of favour with the mafia. During a big game he asked to be substituted and the people of Naples finally lost their patience. In 1991, Maradona was done. But all that is forgotten now. Walk around the streets of Naples and you see his image everywhere. Shops sell all kinds of Maradona merchandise. Massive murals of Maradona cover sides of buildings. Bars keep shrines to Maradona. Some places display a patron saint for protection but just as many display the face of Maradona. And beneath his face it’s always the same word: dios. Maradona isn’t the owner of Naples. He’s a demigod. But how did it happen? Maradona’s death comes on the date, 25 November, that George Best died 15 years ago.



Diego Maradona often talked about Best and how the Manchester United legend was one of his childhood heroes. Fidel Castro, also died on 25 November, another one of Maradona's inspirations.

Needless to say that, Diego Armando Maradona's place in sporting history and popular culture is secure for ever. The extraordinary Argentine will be talked about as long as football is played. He has left us far too soon at the age of 60, but his legacy will live on for generations.



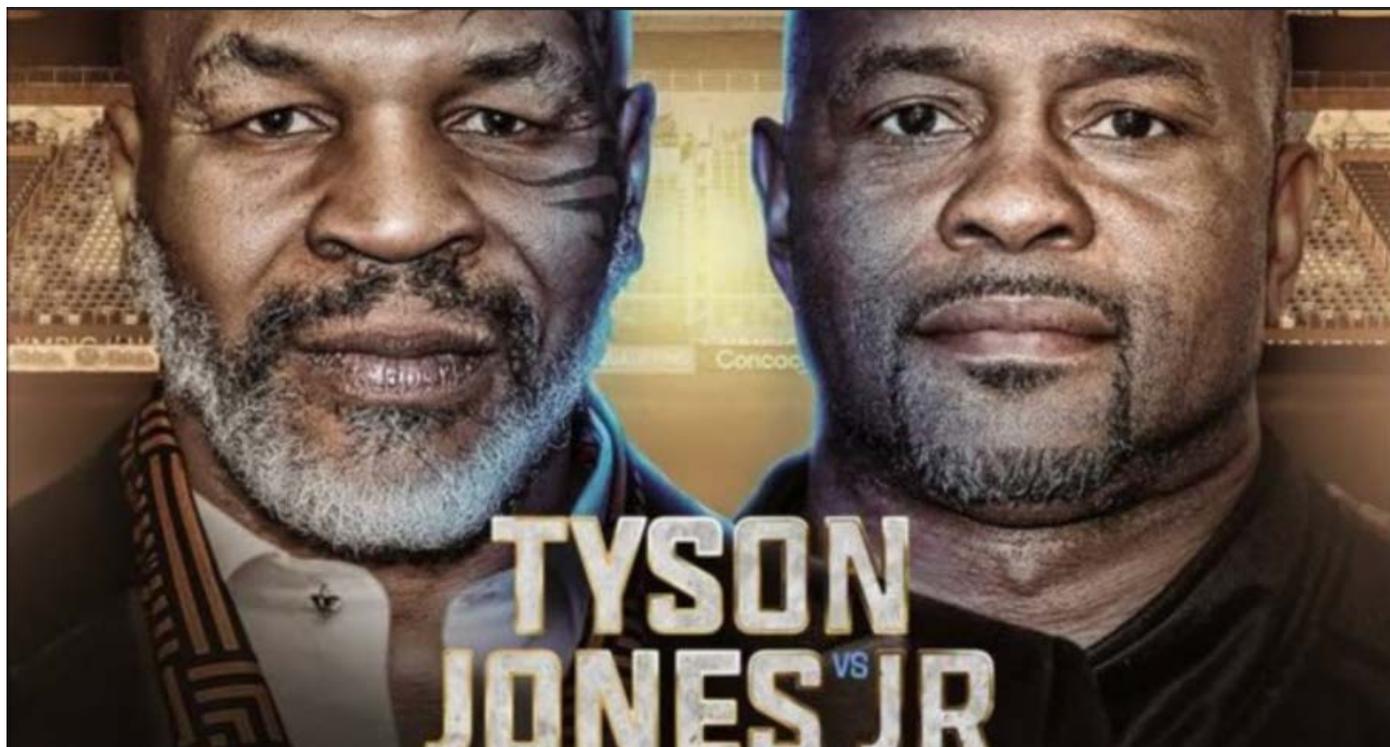
# MIKE TYSON VS ROY JONES JR.



**By: Bunmi Johnson**

New York

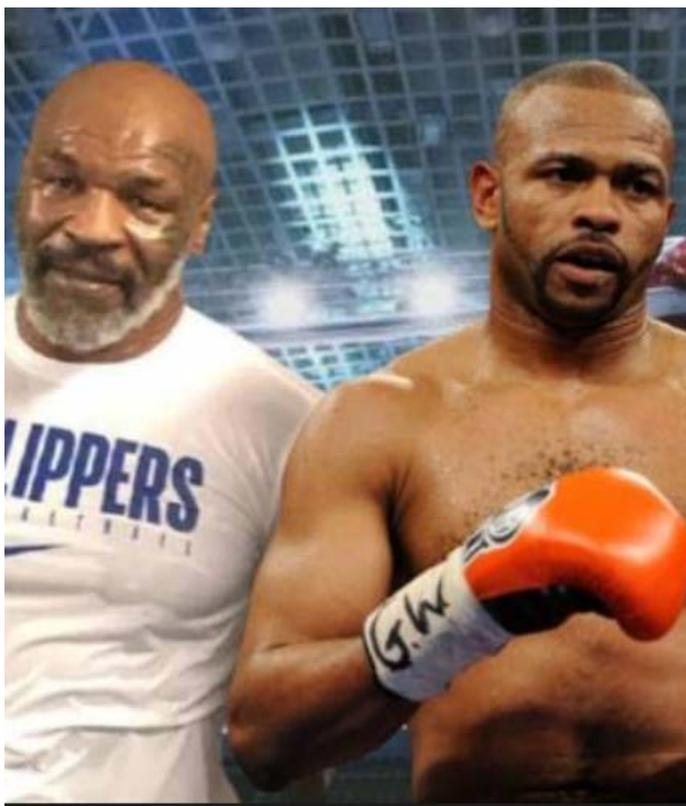
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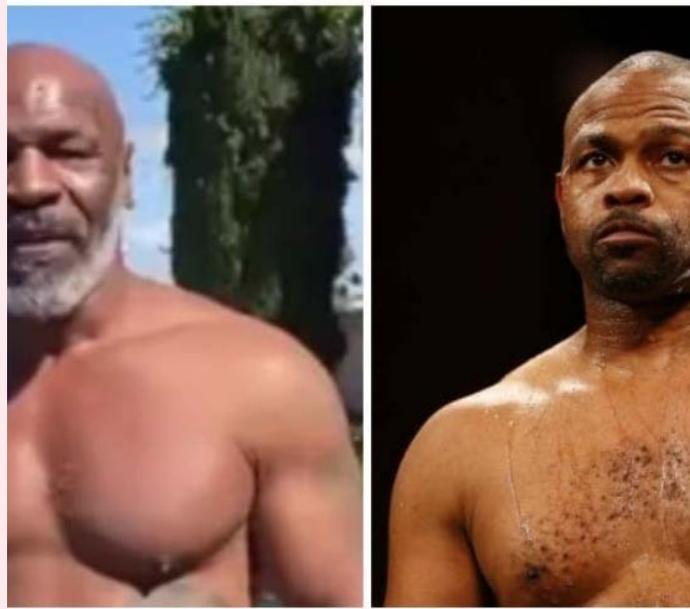
Iron Mike Tyson and Roy Jones Jr. engaged in a fun boxing “exhibition” for eight rounds Saturday, 28th November 2020 but it didn’t officially yield a winner. Those scoring the fight at Staples Center called it a draw even if the internet essentially decided to take over judging and name Iron Mike the winner. Because it was not an officially sanctioned match, the California Athletic Commission did not have official judges working the bout. That result belied the overwhelming public opinion that Tyson should have been declared the winner. Mike Tyson obviously outdid Roy Jones in nearly every aspect of the fight. Only the sixth round saw the two actually tie in punches landed. From the eye test, Tyson’s punches had much more power behind them as well. Stares at Jones after the final bell. Don’t be surprised to see Mike do this again.

The two legends were not technically supposed to be going hard, but that didn’t stop the former Baddest Man on the Planet from ripping some hard body shots to Jones. He earned the respect of more than one analyst for his strong performance considering he’s 54 years old. The much anticipated Mike Tyson vs. Roy Jones Jr. pay-per-view boxing match was a happy break from reality. It was the main event for whatever Mike Tyson’s Legends Only League ultimately turns out to be, streamed by sudden boxing pay-per-view leader Thriller, and it featured an eclectic collection of talent you probably never saw coming. The match was hosted by Mario Lopez of *Saved By The Bell* fame, and musical performances by French Montana, YG, Saint Jhn, Ne-Yo and Snoop Dogg. The action was called by Showtime’s Mauro Ranallo, UFC middleweight champion Israel Adesanya and retired

boxing legend “Sugar” Ray Leonard. And then Snoop Dogg joined the crew on the mic for the main event.



Both of the main event participants were over 50 years old. Tyson, 54, from Brooklyn, New York, had been the youngest heavyweight champion in history back in 1986 when he knocked out Trevor Berbick at the tender age of 20. He went on to become the most popular boxing champ this side of Muhammad Ali, but all of that was a long time ago. Roy Jones jnr., 51, from Pensacola, Florida, was his era’s best overall fighter. He won world titles in four different weight classes, including heavyweight. Sure, both of them were in tremendous shape for their ages. But where Tyson’s peak saw him as an unstoppable force of ferocity and the legend of Jones was as a slippery-footed savant with savage intentions, Saturday night’s fight was mostly about brief glimpses of the past. The fight boiled down to Tyson tracking Jones down while the former middleweight danced around as much as his shaky legs would allow him. Tyson looks



legitimately pissed that Jones wouldn’t engage. There were spurts of good action in the fight.

Well, there were as many spurts of good action that one could possibly expect from two ageing warriors fighting eight two-minute rounds a long time after anyone ever thought they would see them doing anything like that again. It wasn’t the Thrilla in Manila, but it was totally worth the \$49.99 pay-per-view price tag. And while the three celebrity judges assigned with scoring the fight from unseen and undisclosed remote locations called the contest a draw, the reality is that nobody needed a winner to be announced anyway. Jones tried to make a late rally and had some moments, but on the whole, it was Tyson who appeared to be more in shape. Which came as a surprise, as Jones’ last professional bout took place in 2018 when he came away with a win over Scott Sigmon.

# Papa Bouba Diop dies aged 42

By: Andrew Colins

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Senegal World Cup star and former Premier League player Papa Bouba Diop has died aged 42, the Senegalese Football Federation (FSF) has confirmed. Diop made 63 appearances for his country with the highlight of his international career coming at the 2002 World Cup where he scored the first goal of the tournament as Senegal stunned reigning champion France 1-0. He went on to score two more goals in the competition as Senegal reached the quarterfinals.

Diop started his club career in Senegal before playing for teams in Switzerland and France. The midfielder also played for English clubs Fulham, Portsmouth, West Ham and, briefly, Birmingham confirmed the news, saying: "FIFA is saddened to learn of the passing of Senegal legend Papa Bouba Diop. Once a World Cup hero, always a World Cup hero. A tough central midfielder who earned the nickname "The Wardrobe" during his Premier League career, Diop could also play in central defence.-- Diop was six-foot-five -- he won the FA Cup during his time at Portsmouth and the club paid tribute to the versatile

midfielder. After a brief spell at AEK Athens, He returned to London to play for West Ham before finishing his career at Birmingham City seven years ago and had reportedly been suffering from a long illness.

Senegal president Macky Sall in his tribute said his death was "a great loss for Senegal". "I pay tribute to a good footballer, respected by all for his courtesy and his talent, proudly reminding us of the Lions saga in 2002. I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family and to the football world." Current Senegal international and Liverpool star Sadio Mane wrote on Instagram: "Pape Bouba, it was with a broken heart that we learned of your (death). Know that you will forever remain in our hearts even if you left without saying goodbye to us."

Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, who played against Diop's Portsmouth for Cardiff in the 2008 FA Cup final, said on Sky Sports: "He was a good player, and it's a sad, sad moment. We all feel for his family, and are thinking about them at this difficult time."





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