

Issue Number 7, **MARCH 2021**

# A - CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

“  
Every African  
has been  
assaulted by  
their military  
or the police”

- Seun Anikulapo Kuti

**SPECIAL EDITION**

**-SEUN ANIKULAPO  
KUTI**

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# ABOUT US

A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

**A**-CHOICES magazine is an online African lifestyle magazine for ordinary-ed-ucated 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 sub-missions 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 [achoice@a-choicesmazine.com](mailto:achoice@a-choicesmazine.com)*

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# EDITOR'S LETTER



Looking back to the start of this year,I was holding out so much hope that when we returned to the 'office' we would be exiting the tunnel of doom and gloom that epitomised 2020, and rocketing towards brighter and happier 2021.Sadly,this has not been the case-yet-and we may still have many months of restrictions ahead of us before we can get this virus under control.

Elsewhere in this edition,you'll find our main cover story with Seun Anikulapo-Kuti; Afrobeat evangelist, political orator,activist,and son of an icon who took time out of his very tight schedule to grant this exclusive interview. He's the image of Fela - or at least the Fela I've pieced together from a handful of iconic photos - handsome with a broad grin, charismatic like a star should be. I hope you enjoy this month's edition and I'd love to hear from you about anything you think we should be covering. Get in touch on our social media pages.

Thank you.

**Editor in-Chief**  
**Gbenga Teejay Okunlola**

# Interview

“EVERY AFRICAN HAS BEEN ASSAULTED BY THEIR MILITARY OR THE POLICE”- SEUN ANIKULAPO KUTI



By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola.  
London. UK



The brutality against us isn't only by the police! There is domestic brutality of homelessness. Educational brutality of inadequate and underfunded schools the brutality of road accidents due to bad roads nko? The brutality of darkness and high tariffs. Ladies and Gentlemen the Nigerian government have been killing their people since forever. SARS is following orders just the way the people that killed my grandmother were following orders. Don't let them give you scape goats! If those officers have been running rampant for years then all their commanding officers must be brought to book for negligence and as accessories to those crimes or else this is nothing but theatre. Our goal is a better Nigeria and overhauling the police isn't going to create a better Nigeria, it's the entire relationship between the people the government and our resources that must be at the core of our demands." - **Seun Anikulapo Kuti**



Seun Kuti, an Afrobeat singer. In this wide-ranging interview with A-CHOICES, he discusses finding his musical feet, how his father inspired a generation of musicians and why police brutality (# EndSars) and Human rights abuses must stop in Nigeria.

For Seun Kuti, music is a way of life. At 8 – when many of his peers were still trying to find their feet – Seun had already started pulling the strings in the music landscape by playing the band of Fela Kuti, the late Afrobeat legend who happened to be his father.

**A-CHOICES:** *Tell us about your musical background, and how your father influenced your choice of music as a career?*

**SEUN:** Well, growing up in Kalakuti Republic, it was impossible to escape music. Music was always around. And, I wouldn't say also that my dad kind of overtly lured me towards music. I think it's more of the environment we were all raised, it made us musical. I don't really have the experiences of most artistes. I have always been involved in music. From when I was like eight, I started playing my dad's band. So, yeah, I studied for a diploma in music at the Liverpool institute for performing arts and I was classically trained also.



-Seun's backup singers during the Felabration

**A-CHOICES:** *Fela Kuti is widely regarded as Nigeria's greatest musician. What does that mean to you?*

**SEUN:** About my father being the greatest musician, I don't know. What matters to me is also that he was also a great father to me, I think that takes the cake more than his relationship with the world. But also being a musician, I think it's good to have greatness as a yardstick, you know? It keeps you working.

**A-CHOICES:** *How did you find your musical feet?*

**SEUN:** Well, I caught my musical feet, as they say in the Egypt 80 band when I was eight and I think, being in the band helped me find my feet musically, learning from a young age to play amongst professionals.

**A-CHOICES:** *What if anything in particular do you hope that listeners come away with after listening to your music?*

**SEUN:** Hum, anybody that listens to my music, I want them to come away with the fact that this music is trying to inspire revolutionary consciousness. Even if they don't agree with what I'm saying, they must at least agree that I'm trying to make a difference in the world.

**A-CHOICES:** *What do you consider as the essential elements of your music?*

**SEUN:** The essential element of all Afro beat music is a panAfricanist consciousness. Without a panAfricanist consciousness, you can't be a truly afro beat musician from Africa. And I think consciousness, for me being an African, consciousness is definitely the main ingredient. Now that we have afro beat bands from Brazil, from South America in general, from Australia, from Asia, I think revolutionary consciousness is key.

**A-CHOICES:** *Who can you cite as your main musical influences?*

**SEUN:** My father is my main musical influence, definitely my father. But also as a saxophonist, there are many greats I look up to. Grover Washington is one of them and I think the greatest saxophonist ever is Sonny Rollins, even though I'm not a tenor saxophonist, I steal some of his leaks.



-Seun Kuti in his element performing at an event

**A-CHOICES:** *What outside of music is currently inspiring you? It could be anything. A book, a TV show, a movie, a painting, anything?*

**SEUN:** Well, right now outside of music, I have two main influences and they are both books. The first one is "Yurugu" by Marimba Ani, I think it's the greatest ever book on African mental liberation, it's the greatest book to elevate African consciousness I've ever come across in my life. And then to understand what our task must be as African people, I think Chinweizu's "The west and the rest of us" is a great inspiration right now.

**A-CHOICES:** *Just like your older siblings such as Femi and Yeni, you have helped promote the legacy of your late father who stood for truth and responsible governance. Antagonism of the government saw Fela become a victim of physical abuse in the hands of military officers. Have you ever experienced such treatments in the hands of police or military officers?*

**SEUN:** For the mere fact that for all my life growing up till my father died, we definitely have the affected psychological which is even worse than physical assault and I was a kid when all these things were going on in Kalakuta as well but also, I don't want to make my case too special. I think every African has been assaulted by their military or the police at some point in their life, especially the poor Africans.

**A-CHOICES:** *Afro beat has spread to many corners of the world and is still popular with many fans. Nigerian music today is heavy on hip-hop, sound systems and rap. How is the Afro beat scene in Nigeria currently?*

**SEUN:** Well the Afro beat scene in Nigeria is just about reviving itself right now because for some reason, over the past couple of years, I have seen many young Afro beat bands coming up again. You know? That's interesting to see.

**A-CHOICES:** *Would you say West African artists are taking contemporary American RnB and blending it with African themes in the same way Fela did with the contemporary RnB of his time?*

**SEUN:** Well, I think what is different is; music is not about sound and merging really. Music is a spirit, it's a merging of some kind of spirit, so what Fela had was the blending of the plane of blues and jazz and the revolutionary sound of funk and what it stood for. What was driving the world in the late 60's and early 70's was black revolutionary thoughts and this was what merged. Some Koola Lobitos tunes were also influenced by many jazz, blues, kind of but people mainly say it was Afro beat then because it was just in its own, there was no merging of spirits. So right now, definitely there is a merging of spirits but I don't think it's the same kind of revolutionary spirit that is merging, this is more of commercial likeness. This music, they share the same spirit in terms of consumerism, materialism, and anti-humanism. In that aspect, there's also a merge but it's on a different spectrum. We have to see this is not really a sonic thing but a spirit thing.

**A-CHOICES:** *You took over the Egypt 80 band at 14, What are the challenges you face as a musician, composer and father?*

**SEUN:** I wasn't a father at 14 \*laughs\* so I didn't have that challenge, I think. My main challenge was musical, to be able to become the musician that I needed to be, to be the front-line of such a great band, I think that was the biggest challenge and the answer to that was working.

**A-CHOICES:** *A-CHOICES:The Egypt 80 still contains many of the musicians who played with Fela in the '80s and '90s. What's Baba Ani up to now?*

**SEUN:** Baba Ani is doing great, I saw him the day before yesterday at the rehearsals, working, we all hung out, relaxed, chilled but he is retired now. He is no longer in the band but he is living a good life with his wife and his son and he's fine, he's doing okay.



**A-CHOICES:** *Talking about your grandmother, somebody actually said that Fela exaggerated when he said that the soldiers threw his mother down from the balcony during the Kalakuta invasion, do you think the person was right?*

**SEUN:** I don't know what the person was smoking or drinking \*laughs\* when they said that but there was no exaggeration, no matter. You know the Nigerian Army has a story so I'm sure this person is one of their sympathizers that it was after they set the house on fire that my grandmother jumped by herself out of the window. Well, if they didn't set the house on fire, would she have jumped out of the window? I don't even understand the excuse. It's the same thing that is happening now. How they are saying that its hoodlums that came to shoot at the protesters, not the army.

You know the Nigerian army security forces, they are cowards. You can tell by their designation at Sambisa forest that they can't really face people that are ready to face them. They are cowards, they are bullies, so they cannot own up to their actions and they benefit from their oppression and brutality to spread the nasty stories about.

**A-CHOICES:** *A-CHOICES: Fela took the Federal Government to court for the Kalakuta invasion and he lost the case, did he ever discussed how he feel with you?*

**SEUN:** We never took them to court. The government formed a panel of enquiries by themselves, and found themselves not guilty because the soldiers that did the act were not identified. Unknown soldiers . We didn't lose the case in court.



**A-CHOICES:** *Would you say that his refusal to participate in FESTAC was the reason he had problems with the leaders in Nigeria?*

**SEUN:** Hmm...Festac probably was one of the many reasons, not the only reason. Fela was already a marked man even before Festac.

**A-CHOICES:** *Some years back you strongly participated in the "Occupy Nigeria" organised to express disapproval over the hike in the price of petrol under former president Goodluck Ebele Jonathan. Last year, you were at the forefront of the nationwide protests #EndSars Now. Do you see an end in sight to police brutality in Nigeria?*

**SEUN:** For me, police brutality in Africa is lead to violence against African people globally. I think we are at crossroads on how we eventually come out of this continual oppression of our people. I believe that the power is with the people, the more our consciousness is being raised by the situation, the more we are going to be able to do something about it. I think Nigerian people are now ready to defend themselves against the tyranny of corrupt police who are hell bent on keeping the slave - slave master narrative alive because that was their job, to keep us silent, to keep us oppressed. So what the police truly hates among black people is our ability to now express ourselves. It's truly an attack on our expression globally but we must stand firm and resist this attack by any means necessary.

**A-CHOICES:** *A-CHOICES:What advice do you have for aspiring musicians and Nigerian youths as a whole out there?*

**SEUN:** I tend not to advice people generally about their lives \*laughs\* but one thing I can say is we all have to (especially we African artists out there), we all have to try as much as possible to be a part of the solution. That's what truly matters, that's that.

**A-CHOICES:** *Is it hard sometimes to carry the weight of Fela?*

**SEUN:** Also, being Fela's child is not something new, life is hard, everything in life is hard, going to work is hard, nothing is easy if it's in life, being in love is hard, everything is hard. So yeah, being my father's son is definitely hard but that is because life is hard. \*laughs\*

**A-CHOICES:** *What countries will you visit on your next tour?*

**SEUN:** I don't know, whatever country coronavirus pandemic allows us to go to next, that's the country we'd definitely want to visit when we go on tour. It's out of anybody's hands now, we just have to see how the world plays out.



## MEGHAN MARKLE BOMBSHELL...BUCKINGHAM PALACE FEARS OPRAH TELL-ALL.

Lifestyle

By: Linda R. Jones  
London, UK



The House of Windsor are preparing to 'hide behind the curtain' when the Duke and Duchess of Sussex's interview with celebrated American talk show Queen Oprah Winfrey is broadcast to millions, it has been claimed. The prime-time discussion, which controversially 'blindsided' the Queen after her grandson chose not to inform her of the sit-down 'tell all', will make 'pure gold' when it airs this month. The chat show host prepared for the interview at her home in Hawaii before flying into California, where she also owns a second property in Montecito a short drive from the couple, on her £50million private jet. Oprah, who attended the Sussexes' wedding and has been a firm supporter of their decision to leave Britain, was with the couple just hours before they released their

state a path they will almost certainly regret. It is also believed that that when the couple started dating, Meghan felt she had lost her voice. Having an institutional voice within the royal family wasn't enough. In stark contrast to the glamorous meeting, Harry's grandfather, Prince Philip, remains in hospital, and was visited by a teary-eyed Prince Charles, with the 99-year-old expected to continue to be monitored and encouraged to rest. The interview with Oprah is due to be aired on Sunday March 7, and a person close to the Sussexes said that Meghan believes the prime-time broadcast gives her the 'loudest way she'll get her

voice back'. Another source said 'The pair are clearly very close to Oprah and the fact she's been with them at such an intense time has given her a unique insight into the rift with the royals. Last month, it was confirmed the couple would not return as working royals and would have to give up honorary military appointments and patronages. The palace said they would no longer continue with the duties that come with a life of public service -but the couple retorted in a statement that 'service is universal', which Royal sources called 'horribly disrespectful' and "you can't line your pockets while undertaking official duties'. Reports said that Prince Williams had been left 'really sad and genuinely gobsmacked' by his brother's behaviour but was determined their relationship 'will heal in time'



# CAT WOMAN



By: Akosua Darko  
Senior Writer  
London, UK

There's a Ghanaian proverb which says a great woman behaves like a cat. I never truly understood what it meant until I went through months of turmoil through no fault of my own. Let's go back to what it means to be a cat woman (no reference to the cat woman comic/ the film). A cat woman is a feminine feline who knows how to navigate and craft her life according to her own terms. She builds whatever she has into something phenomenal. She's the phenomenal and formidable woman.

In my life I've never seen any creature with as much confidence as a cat. They are who they are and they don't change for anybody. I'm not particularly a fan of them, I like the calm ones and I don't like the ones with temperamental personalities but the fact of the matter is their personality, likes and dislikes always shine through. They seem to know that they've got whatever they are doing in the bag. They work to attain their goal with an intellectual curiosity that's unwilling to give up.

Most importantly they walk alone, they are not interested in living or bowing to another's whims of what their life should be or who they should be. They do them. A cat doesn't make friends with people who dislike it, it's a if you like me and I like you we can be cool and I'll show a lot of love to you, if you like me and I've decided I don't like you, I will show you. If you don't like me, well I don't like you more. They don't try to please anybody and nobody forces friendship or alliance on them, neither do they pretend to like those they don't like and those who treat them badly can always fall from the first category to the last quickly. A cat is not interested in one sided relationship where they give and get nothing.

# Lifestyle

It's a give and take 100% of the time. Their mama's didn't raise fools.

They are bold and not afraid to be vulnerable, scared, angry, happy, playful, sad and the whole range of emotions. They show their emotions ferociously and fearlessly.

They are resourceful and know how to build their lives independently regardless of the circumstances they are in. They just get on with life and try to make the best they can and do it marvellously. If you see the way a mama cat raises her kids to be so well accustomed to whatever difficulties life may bring, you can't help but marvel at the creatures. A cat depends on no one, they will accept kindness, love and generosity but not to the detriment of themselves.

They are total snobs; a cat doesn't deal with things or people they find useless. My favourite thing is they know when to fight and when to not fight. If they feel intimidated by you, they warn you first that they are not afraid to contend with you, no matter how big or powerful you are, they will defend themselves if there's no peaceful way to solve the situation. Some of the time if they find you unnecessary, they will just look you up and down and walk away from you with swag. Basically, telling you to kiss their catwalk ass. That's the strategy to deal with human swines (sorry to offend the pigs). There's no need to respond to unnecessary people of no threat.



# Lifestyle

By: Akosua Darko  
Nneoma Ugenyi  
Bureau Chief  
Calgary, AB, Canada



My name is Nneoma I am a single, hardworking and fun-loving mother of four. You are welcome to my column. My children are my world and as a mother, I would do anything for them. I and my children have a kind of relationship which others might

find strange especially if you grew up in a typical African household. My children and I grew up together. What do I mean? I got married and started having children earlier than my peers. This, coupled with my divorce made me very close to my children. They know they can discuss anything with me without the fear of being judged, condemned, or ridiculed. As mothers, we need to have very close relationships with our children especially our daughters. Many unpleasant things would have been avoided in many people's lives if only parents took out time to be involved in their children's lives. Being a parent doesn't just start and end with providing the essentials of life like food, shelter, and clothing, but to also provide a child with love, a listening ear, an accommodating heart and to be friends when your child needs one and be a parent when he or she needs one; the wisdom differentiates the two. Usually, after divorce, the children are left without one of their parents.

A single mom or dad needs to provide a 'substitute' for their children when the other parent is absent. What I mean is, I know that nobody can take the place of their biological parent but in the instance whereon parent is unavoidably missing, it is the duty of the participating parent to seek the mentorship of an aunty to mentor the female children or a big brother to mentor the male children. These should only be people who can be trusted.

# STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART

It is hard almost impossible for a single mom to know how to raise a boy to become a man just as it is very difficult for single dads to raise girls to women. So next time you see a single mum or dad struggling rather than judge, lend your helping hand wherever you can. Shalom!



# I DON'T WANT TO BE A CAREER WOMAN.



By: Akosua Darko  
Senior Writer  
London, UK



I've been told I'm clever. It's a fact. I've been told I'm talented also a fact. Yet I don't understand why it's being shoved down my throat that it's by force for me to be a boss woman. That having a career and climbing up the business ladder is something I should aspire to. If as a woman that's your dream, fair enough. Yet I feel like in this generation is become by force to want to be a girl boss. Of course, I want to be independent financially and I think everyone should aspire to that or at least be in a position where one can support themselves. In my opinion I see nothing wrong if that is coming from your partner who has more than enough for you both to share. I think this new age where it's being shoved down women's throat to

desire a career more than anything else in order to run the world is damaging. Some women may want that, but what about the women who feel wrong for not wanting a career or wanting to just work to have enough to support their family and do other things. I don't understand why every woman has to be a boss. Unfortunately, when I was younger, I got sucked into this idea. I was so obsessed with the idea I had to accomplish and be 'somebody' I was not aware that I didn't want to be a female boss. I'm not ashamed to say I don't even like working. The only work I enjoy is writing but I wouldn't say I want to be a female boss or anything of a sort because I appreciate my leisure time and I would rather work in an industry where I have a work life balance and a life in which I can do my creative work. A lot of people ask me why I don't want to go into the UN, get a big-name position or do something big. The answer is I don't care. The truth of the matter is since I was a child I haven't cared. Sometimes people are so impressed by my degrees and some of the things I've accomplished. In all honesty education is fantastic. I enjoyed learning, I still do and I loved university. Nevertheless, I didn't really care about the piece of paper as much as I loved class. I hate writing essays. Yet I loved Creative Writing, I loved the literature debates, I loved reading (not really academic theory) and I loved the social aspects. Now I realised I loved university because I was allowed to be creative and thoroughly enjoy myself. I just want a job that allows me to go to work, be creative and go home and have a life! Money, status, position have never ever motivated me. Honestly if I can be creative, design stuff, write, speak and do me.

I don't care if I only have 10 pieces of clothes and live in a small flat forever. It's funny I use to wonder why some scientists and Creatives were very comfortable in their minimalist lives. Now I understand it's enough to live, enjoy yourself and have enough to sustain your needs. That may not be for everybody, it may not be in vogue. I've never been one to follow the crowd. It's enough for me and should be enough for other women who want this to.

# THE NEW NIGERIAN BUSINESS



By: Kangmwa Gofen  
Lagos Bureau Chief,  
Nigeria



Kidnapping now seems to be a lucrative business in Nigeria today, with more and more people (criminals) venturing into the business at will and ease. The growing trend is alarming, inflicting pains on innocent and unsuspecting citizens.

With the growing insecurity situation in the country, one would need a thanksgiving celebration after embarking on a journey far or near, and also for the safe return of children from school, day or boarding house.

You would recall that on the 14th of April 2014, 276 female students were kidnapped from a Government Secondary School in Chibok town of Maiduguri North-East Nigeria.

At least more than half of the girls were released while some escaped, however, 112 girls are still unaccounted for. As a people, we thought that would be the worst situation we can ever find ourselves in, little did we know that it was the beginning of more horrible days of the kidnapping of students and non-students alike.

Time went by and the insecurity in the North-East kept biting hard with several people displaced. Women, children, men and, properties none were spared, women became widows, men became widowers, and children orphans. Hungry, devastated, lost, confused, overwhelmed, battered, and, helpless the displaced persons are forced to gather at several internally displaced person camps IDPs in horrible and harsh conditions depending on government and Non-governmental organizations to cater for them.





Again, three years ago, on February 19th, 2018, 110 schoolgirls were kidnapped by Boko Haram militants this time in Yobe state also in North-East Nigeria.

Although the girls have since been released, one of them is still held captive because she has refused to renounce her faith and belief as Christian. It is important to note that the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria in section 38 subsection 1 makes provision for the “freedom of thoughts, conscience, and religion, including the freedom to change religion or belief.” however, Leah Sheribu the only schoolgirl is still in captivity regardless of the freedom the constitution grants her.

The federal government has made several promises ensuring the safe release and return of the only Dapchi schoolgirl still in the Boko Haram den but till now, nothing has been heard about the girl, however, it is believed that she is still alive. Year in, year out since the kidnap of the girls many NGOs, religious bodies, human rights activists have stood by the family to demand the speedy and safe return of the girl. It is three years now; can we say her rescue mission is a forgotten issue?

Years pass and more and more places became danger zones for Nigerians. Southern Kaduna is on the news almost daily with activities of herdsmen and bandits, kidnapping and destroying properties worth millions of naira. Same with Zamfara, Niger, Plateau, Benue, Taraba, and some parts of Katsina. It is usually a double celebration for families of kidnapped victims if they welcome back their loved ones alive after paying huge sums of money as ransom, for some families, the story is quite different as they lose both their loved ones and resources.

According to a paper written by Ngwama Justice Chidi in the International Journal of Humanities and Social Science, the history of kidnapping in Nigeria dates as far back as 2006 in the Niger-Delta region where the youths of the region were clamoring for better recognition and attention from the federal government as they felt they are the region upholding the nation’s economy with the oil found in that region, however, the militants have since surrendered to amnesty in 2009 during the Yar’adua’s government.



Several persons have fallen into the hands of these wicked and terrible bandits, families have been thrown into eternal poverty because of the wanton destruction caused by these heartless people ranging from ransom and destruction of food and properties. It is also very important to mention that these kidnapers and bandits are largely believed to be Fulani herdsmen that have taken over the forest with criminal activities wreaking havoc on daily basis on communities and road users, and so far so good since the activities of these bandits and kidnapers started no arrest whatsoever has ever been made, yet the government and other notable persons in the country interface with these bandits and kidnapers to negotiate the release of kidnapped victims.

Not long ago in December of 2020, 344 schoolboys were abducted in Katsina, gladly these students were safely reunited with their families within a short time because the "Government" negotiated their release, and most recently the kidnap of 21 bus passengers and days later 42 students including staff and some family members were abducted all in Niger state; as at the time of writing this article, the bus passenger and the Kagara schoolboys are still held captive. How many more kidnaps do we have to handle? what is the life of a Nigerian worth? How many more people must be kidnapped before the government will take action? More and more people have called on citizens to protect and defend themselves since the government has taken little or no action at all in protecting the lives and properties of citizens.

Many Nigerians have lost confidence in the governments' ability to protect and defend them as the activities of these blood-sucking criminals keep rising by the day with sophisticated weapons leaving no chance for helpless citizens to fight back; the weapons used by these criminals is a topic of discussion in itself. Many fear that if this situation is not nibbed in the butt it might lead to the division of the country, voices are beginning to rise in different quarters of the country demanding that certain ethnic group should vacate their land and this has been greeted with a wide range of acceptance.



Daily we hear about the kidnap of citizens and the destruction of lives and properties in various places, should we believe this is our fate as a nation? Why is the government using the carrot theory in handling these criminals? With the rising cases of kidnapping and banditry, who and where is next? These and many more questions are begging for responses in the mindsof many.





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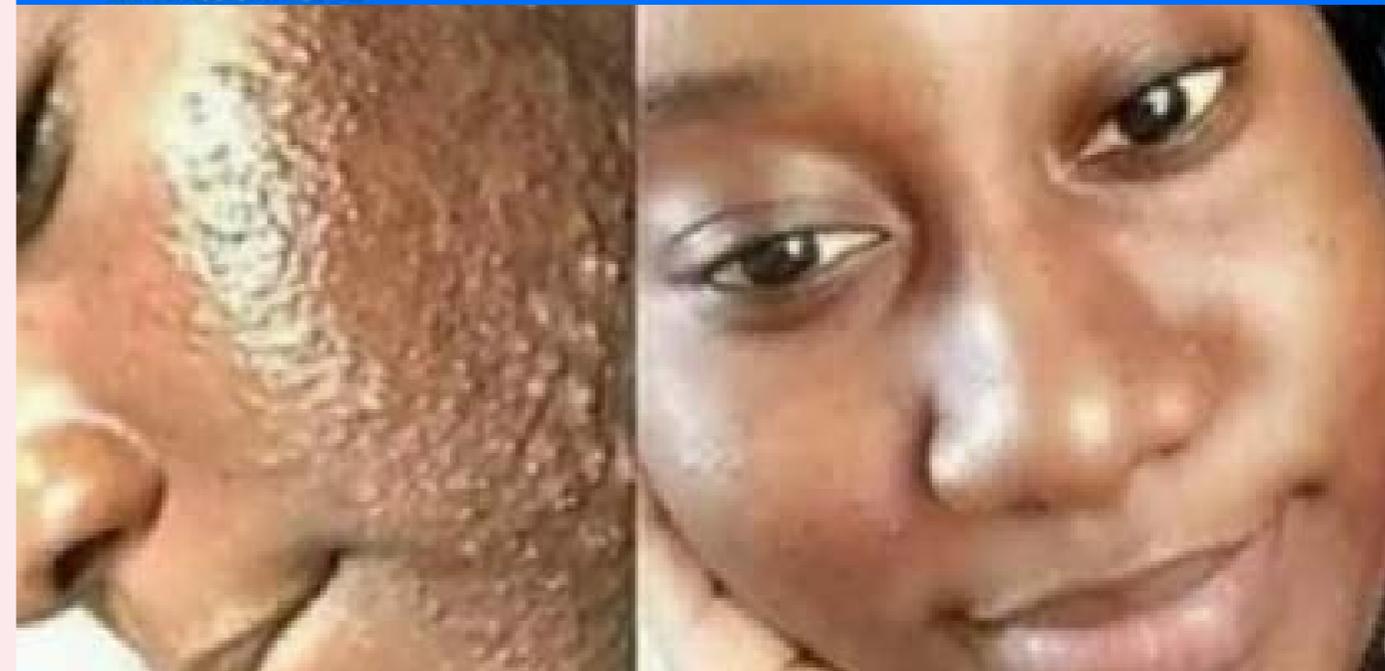
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## IT'S TIME TO TAKE A STRINGENT ACTION ON RACISM -WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH.

By: Linda R. Jones  
London,UK

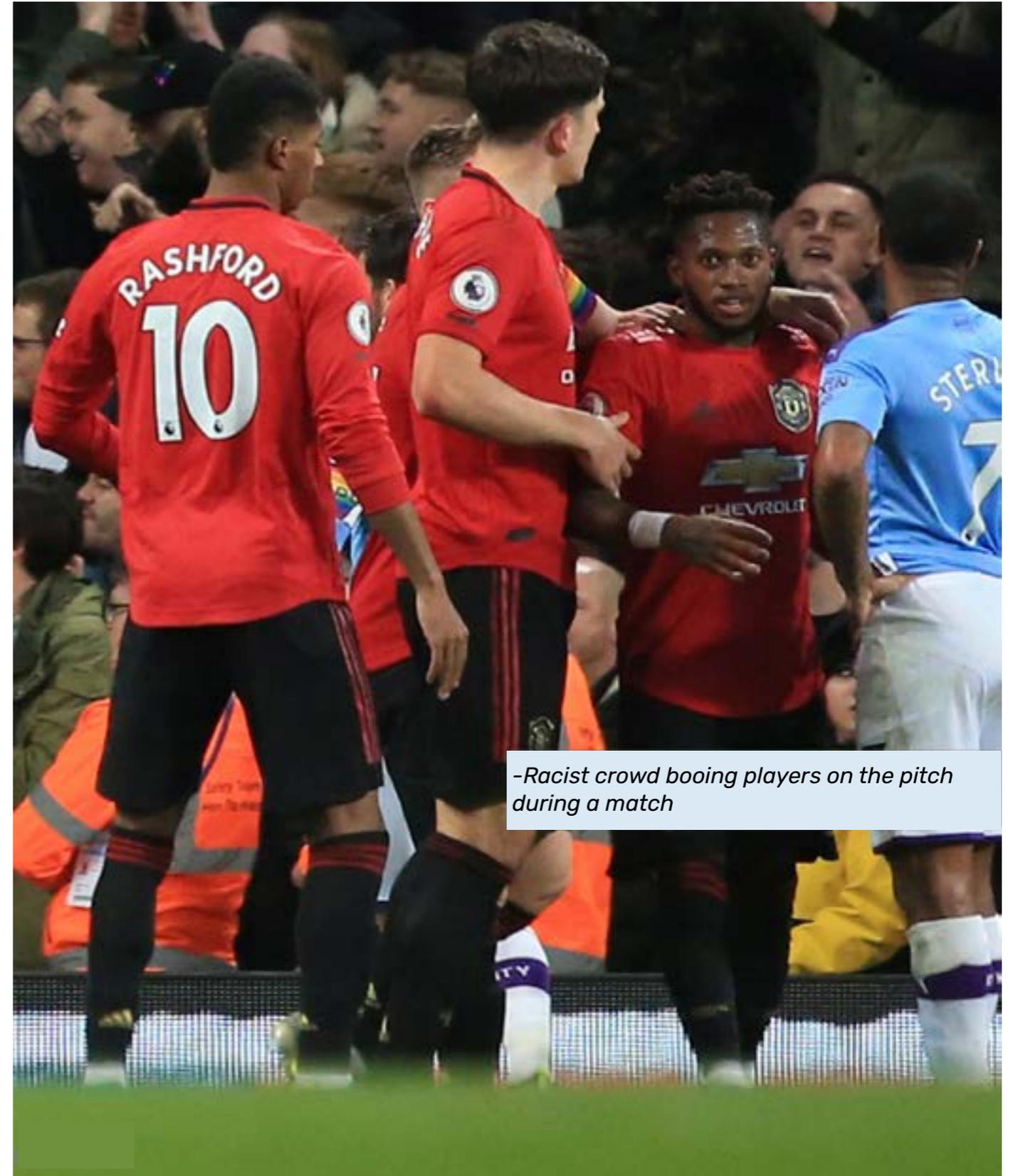
## Sports



I have a bosom friend whose words of advice I always try to follow at times of crisis. He always says: "What do you want the outcome to be? Work backwards from there". It helps calm me down if someone has said something to annoy me or behaved in a way, I think is irresponsible or downright stupid. It's a fine mantra if you want to preserve family, friendship or work ties and if you have the luxury of time. When the outcome is so clear that you can't believe you are even having to address the issue again, you need a more urgent response. On the issue of racism in football, or indeed in any environment, the only acceptable outcome is that it should not exist.

You would have thought that by 2021, in a supposedly advanced, educated society, we would have achieved that.

I have a bosom friend whose words of advice I always try to follow at times of crisis. He always says: "What do you want the outcome to be? Work backwards from there". It helps calm me down if someone has said something to annoy me or behaved in a way, I think is irresponsible or downright stupid. It's a fine mantra if you want to preserve family, friendship or work ties and if you have the luxury of time. When the outcome is so clear that you can't believe you are even having to address the issue again, you need a more urgent response.



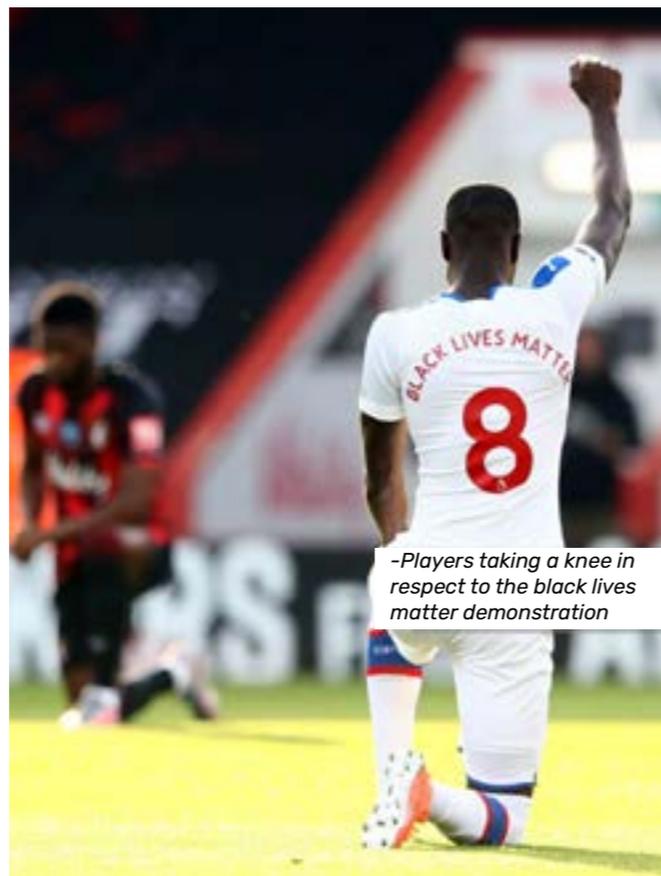
*-Racist crowd booing players on the pitch during a match*

Why are we still talking about racism in football when we all know what we want the outcome to be? Needless to say, The FA's Kick It Out campaign has clearly failed if so-called fans are ignoring it by still abusing players on the basis of their race or color of skin. England's Football Association has vowed to work with the British government and social media platforms to tackle racism after a spate of incidents early this year involving Premier League players from Chelsea, West Bromwich Albion and Manchester United being targeted by online abuse. Manchester United striker Marcus Rashford claims he has been racially abused through social media platforms. "Yes, I'm a black man and I live every day proud that I am. No one, or no one comment, is going to make me feel any different. So sorry if you were looking for a strong reaction, you're just simply not going to get it here."

No player should have to withstand abuse, either in crowds (when they were allowed) or on social media. Words matter but in tackling racism, they seem to have had little effect. Anonymity on social media sites has empowered people to bombard individuals with hate speech.

It is a crime and yet the victims are the ones who have to stand up to it. Downing Street has said the football authorities need to do more to tackle racism in the game after calls for a government inquiry and more comprehensive sanctions. No 10's comments were echoed by Priti Patel, the home secretary, who said: "Those found guilty of a racially aggravated offence under the Public Order Act can face a sentence of both six months in prison and a 10-year ban from attending all football matches."

We all have a part to play in making this world a better and more equal place, racism either in football, at work place or in any form is absolutely outdated and is completely unacceptable! Human is our only race! England player Jadon Sancho once said incidents of racism made him question why he played football and that he feared such abuse could make players lose their love of the sport.



*-Players taking a knee in respect to the black lives matter demonstration*





## AND BREATHE...HOW HITTING THE HIGH NOTES IS HELPING COVID-19 PATIENTS TO RECOVER

By:Andrew Collins  
London,UK



An English National Opera project created to help Covid-19 patients recover proves that singing is healing for both body and mind. After a trial was 90% of participants reporting reduced breathlessness and increased well-being within just six weeks. ENO Breathe is now being rolled out across the country.

“As a non -native English speaker, I wasn’t sure I was going to fit in with ENO, but it has been fantastic tool that has given me my confidence back”, says Geri Ivanova one of the 12 pilot patients. “It’s prevented me from calling my GP about anxiety brought on by breathing issues. I genuinely believe it will take pressure off medical facilities,”

Starting with lullabies, chosen for their simplicity and ability to calm, the programme sees experts teach

breathing and singing techniques typically used by opera singers, which shift focus from the physical side of the activity to the emotional.

Virtual group sessions, held weekly, are combined with at -home exercises.

Ethnically diverse and aged from 30-70, all members of the pilot group were referred with symptoms of long COVID-19. Including ongoing breathlessness, fatigue and anxiety, prior to the programme, the group’s mean Generalised Anxiety Disorder Assessment score was 6.7. After the six weeks, it more than halved to 3.2. Due to this success, ENO Breathe, a partnership with Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, has been made available to a further 1,000 patients in London and the North, with plans to expand it further in coming months.

The singing coach Suzi Zumpe, top left, leading a rehabilitation program for Covid-19 patients that she runs with the English National Opera. Credit...ENO Breathe, via English National Opera and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust



# PRESIDENT APPROVES AIRSTRIKE IN SYRIA

## Politics



By: Bunmi Johnson  
Bureau-Chief, New York, USA



In what may have been his first major war-fighting move as president, Joe Biden has ordered the US military to carry out an air strike targeting Iran-backed militias in Syria, the Pentagon says. The attack destroyed “multiple facilities located at a border control point used by a number of Iranian-backed militant groups”, it said. The strike may have been in response to rocket attacks against the US in Iraq last month, and comes as the US and Iran seek to re-instate their nuclear agreement, which the Trump administration scrapped.

Tensions are flaring at home too, as US Capitol Police believe militia groups want to “blow up the Capitol and kill as many members as possible” during the President’s State of the Union address. Chief Yogananda Pittman made the warning in calling for the increased law enforcement presence at the Capitol ahead of Mr. Biden’s first address to Congress. It comes as Mr Joe Biden revoked a Trump-era policy that blocked most green card applicants from entering the US, the policy aimed at protecting American workers was introduced during as pandemic lockdowns drove high unemployment. Mr Biden said the ban harmed businesses and prevented families from reuniting in the US. A civilian contractor was killed in a rocket attack on US targets last month.

A US service member and five other contractors were also injured when the rockets hit sites in Irbil, including a base used by the US-led coalition, on 15 February. Rockets have also struck US bases in Baghdad, including the Green Zone, which houses the US embassy and other diplomatic missions. Mr Trump, meanwhile, has given his tax returns to prosecutors in New York after the Supreme Court rejected the ousted president’s attempt to prevent them from being handed over. The Pentagon named Kataib Hezbollah and Kataib Sayyid al-Shuhada as two of the Iran-backed militias it targeted in Thursday’s strike near the Iraqi border in eastern Syria. It called the action a “proportionate military response” that was taken “together with diplomatic measures”, including consulting coalition partners. The operation “sends.

“President Biden will act to protect American and Coalition personnel. At the same time, we have acted in a deliberate manner that aims to de-escalate the overall situation in both eastern Syria and Iraq.”



# GPMI CONDEMNS ABDUCTION OF GOVERNMENT GIRLS SECONDARY SCHOOL JANGEBE

## Politics



By: Dr Funmi Awoleye-Beckly  
Lagos, Nigeria



UK based International Human Rights, Good Governance and Anti-Corruption Organisation. Non-Governmental, nonpartisan, non-religious and non-sectarian with branches in over 80 countries around the world, Global Peace Movement International last month condemned the abduction of female students of Government Girls Secondary School, Jangebe in Talata-Mafara Local Government area of Zamfara state.

Dr. Mike Uyi, President General of the group expressed deep concern about the increasing frequency of attacks against educational institutions in Nigeria. Describing the situation, Dr. Uyi said “Not only do we detest these barbaric and inhuman acts, but we also state that they are oppressive,” he said.

According to him, the abduction of these innocent female students is inhuman, callous, uncivilised, and anti-educational, capable of dragging the country backwards educationally.

Uyi noted that abduction violates the girls’ human rights saying the act is a crime against humanity, prohibited under the international humanitarian law. “We call on the perpetrators and all Nigerians to ensure that these innocent students are urgently set free in the interest of the future of the nation. “GPMI expresses its deepest solidarity to the community affected by this horrific acts, and stands with the families of the abducted children in these difficult times. We call for greater efforts to protect all children throughout Nigeria.”



## JOE BIDEN REOPENS FOR GREEN CARDS REVERSING TRUMP COVID-19 FREEZE

## Politics



By: Seyi Awoleye  
Los Angeles, CA  
USA



immigration was vital to safeguarding the U.S. labour market during the pandemic to protect jobs and for public health reasons.

He also halted temporary work visas for skilled workers, managers and au pairs in the H-1B, H-4, H-2B, L-1 and J categories. In the measure announced last month, Biden did not lift the freeze on those types of temporary employment visas.

Biden said the earlier policy has prevented qualified and eligible non-U.S. residents from entering the country, “resulting, in some cases, in the delay and possible forfeiture of their opportunity ... and to realize their dreams in the United States.” Biden’s revocation of the immigrant visa ban is a positive sign for those who have been prevented from applying for immigrant visas or from entering the U.S. under the ban. The ban primarily affected family-based immigrants. The proclamation does not revoke the work-visa ban issued on June 22, 2020 (Proclamation 10052), which bans certain temporary non-immigrant visa categories, including H-1B, L-1 and J-1 visas. That ban is scheduled to expire March 31.

On Wednesday, 24th of February President Joe Biden lifted a Trump-era ban on green cards issued outside the United States and temporary work visas. President Biden on revoked a freeze that his predecessor had put on many types of visas due to the COVID-19 pandemic, saying the order did not advance U.S. interests and hurt industries and individuals alike. “It harms the United States, including by preventing certain family members of United States citizens and lawful permanent residents from joining their families here,” Biden said in a proclamation revoking the measure.

Former President Donald Trump had frozen “green cards” for new immigrants during the pandemic, arguing that the dramatic clampdown on legal



**AMAL FASHANU BAGS WILL BE LAUNCHED IN GHANA  
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Having completed a Masters in handbag design in Madrid Amal was then able to indulge her dream and passion; returning to London and setting up Amal Fashanu bags in 2017. Clothes on the catwalk regularly take second place to this most covetable of accessories - clothes are redundant - it's all about the It-Bag. But why do we find bags so desirable? It's partly because they've become a unique outward statement of a woman's status, fashion savvy and earning power - and the rising popularity of handbags over the past 100 years has followed the increasing social independence of their owners. Some girls are into shoes, Amal has always been into bags. From a young age was she able to appreciate art, architecture and fashion. What sacrifices would you have to make to afford Amal's gorgeous Hand bag-all butter soft leather, ruches and gold hardware. The It-Bag is the ultimate 21st- century object of desire, not just for supermodels, actresses and celebutantes, but for working women from all walks of life. These days we are prepared to spend more on a handbag than a holiday or even a car - and we want the rest of the world to know it.

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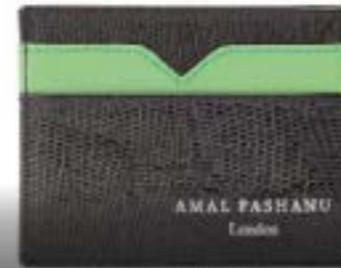
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## Teni & Davido unveil the highly anticipated 'For You'



By: Ibukun Babatunde  
 Lagos, Nigeria

Award-winning Nigerian talent, Teni the Entertainer shines in her latest music video "For You" featuring fellow Nigerian superstar Davido. The emotional track, which was released in February 2021, sees Teni and Davido trade pitch-perfect vocals amongst poignant acoustic production. Aptly reflected in the similarly touching official video which is centred on a prison escape, sees Davido and Teni teaming up for a thrilling visual escapade. The "For You" music video starts off with Teni behind bars and comically relays the love story that led to her re-arrest. Davido plays the lover who visits her and breaks her out of jail but the freedom lasts for a short while.



This track features on her debut album 'WONDALAND' set to be released on March 19, 2021. It was crafted over two years ago and across six cities – London, New York, Orlando, Ondo, Lagos, and Abuja; and boasts of an LP. According to the singer "the album is a labour of love and a roller-coaster of emotions from start to

## Entertainment/ Music

Explaining the inspiration behind the track, Teni said 'For You' is a record she made to celebrate the essence of love, sacrifice, and the reaffirmation to always be there for that special someone who means the world to you. She said, "I have always wanted to make a record like this with Davido especially because of my admiration for him as an artist, father, and someone with a big heart."



"This is a special record and as a father to three beautiful kids, I know how much they mean to me and how I am ready to give them everything good the world has to offer" said Davido. Speaking earlier on how he got invited to feature on the track, Davido said Teni saw him in traffic and chased him down to get in the studio. Teni the Entertainer, whose real name Teniola Apata, is influenced by legends from King Wasiu Ayinde and King Sunny right through to Dolly Parton. She is known for mixing an array of genres into her music, including Afrobeat, pop, R&B, and more.

## FELA TAKES EARLY LEAD AS ROCK AND ROLL HALL OF FAME VOTING BEGINS



By: Seyi Awoloye  
Los Angeles, CA

Fela Kuti and 15 other top international acts have been nominated for the 2021 Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Voting is now open to the public. Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation President and CEO, Greg Harris announced the list of 16 nominees. Top five artists with most votes will be revealed in May and they will be up for induction into the Hall of Fame in Cleveland Ohio, United States of America. Nominated alongside Fela Kuti are; Tina Turner, Kate Bush, Devo, Foo Fighters, Mary J Blige, The Go-Go's, Iron Maiden, Jay-Z, Chaka Khan, Carole King, LL Cool J, New York Dolls, Rage Against the Machine, Todd Rundgren and Dionne Warwick.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kr8oRpA2SpE&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kr8oRpA2SpE&feature=emb_title)

On the 24th year since his demise. Fela, the maestro makes the the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame class for the first time. A development hailed by music pundits worldwide and viewed as long overdue by fans. The only category out of five that has seen new inductees every single year is the performers category, where artists become eligible for induction 25 years after their first record.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=usnznJZ0XvA>

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (RRHOF) is a museum and hall of fame established in 1983 by Ahmet Ertegun, founder of Atlantic Records. With hundreds of inductees that include huge superstars; James Brown, Elvis Presley, The Supremes, Michael Jackson, Ray Charles, Nirvana, ABBA and many others. The museum documents the history of rock music and the artists, producers, engineers, and other notable figures who have influenced its development.

# Entertainment

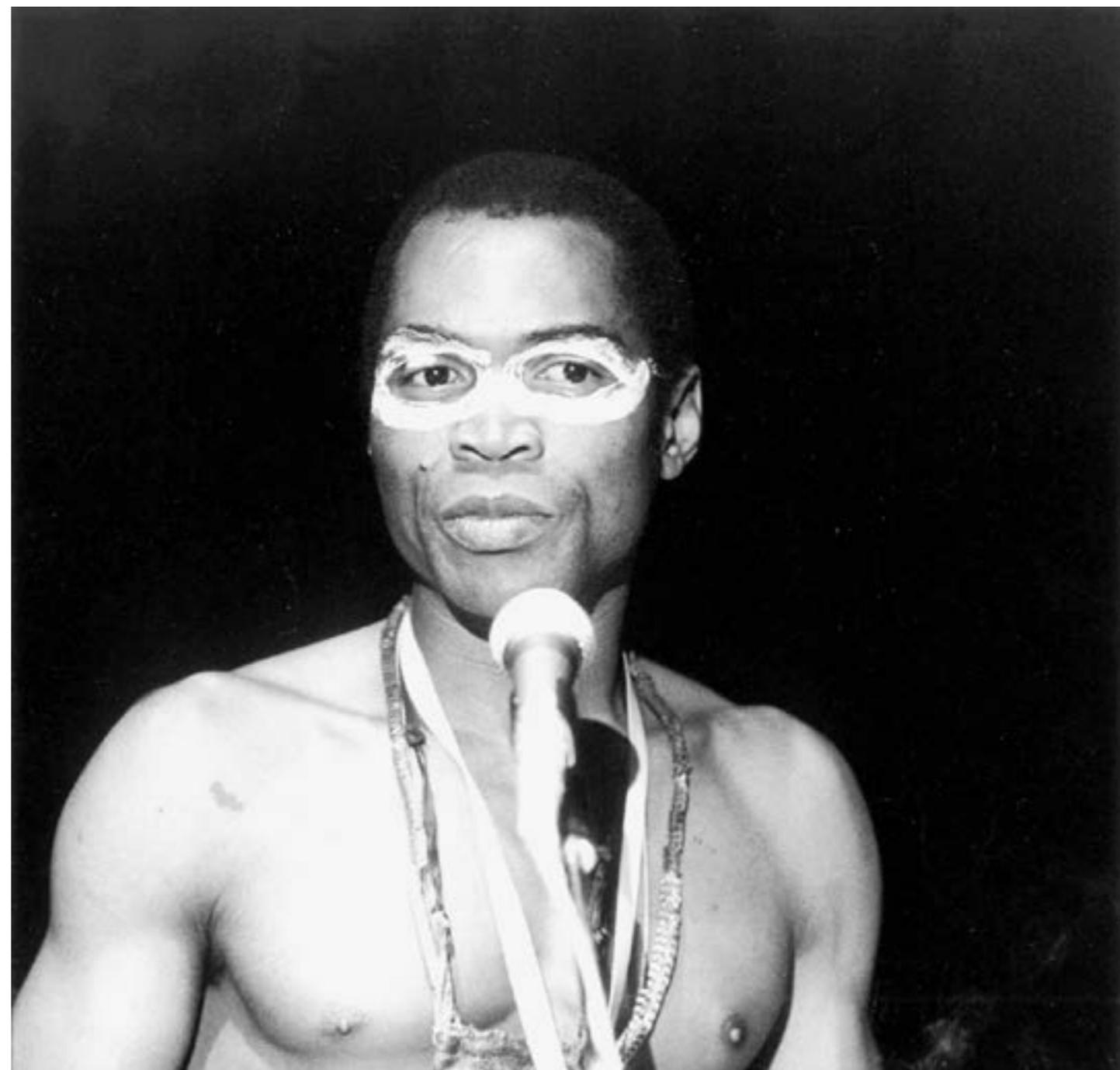


Fela stepping out greeting his fans after performing

Meanwhile, Ohio music lovers can also vote in-person at The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Museum. The Hall is still hoping that the COVID-19 situation will improve to allow for a live induction ceremony in the fall, after last year's class had to settle for a taped HBO special.

Vote for Fela here:

<https://eyesofalagosboy.com/2021/02/12/vote-for-fela-kuti-induction-into-the-rock-and-roll-hall-of-fame/>





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## ALHAJI S.A GBADAMOSI - THE BIOGRAPHY



Apart from being a career civil servant, Alhaji Gbadamosi was a community leader, a religious enthusiast who devoted his life to religious and community developments. Among other Islamic organisations, he was a life patron of Sheriff Islamic Organisation.

He was honoured with the patron of National Association of Purchasing and Supply Students of Nigeria, Kwara State Branch.

A member of Club 30 40 of Offa, Alhaji Saka Adeyemi Gbadamosi was married to late Alhaja Halimat and Alhaja Sikirat Gbadamosi, he's survived by many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, he was 83 years.

He was a bridge builder among friends and family and will be remember for his forthrightness, peace-making efforts and kindness to all.

***Adieu Zakariyyah Adeyemi Gbadamosi.***

Born on the 7th of July, 1938 to Alhaji Gbadamosi Amoo Ajimati and Salamatu Gbadamosi of bibilari clan, eesa's compound in Offa, Kwara State.

S.A.B as he's fondly called by his contemporaries had his early education in Kaduna. He started his work career at the old northern region and had a rapid and steady growth in the civil service, where he attained the rank of senior civil servant.

At the creation of states in 1975 when Kwara state was carved out from the old northern region, his service was transferred to the new state.

In Kwara state, he undergoes several management trainings courses, including a certificate course at Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-ife and the United Kingdom.

Alhaji Gbadamasi's last posting was ministry of finance and economic development where he retired as Chief Store Officer. He retired in 1993 after rendering 35 years of meritorious and unblemished service to the state.





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