

Issue Number 19, March 2022

# A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

Bright  
& Beautiful

An exclusive interview with

BARRISTER ISHIE KONYE

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



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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-choicesmagazine.com](mailto:achoices@a-choicesmagazine.com)***

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# MEET THE TEAM



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# EDITOR'S LETTER



**W**elcome to the March issue of A-CHOICES Magazine. Nigerians are some of the most brilliant people in the world, steadily putting themselves on the map. I'll like you to meet Barrister Ishie Konye one of the beautiful and brilliant business savvy young female Lawyers that is making the legal system of Nigeria proud.

Konye is the CEO of BLAQ DIAMOND BOUTIQUE and a lawyer from Delta State. She runs a luxury brand store with an e-commerce feature; she is referred as 'the Online Lawyer'. BLAQ DIAMOND offers its clients and other Nigerians legal services among other services they provide. Konye has worked hard to put her brand on the global sphere; BLAQ DAIMOND is registered in the UK with strong presence in Lekki, Abuja and other places.

As you turn each page of this issue, I hope you will feel proud and curious about the stories of successes of Africans and other stories like the embattled Nigerian "Super Cop" DCP Abba Kyari and lots more.

I would like to end this letter by thanking the entire team involved in the making of this edition, from the people in the office, our external contributors, to our advertisers who supported us even when their businesses were suffering, and, of course, our readers. You are the ultimate reason why we put so many hours of hard work into all we do.

Don't also forget you can advertise with us as we promise to deliver. You can catch up with us at [www.a-choicesmagazine.com](http://www.a-choicesmagazine.com) for exclusive interviews with celebrities, exciting articles and lots more. This is a magazine where we celebrate people, celebrate lifestyle and we celebrate African Achievers.

Gbenga TJ Okulola  
Publisher/Editor in Chief  
**A-CHOICES**  
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## Bright and Beautiful

By: Gbenga Teejay  
Okunlola  
London, UK

**So** many fine and brilliant young women everywhere you turn. Nigerians are some of the most brilliant people in the world. Meet **Barrister Ishie Konye** one of the most beautiful, intelligent Lawyer, that is making legal system of Nigeria proud.

Konye is the **CEO, BLAQ DIAMOND BOUTIQUE**. She is a lawyer from Delta State who runs a luxury brand store with an e-commerce platform feature she categorized as — the Online Lawyer. This service offers BLAQ DIAMOND clients and other Nigerians legal services.

**A-CHOICES:** Tell us a bit about yourself, educational family background?

**Konye:** Just as you've rightly introduced, my name is Konye Ishie, a Nigerian from Delta State. A Lawyer by profession and a fashion enthusiast. I studied Law at an undergraduate level at the Delta State University, Oleh Campus. Got called to the Nigerian



bar, and furthered my Masters program in International Law, at the University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield. England. I also have professional certifications in Business management consultancy and Human resources management. I come from a large and amazing family, growing up was beautiful as both my parents were there for me, every step of the way.

**A-CHOICES:** What is BLAQ DIAMOND BOUTIQUE about?.

**Konye:** I like to call it BLAQ DIAMOND FASHION STORE, actually because in there, we live and breath fashion. She is a female departmental clothing, shoes & accessories store. Sales of varying fashion pieces sourced from Europe, UK & U.S.A. We are located in the heart of Lagos, in Lekki Phase 1. We have an online and an offline store.

**A-CHOICES:** Can you describe what influenced you to pursue a career as a lawyer?

**Konye:** Growing up, I watched the way life was lived by people around, I'm very inquisitive by nature, always looking to understand every and anything. I saw the many ways that those living hand to mouth are marginalised, shamed and rendered invincible. As I grew older, I came to understand that knowledge is power and education the great equaliser. Lawyers are justice's emissaries. I am thankful everyday that I get to serve the aims of justice, directly and indirectly.

Lawyers are very informed people, and I sure wanted to be one of such

**A-CHOICES:** In terms of your career choice, who has had the biggest influence?

**Konye:**

That have got to be "me". I knew long time that I wanted this. It would have been my dad, but I have a father who would always support your career decisions while guiding you at it.



**A-CHOICES:** The Nigeria Legal Industry is faced with a peculiar problem - the landscape of business is changing ever so fast; society is steadily and completely moving, but the profession is decidedly behind at all times. Would you say that the genesis of the problem is with the University teaching of Law that fails to evolve so as to at least acquaint law students with the reality of these changes?

**Konye:** I may want to disagree with the statement that the profession is behind at all times. With recent technology, a lot has evolved with the legal profession. We now have streamlining lawyer/client communications, where lawyers can work remotely while diversifying the ways they communicate with clients, we also have automating eDiscovery, lawyers today now have most documents in digital formats.

**A-CHOICES:** Law must keep changing to meet up with the exigencies of the society.



(Hon) degree and enter the vocational stage of the legal qualification path ways (For England and Wales, or Scotland, or Northern Ireland). OR use your Nigerian LLB to enter the vocational stage, afterwards, land a 2 year pupillage under a practicing barrister (for barristers). This stage will require you to have a visa that allows UK employment, or no one will hire you for this legal apprenticeship. The successful application and admission to the Law society (for solicitors) or the Bar council in your chosen jurisdiction.

**A-CHOICES:** What makes a good lawyer?

**Konye:** Passion for the Job, great communication skills, knowledge of the Law and willingness to listen.

**A-CHOICES:** Insecurity in Nigeria today is more dreadful than the civil war. Nigeria has assisted many countries in controlling and resolving problems of insecurity- Chad, Liberia, Sudan and Sierra-Leone to mention a few. But Nigeria as a nation seemed to be deficient in the intellectual capacity needed to solve her problems?

**Konye:** Like I always tell people, the security challenges being experienced in Nigeria today, ranges from those related to political evolution to economic and socio-cultural imbalances. Leadership at all levels of governance should be more constructive, cooperative and democratic in addressing corruption, poverty, illiteracy, ethnic conflicts and ecological problems.

**A-CHOICES:** What do you think are the solutions to these security challenges?

**Konye:** The government should curb these issues from the grassroots

**A-CHOICES:** Are lawyers expected to always appear in court adorned in the traditional Black and White outfits?

In fact, newer laws should be made to solve newer problems and off course, it's the duty of lawyers to be abreast of these novel laws in order not to loose touch with reality. What do you have to say?

**Konye:** I support this a hundred percent. Change is constant, else the actually changes the law seeks to treat will be left unchanged for lack of updated information, newer practices and circumstances.

**A-CHOICES:** Can a Nigerian lawyer practice in the UK?

**Konye:** Actually yes, but there are two options; Either restart from ground zero with a UK LLB

**Konye:** Yes they do, in Nigeria; it is a dress-code required by the Nigeria Bar Association.

**A-CHOICES:** The legal profession is NOT about fashion but the law which is a serious business as lawyers later become judges and they deal with serious issues that affect ALL in the land. Today our legal system has deteriorated and this is evident in the new trending outfits adorned by our baby lawyers unlike in the past where our lawyers took a pride in their dress code. These baby lawyers are setting a new fashion trend which does not translate to the seriousness of the profession they chose to be called to?

**Konye:** There is a code of conduct for lawyers, which also includes the dressing. The “baby” lawyers are not exactly in a new fashion trend for the profession. I personally believe it’s only a reflection of the modern day lawyer, more classy outfits, fabrics and design which does, not breach any of a lawyer’s required professional outlook.. The profession’s seriousness isn’t tied to an outfit, but rather it’s values.

**A-CHOICES:** Given Nigeria’s growth in the last 5 years, where do you see the most opportunities for the legal industry?

**Konye:** A scholar once posited that the secret of change is to focus all your energy not in fighting the old but in building the new. We should not be scared of change, one thing is certain and as rightly pointed out by the former President of the NBA, Abubakar Balarabe Mahmoud, SAN. The current legal framework of the profession cannot handle the reality on ground, meaning that there is need for change in the framework of the legal profession. Let us not forget however, that meaningful change can only happen when all hands are on deck to shape the future of the legal profession. The Legal profession in Nigeria has come of age. Legal practice in Nigeria has a bright future but needs to expunge those factors that work against its

progress while absorbing those factors that aid in its development. We cannot be assured of a glorious future if we sleep over the responsibilities and challenges that is thrust on the profession today. This is therefore a clarion call to the Federal government, National Judicial council, stakeholders, all judicial committees, Nigeria Bar Association, Leadership of various superior and inferior courts, legal practitioners and other concerned bodies to contribute their individual quota towards making Legal profession in Nigeria, one of the best legal profession in the whole world and only then can we be assured of a glorious, glowing and glaring future of Legal practice in Nigeria.

**A-CHOICES:** How do you think the legal profession will develop in the next 10 years?

**Konye:** In the next 10 years, the legal profession will be very much digitalised

**A-CHOICES:** Levels of female participation and representation in Nigerian politics are low. A sexist and patronage-based political culture, combined with gendered economic and household inequalities, are seen to be the main barriers to women’s participation in governance?

**Konye:** This statement is very correct, quite unfortunate though. It’s sad to know that this is not just an African practice, but also all around the world. It is what it is, but change is inevitable and we have started to see a glimpse of that, we currently have about 6 women who are executive directors of top banks, female presidents and the most recent Vice President of the USA. Change is coming, slowly but surely.

**A-CHOICES:** Gender based violence is a common social problem in Nigeria especially in the Northern parts of Nigeria. There has been an increase in the cases of domestic violence, sexual exploitation, forced early marriage, and rape of minors



*Barrister Konye Ishie*

since the spate of boko haram insurgency?

**Konye:** Gender based violence has been in existence from time immemorial, social media and internet technology only opened our eyes to how much & frequently these things occur. It's not exactly a Boko Haram factor. Sadly, this is the most difficult problem we are being faced in Nigeria

**A-CHOICES:** How to recognise emotional abuse in relationships?

**Konye:** Emotional abuse is mostly characterised by a person's words, actions and the consistency of these behaviours; character assassination, humiliation, dismissiveness and the likes.

**A-CHOICES:** What suggestions do you have to make it safer for victim-survivors to come forward?

**Konye:** To deal with this, one has to first trust their instincts, abuse is never anyone's fault, avoid self blame, seek help by talking to someone, preferably a therapist, avoid engaging with them, exit the relationship or circumstance, give yourself time to heal and most importantly, build a support network.

**A-CHOICES:** What more do you think can be done to curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS among women?

**Konye:** To curtail the spread of HIV/AIDS in women, there's really nothing other than more and more sensitisation, in churches, hospitals, schools, social gatherings, conferences, just anywhere. Information is power

**A-CHOICES:** You are an effective female lawyer. What drives you?

**Konye:** The fear of failure and poverty is my major driving force

**A-CHOICES:** What is your typical day like?

**Konye:** My typical day is built on research, not necessarily a serious one. Regardless the subject matter, I study any and everything, on my phone, Laptop, book, while engaging in any activity for the day. I'm mostly at my office Mon-Saturday, except I have a need to operate from home.



**A-CHOICES:** How would you describe yourself?

**Konye:** I'll describe myself as an ALPHA FEMALE

**A-CHOICES:** How have you been able to balance life as a lawyer with family responsibilities?

**Konye:** Life as a Lawyer & family responsibilities isn't so much of an issue, I work with my to-do-lists for nearly everything. That helps me plan properly. No doubt it really becomes uncontrollably overwhelming at times, but mostly controlled.

**A-CHOICES:** Do you have a mentor or role model who is helping you along the way in your career?

**Konye:** Oh yes I have a number of mentors I stalk, listen to and follow, and their guidance have been phenomenal.

**A-CHOICES:** What advice would you give to aspiring lawyers?

**Konye:** My advice to aspiring lawyers is; The law is a prestigious profession, it is totally worth every wait or time spent studying. It is the core of every society, and yes! You can do it

**A-CHOICES:** Besides owning a fashion store, and being a successful lawyer; you are also a FOREX TRADER. How did you get into the world of currency trading?

**Konye:** I got into Forex trading out of my inquisitive nature of getting another source of income after covid happened and affected my businesses, I was mostly online and studied so much about forex and it's benefits. I picked an interest and found an amazing community that made it all easy. IM MASTERY ACADEMY

**A-CHOICES:** How much do you need to start trading forex in Nigeria?

**Konye:** To start trading forex in Nigeria, you can start with anywhere around \$10 depending on the trading platform

**A-CHOICES:** What is the best time to trade forex in Nigeria?

**Konye:** The Forex market is open Monday-Friday, the market opens and closes at a certain time and depending on the currency to be traded, all these are to be studied by anyone who intends to learn the skill.

**A-CHOICES:** How can I make money with forex in Nigeria?

**Konye:** With forex, I advice everyone to add an "L" first to the "earning" they intend to have in the forex market. It's a skill and so it's a LEARN and EARN scheme. The moment you learn,, the sky becomes your starting point. Do not do the latter before the former. The Foreign exchange market is the largest and most liquid market in the world, with a daily trading volume of over \$6 trillion, so there's quite a lot of money to be made on a daily basis

**A-CHOICES:** So what is your trading method?

**Konye:** I have a good number of trading methods, depending on what I'm trading at a given point in time, and also tools to make my experience more fun. I trade binary and cryptos, and for each, I've got strategies. All of these I learnt from IM MASTERY ACADEMY

**A-CHOICES:** Would you recommend this route for retail traders reading this?

**Konye:** One hundred percent YES, an extra source of income should be a welcome idea to any

business minded individual, and earning in foreign currency is the biggest flex.

**A-CHOICES:** What is your biggest piece of advice for any retail traders reading this?

**Konye:** My biggest piece of advice time and time again is: CONSISTENCY will give you any and everything you want in life!

**A-CHOICES:** As someone who has successfully combined family life and career advancement, what are the key lessons you have learned?

**Konye:** I've learnt that your whole life can turn around in a month, weeks, day, with faith & believe!

**A-CHOICES:** What would be your advice to President Muhammad Buhari on the "Alarming levels of insecurity in Nigeria?"

**Konye:** To be honest, He can do better, the Government can do better. Just as Late General Abacha said; "if insurgency lasts for more than 24hours, the government has a hand in it "which means, insecurity in a country is largely dependent on the Government's ability to handle it.

**A-CHOICES:** Do you have a beauty and exercise regime?

**Konye:** Oh yes, I am a beauty enthusiast, I have daily skincare rituals, I care about looking good in everything including my skin, hair and nails. I could spend more money to achieve a healthy skin,



than I will on getting clothes. Exercise regimen, not exactly...too lazy for it

**A-CHOICES:** How did you handle the lockdown due to the Covid 19?

**Konye:** Without a doubt, a lockdown was tough, especially as it affected my business, I got more than enough rest anyways, but I above all, I appreciated life on a whole new level, I came to the real-



isation that indeed everything can literally change in the twinkle of an eye and as such one needs to be grateful at all times.

**A-CHOICES:** Words of advice/encouragement for the people during the pandemic to keep going.

**Konye:** I'll say, just keep going. My all time favourite scripture in the bible; ALL THINGS WORKS TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOOD. Every single thing in life is happening for you and not to you. This is my belief system, it works for me and sure would work for anyone else

**A-CHOICES:** What would you say are your major achievements?

**Konye:** My major achievement till date is learning the skill of FOREX, it's been the ultimate game changer for me, amongst other things. The liberty of making money from any part of the world, with just a phone, laptop and a working internet. It's bliss

**A-CHOICES:** For what in your life do you feel most grateful?

**Konye:** I am most grateful for family. Hale & hearty parents, siblings, friends turned family.

## Wendy Williams is locked out of her Wells Fargo bank accounts after it labelled her an 'incapacitated person'



By: Seyi Awoloye  
Los Angeles, CA USA



- *Wendy Williams, 57, has been locked out of her Wells Fargo accounts since mid January after her former financial advisor claimed she was 'of unsound mind'*
- *On February 4 she accused the bank through the courts of overstepping their authority, and demanded she be able to access her millions*
- *The bank has now responded, with a lawyer for Wells Fargo claiming she is an 'incapacitated person' who needs a guardianship*

- *The attorney alleged that Williams is being exploited by people around her and is vulnerable and exposed. William's team has denied that she is suffering from dementia and her lawyer on Wednesday said that she should be given access to her money*
- *The lawyer said that Williams 'denies that she is the victim of undue influence and financial exploitation'*
- *The future of her show remains uncertain, with a 'permanent guest host' being named and Williams unlikely to return before the fall, according to sources*

**W**endy Williams is an 'incapacitated person' who cannot handle her own financial affairs, a lawyer for her bank has claimed in court.

The 57-year-old chat show host has rarely been seen in public since she stopped presenting her show in July 2021. In September she was taken to a New York hospital for psychiatric evaluation, and the future of The Wendy Williams Show hangs in the balance, with multiple famous faces stepping into her shoes to host and a 'permanent guest host' being named to replace her.

Recently, a lawyer for her bank, Wells Fargo, sent a letter to New York County Supreme Court Judge Arlene Bluth seeking a hearing to discuss her finances. William's former financial advisor, Lori Schiller, claimed that Williams was 'of unsound mind', which led to Wells Fargo blocking the New Jersey-born presenter's access to her accounts in mid January.

William's lawyers disputed Schiller's claim, and on February 4 accused Wells Fargo of overstepping their authority. Now the bank has responded, with

David H. Pikus, representing Wells Fargo, writing in court documents that they were worried about her, and wanted a professional to oversee her finances. 'We are concerned about [Williams]' situation,' Pikus wrote. 'It is our hope that the Guardianship Part [of the court] will imminently appoint a temporary guardian or evaluator to review the situation and ensure that [Williams]' affairs are being properly handled.'

Pikus told the judge that the bank 'has strong reason to believe' Williams is 'the victim of undue influence and financial exploitation.' He requested to keep the case 'under seal' to 'preserve the confidential nature.'

Pikus claimed Schiller had 'recently witnessed signs of exploitation, including Williams' own expressed apprehensions' about the people around her.

Pikus did not clarify who he meant. He wrote that 'other independent third parties who know [Williams] well ... share these concerns.' Williams' lawyer Celeste McCaw wrote in response to a letter that her Emmy-winning client 'denies that she is the victim of undue influence and financial exploitation.'

McCaw also requested a temporary restraining order against Wells Fargo to restrain the bank 'from freezing [Williams]' accounts and interfering with her right to access her financial assets and statements.' The trailblazing Williams launched her



© Mike Esterman Instagram

eponymous show in 2008, and now in its 13th season it remains one of the biggest hits in daytime TV history. The show was built around Williams, then a popular radio host known for her no-holds-barred take on celebrity gossip.

The show has been deeply personal, charting the end of her 22-year marriage to television producer Kevin

Hunter in 2019, when she discovered he had been having an affair and fathered a child with his mistress.

In February 2021 she hosted a 'Date Wendy' segment on her show and met Mike Esterman, a Maryland building contractor, who she began dating.

# RITUAL RAMPAGE



**By:** Joy Kangmwa Gofwen  
Lagos Bureau-Chief  
Lagos, Nigeria

**A**t age 17 I had no business with making money, I was in secondary school reading the news every Monday and Friday during assembly and dreaming of becoming a journalist in the future. While growing up, I had my life planned out in my head; I'll go to the university after secondary school, once I'm done with my degree I'll proceed for my mandatory youth service and after that get a job and start making money.

You'll think my little fantasy ended there, no! Once I start earning money from my job, I'll then buy a car and build a house and then finally settle down with the man of my dreams and live happily ever after. Whether my dream happened or not is not the crux of the matter for now, but how a teenager that should be painting the future in the theater of the mind is now thinking of how to make money to buy an exotic car is the crux of the matter.

At 17, my parents catered for my every need, they didn't have much but I had the basic things available to aid me to grow and function well at that age. I remember the only time I had to think of making money was during long vacations while I was in senior secondary school, my parents engaged us with small businesses, and I was either selling cooked groundnuts or puff-puff at home. Even at that, they provided the capital for the business.

Sadly, our morals have dwindled that ritual killing

is almost becoming a norm in our society. The quest for quick wealth by young Nigerians is so frightening and alarming, gone is the days when ritual killing for wealth is likened to elderly men, nowadays, even 17-year-olds are among those carrying the ritual pot.

Recently, in Abeokuta, Ogun State, a 17-year-old Soliu Majekodunmi lured his teenage girlfriend Rofiat Kehinde and killed her. With the aid of his friends namely, Mustakeem Balogun, Wariz Oladeinde, and Abdulgafar Lukman they severed her head from her neck after strangling her and put it in a black local pot, and were burning it in an uncompleted building as part of their ritual process before they were apprehended.

While her body lay wasted on the floor in the room of her lover, he alongside his friends was hopeful in that uncompleted building that they will succeed and be wealthy in no distant time.

What does a 17-year-old teenager that barely knows his left from his right in the affairs of life and should be under watchful parents needs fast wealth for? How did they muster the idea and even have the courage to execute such a dreadful idea? It is sickening how we got to this point in our society.

Far on the other end of the country in Kano, little Hanifa Abubakar whose only crime was going to school on that fateful day was kidnapped and killed by her conventional school proprietor. Though she was not a ritual tool, but the main reason behind her kidnapping was to make money.

30-year-old Abdulmalik Mohammed kidnapped the

five-year-old on her way back from school (Islamiyya) and demanded 6,000,000 naira as ransom from her family. Sadly, the little girl was poisoned and killed with rat poison as though she was one; her body was then mutilated and buried in a shallow grave after she identified him (Abdulmalik). Thankfully, he was caught alongside his accomplic-

State defecating in potties like children and afterward, they used the feces as butter for bread and chewed it in broad day.

These horrifying stories are never-ending and it is steadily on the increase. Young people have become desperate for wealth that they do the most bizarre



es but little Hanifa is gone. Just like the teenage boys, Abdulmalik was also in a quest for quick wealth.

On the other end in the East, in a video that went viral, some young boys believed to be in their early 20s were seen on a major junction in Owerri, Imo

things. Children are no longer safe in the neighborhood, girlfriends are not safe with their lovers and sadly even parents are not left out. Everyone is a potential victim of this trend.

The magnification of money among older Nigerians particularly politicians and celebrities has created a



huge problem in society. The unnecessary display of wealth by these classes of people on the internet has facilitated the rot we are facing today.

Places of worship value and respect those with huge donations without questioning the source of wealth, bars and clubs now have an outrageous price list and celebrates the client that spends the most with chariots. Hype men shame average spenders.

No one is asking questions when people suddenly appear rich; the family which is the smallest unit of society has become dysfunctional. Children are welcomed and celebrated with questionable wealth. Delayed gratification is a non-existent phrase in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

This explains why a lot of people fall victims to all sorts of Ponzi schemes. Internet fraud (Yahoo Yahoo) has become the order of the day, and now the ritual killing (yahoo plus) they say.

It is time we all go back to the drawing board to find out how we missed it, parents need to be more responsible for their children, leaders need to be accountable to the people that voted them into leadership, and most importantly, punitive measures must be put in place by the government to punish perpetrators of these horrible crimes.

It's time to question every source of wealth that appears questionable, enough of the irrational celebration of stupendous wealth.

## Zoe Sozo Bethel dead: Beauty queen dies eight days after suffering horror injuries in accident



By: Bunmi Johnson,  
Bureau Chief, New York  
USA



Miss Alabama 2021 winner Zoe Sozo Bethel has died, her family said, days after she sustained severe brain damage in an accident. The beauty pageant contestant and conservative commentator died on Friday 10 February. Her death was confirmed in an Instagram post made by her family on Sunday 20 February. Beauty Queen Zoe Sozo Bethel has died after suffering horrific injuries, eight days after she was involved in a mysterious accident

In the touching social media tribute, Zoe's family said that the young woman "touched the hearts of many people. "The family also shared an array of photographs of the beauty queen, including videos of her holding a "Jesus is King" flag and images of her in her sash.

They did not specify what sort of accident Zoe was involved in. At the time, they also shared a fundraising page for Zoe's medical bills, which has received over \$41,000 (\$A56,900) in donations. The donations were also going toward resources for Zoe's daughter, the family said.

"Unfortunately the doctors are saying the damage cannot be repaired & that she may not have much time left. "The family begged Zoe's 25,000 followers for prayers, however unfortunately later confirmed that she did succumb to her injuries. Weeks before her untimely death, the beauty queen had shared messages of hope on her Instagram account. She captioned one shot of herself wearing a red top with a quote she said was by Joan of Arc.

"One life is all we have and we live it as we believe in living it. But to sacrifice what you are and to live without belief, that is a fate more terrible than dying," Zoe wrote on January 18.



Many of her 25,000 Instagram followers have left messages honouring Zoe.

“Her beauty, her grace, her heart ... a stunning woman that would stop everyone in their tracks. May she rest peacefully,” said former

Republican congressional candidate Kimberly Klacik. “I am so sorry for your loss,” added conservative commentator Tomi Lahren. Zoe was also a conservative commentator and



worked in collaboration with Project Veritas and Charlie Kirk's Turning Point USA.



She was the current Miss Alabama for America, not Miss Alabama as they are two different organisations.



# "I was a drug dealer because I wanted money fast without having to work for it.. I ended up sobbing in prison"

By: Linda R. Jones  
London, UK

*"I was young and stupid, aged 17, and I ended up selling Class A drugs, nothing was happening to me, I wasn't getting arrested"*



As the cell door slammed shut behind him, 22-year-old Hermengildo Dange broke down in tears. Scared and shunned by friends and family, the Class A drug dealer had hit rock bottom. Part of a gang called the Manchester Boys, or Manx, he ran heroin and crack cocaine from Manchester to Southampton for four years. He was "young and stupid" and "wanted money fast, without having to work for it". But Hermen was arrested on the south coast and later sentenced to six years in prison.

He pleaded guilty to conspiracy to supply cocaine, crack cocaine and heroin and money laundering. Hermen served three years at Stangeways prison, exactly half his sentence, and was released in 2020 during the pandemic.

Brought up in Collyhurst, Hermen says he had a good upbringing but veered off course in his mid-teens.

Speaking to the Manchester Evening News, Hermen, now 28, said: "I have made mistakes and followed the wrong crowd.

"I wasn't pressurised to do anything but it was more the rush to succeed.

"I wanted money fast, without having to work for it.

"That's what the majority of people do, they don't want to put the hours in.

"I was young and stupid, aged 17, and I ended up selling Class A drugs, nothing was happening to me, I wasn't getting arrested.

"I was getting away with it and got away with it for a good four-year

run.

"I was transporting drugs from Manchester to Southampton.

"I had built a gang around me but I was young and stupid - I didn't realise there was an operation following me.

"I got arrested in Southampton, I was in trouble with the police prior to that for the stupidest things like fighting over drugs.

"I was in a dark place, not knowing I was in a dark place."

Hermen says going to prison was terrifying.

"Going in to prison is really scary," he said.

"I was constantly paranoid. You think you are surrounded by bad people and you could get jumped



at any time.  
"It was one big thing that affected my mental health."



Hermen says he did not want to come out of his cell, he was so scared and gripped by paranoia. He added: "Your friends aren't there anymore, they move on."

"My own mum wouldn't visit me because I had lied to her. She was disappointed."

"I never had a father to be strict with me, it was just my mum raising me."

"I lied to her when she asked me where the money was coming from."

"I ended up getting six-and-a-half years for my first sentence which is a lot - because they put me down for a leading role in the conspiracy, I had built my own little gang. "I was new to that crime world in prison. "Behind the doors I was crying."

"When I got my first visit from my mum after six months, I cried even more."



had applied to forming a drugs gang into helping launch a legitimate business. Once out of jail, Hermen says he got his head down and his mum bought him his first van so that he could set-up a removal firm. He bought more vans, employed staff and also set up a street food business. Hermen also decided to become a mentor, showing kids how he had turned his life around. He added: "It's something I never felt comfortable doing - speaking to children and a large audience - and admitting my truth.

"But I thought I have the skills, I need to share my story and stop others from going down that wrong path. "As well as having his own businesses in transport and food, Hermen is now a mentor at youth centres and schools, talking to the younger generation about "life after high school".

"People used to see me as this tough person but inside I was broken, I was hurt.

"I was depressed and I was crying day in and day out. "There was a lot of people there who knew what prison life was like, but for me it was new. "Prison was tough. Everybody there is scared. "When I went to jail, that's when I woke up."Prison is a place where you can wake up - and have another chance."

Eventually Hermen moved to an HMP Thorn Cross open prison in Warrington and looked into what courses he could study in jail. He enrolled on a mentoring course, and decided it was time for him to pay something back.

A probation officer suggested he used the skills he

He has projects lined up working with youth and Manchester council.

Hermen added: "I have been out for two years now and I my aim is not to be rich - but to be successful and to help others as much as I can.

"I changed the life of one person, who may have damaged hundreds of peoples lives (by selling drugs), like I did in the past. "The way I keep myself alive now is to talk to people. "The feedback and response is amazing."

# U.S. court postpones Abidemi Rufai's fraud trial, as prosecution files fresh evidence



By: Seyi Awoleye  
Los Angeles, CA USA

**U**.S. court postpones the trial of a Nigerian politician, Abidemi Rufai, as prosecution files fresh evidence. Rufai, a suspended aide to Ogun State governor, faces charges of \$350,000 employment benefit fraud. His lawyer also indicated an ongoing negotiation with the U.S. Government.

The U.S government arraigned him on 15 counts of fraud and identity theft at the District Court for the Western District of Washington, Tacoma, on June 25, 2021. He is accused of using the identities of more than 100 Washington residents to steal more than \$350,000 in unemployment benefits from the Washington State Employment Security Department (ESD) during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. His lawyers, in January, sought the second rescheduling of his trial from February 1, 2022, to May, in quest of more time to review available evidence with his client, and for further negotiation with the U.S. government.

The judge, Benjamin Settle of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, Tacoma, granted the defendant's request on January 11, according to a court document, Mr Settle postponed the trial until May 31, 2022.

It was the second postponement of the case within months. The judge had, earlier on August 3,

2021, issued an order shifting the trial originally slated for August 31, 2021, to February 1, 2022. Both the prosecution and the defence jointly applied for the earlier postponement, anchoring their agreed request on "the voluminous and complex" nature of the evidence submitted by the government.



Abidemi-Rufai

The judge had acceded to the request and postponed the trial till February 1, 2022. New exhibit, negotiation But the five-month postponement granted in August last year appeared insufficient for the defence. In his motion

filed on January 3, 2022, Mr Rufai's lawyer, Lance M. Hester, asked for further postponement of the trial from February 1 to May 2022.

Mr Hester said he needed more time to review over 100,000 pages of evidence filed by the U.S. government with his client. "The discovery, in this case, is voluminous and complex. The government had produced over 100,000 pages of discovery material," Mr Hester stated.





He also indicated that the government had filed more materials broadening the case beyond the original employment benefit fraud allegations. Mr Hester said the fresh allegations include “fraudulent claims for tax refunds and disaster relief.” “Further, in addition to the transactions described in the indictment, which relate to alleged fraud involving unemployment benefits, the government has also produced material relating to allegedly fraudulent claims for tax refunds and disaster relief,” he added. [headtopics.com](http://headtopics.com)

He called for the postponement of the trial to gain more time, not only “to review the discovery with the defendant” and to prepare pretrial motions, but to also “further negotiate a possible resolution of this matter.” He said failure to grant the postponement “would unreasonably deny the defence the

reasonable time necessary for effective preparation, taking into account the exercise of due diligence.”

Rufai in brief

Before making his Instagram account private, Mr Rufai had pictures of himself and other Ogun government officials posted online.

The suspect shared photos of his candidacy for the House of Representatives in 2019. His slogans read: “Ready and Committed to Serve with Trust and Ethics.”

He owns a sports betting organisation named Ecobet, and he is popularly described as “a young business turk,” “a philanthropist of note” and a “gregarious and enterprising dude” among his clicks.

## Mum Of Robbery Suspect Drags Him To Police Station



By: Bunmi Johnson,  
Bureau Chief, New York  
USA

The suspect's mother brought him to the police station in Calumet City to turn himself in after recognising photos of a masked suspect – seen glancing



**T**he mother of a Chicago train robbery suspect, Zion Brown dragged him to the police station after recognising him in police wanted poster.

Brown, an 18-year-old sophomore at Loyola University Chicago, has been charged with armed robbery after allegedly stealing about \$100 in cash at gunpoint from a Metra train conductor, reports New York Post.

into a station security camera – shared by police and reported by the media.

The detail was revealed at Brown's bail hearing, where his lawyer argued his client was hungry and was looking for something to eat. His lawyer then asked the judge to remember her own days as a hungry college kid in determining his bail. The judge refused to grant him bail.

Brown had no prior criminal record.

## NIGERIA'S 'SUPER COP' IN THE MUD

**By:** Kangmwa Gofwen  
Lagos Bureau-Chief  
Lagos, Nigeria

Valentines is known to be celebrated by lovers. On that day, lovers express their love for each other in special ways through the exchange of gifts, dinner dates, and what have you. On Valentine this year, 14<sup>th</sup>, February 2022 Nigerians were gifted a surprise gift by the Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency NDLEA.

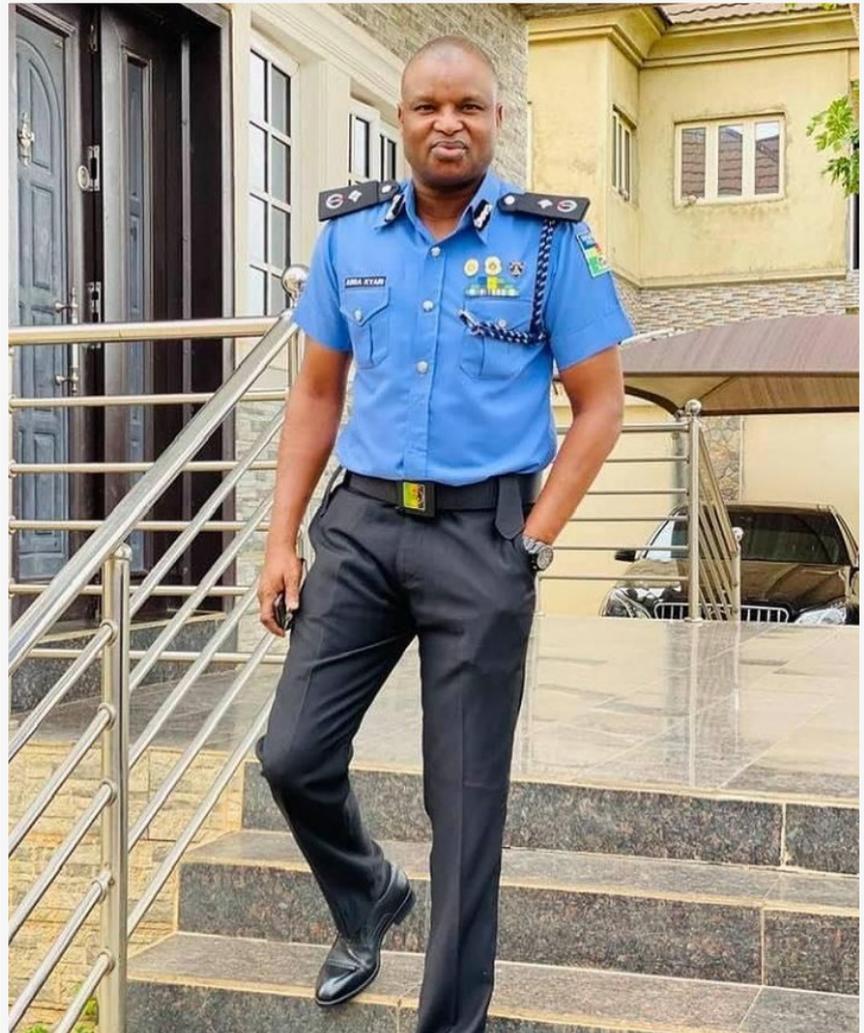
We all did not see it coming; no one expected that our 'Super Cop' will go down in such a manner. The Nigerian Drug Law Enforcement Agency on Valentine's Day declared Abba Kyari wanted for his involvement and relationship with a drug cartel believed to be operating the Brazil-Ethiopia-Nigeria illicit drug pipeline.

Part of the statement reads "Today, we are forced to declare one of such law enforcement agents wanted in the person of suspended DCP Abba Kyari, the erstwhile Commander of Intelligence Response Team IRT at the Force Intelligence Bureau of the Nigerian Police Force.

With the intelligence at our disposal, the Agency believes strongly that DCP

Kyari is a member of a drug cartel that operates the Brazil-Ethiopia-Nigeria illicit drug pipeline, and he needs to answer questions that crop up in an ongoing drug case in which he is the principal actor. His failure to cooperate forced the hand of the Agency and that is the reason for this press briefing."

Only in a lawless country like Nigeria allows a suspended cop still have control over a unit, recall the



Kyari was suspended in 2020 for his alleged involvement in the fraud case of socialite Ramon Olorunwa Abbas popularly known as Ray Hushpuppi.

Kyari was said to have helped Abbas detain and jail a fellow fraudster Kelly Chibuzor after a dispute over a \$1.1 million fraud against a Qatari business person, Kelly felt shortchanged and threatened to expose the transaction but our 'Super Cop' swiftly came in to save the day and he was

paid for the job well done by his benefactor Hushpuppi.

Abba Kyari was a feared and celebrated cop, feared by criminals and celebrated by the good people for his commitment to duty. Kyari during his hay days led the team that arrested one of Nigeria's most notorious kidnap kingpins Chukwudumeme Onwaumadike also known as Evans in Lagos state together with his gang members in 2017. He has led several other operations that were successful.



Interestingly, Evans was on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February given a life imprisonment sentence by a court sitting in Ikeja, Lagos, five years after his arrest by the 'Super Cop' that might be joining him soon.

He was celebrated even by our lawmakers, he was given a standing ovation by the senate-house because of his achievements in the Police Force, but what we do not know is, was Kyari clean at that time or it was the case of the highest bidder. Pay heavy bribes and Kyari and his team will stay off your track, refuse to pay and you are hunted down and he (Kyari) gets celebrated.

This case just goes to say the level of rot we have in our system, those that are meant to uphold the law are the very ones breaking the law. Interestingly, Kyari has on many occasions declared a public campaign against illicit drugs, funny how we don't practice what we

preach.

However, it is baffling how Kyari fell cheaply into the trap; with his level of 'intelligence', one would expect a more sophisticated trap. The drug law agency explained how he was trapped in the drug saga "the saga started on Friday, January 21, 2022, when DCP Kyari initiated a call to one of NDLEA officers in Abuja at 2: 12 pm. When the officer returned the call two minutes later, Kyari informed him he was coming to see him to discuss an operational matter after the Juma'at service.

He appeared at the agreed venue of the meeting with the officer and went straight to the crux of the matter. This was it; his team had intercepted and arrested some traffickers that came into the country from Ethiopia with, according to him, 25kg of cocaine. He proposed a drug deal whereby he and his team are to take 15kg of the cocaine and leave 10kg for the prosecution of the suspects arrested with an illicit drug in Enugu. In the meantime, the purloined cocaine will be replaced with a dummy worth 15kg. He asked the NDLEA officer to persuade men of the FCT Command to play along as well."

Again, how does a suspended cop still have control over a team? Can certainly just happen in a country like Nigeria.

"By 11: 15 am on Monday, January 24, after the Agency gave the officer the green light to play along, he and Kyari began a WhatsApp call for the rest of the day. The officer conveyed 'their' willingness to play the game. At this point, Kyari disclosed that the 15kg (already taken out) was shared between the informants that provided information for the seizure and he and his men of IRT of the Nigerian Police.

According to him, the informants were given 7kg while his team took 8kg which was already sold. He then offered to pay the NDLEA team (that is the officer and the FCT commander) by selling, on their behalf, half of the remaining 10kg, thereby further reducing the original cocaine for the prosecution to just 5kg. at N7M per kilogram, the proceed from the 5kg would amount to N35M, at the exchange rate of N570 per dollar being the black market rate for the day, January 24, 2022."

We all know how it ended, however, to some Nigerians; they believe the scenario was acted to avoid the extradition of Kyari to the United State of America to face allegations by the FBI for his involvement in Hushpuppi's fraud case.

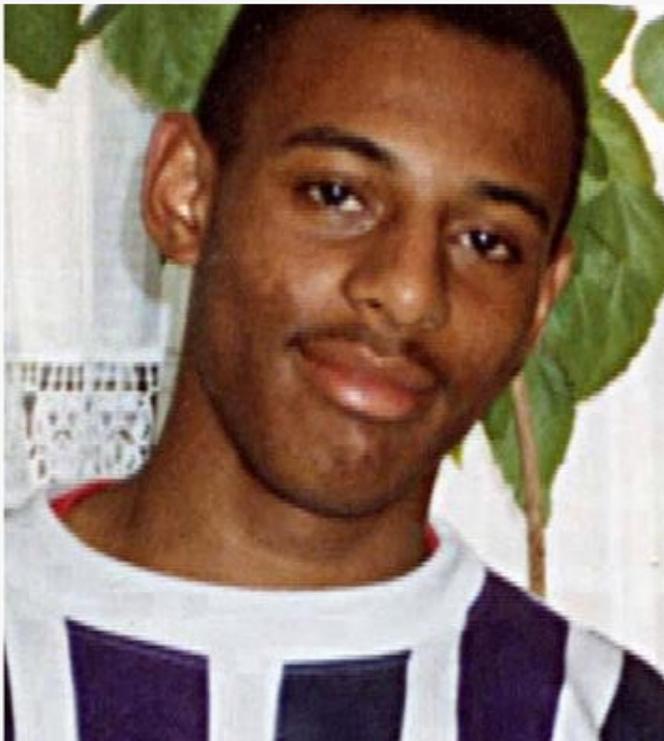
Typical of Nigerian politicians and or leaders, they are all well until they are detained for a crime. Kyari has cried the Federal High Court in Abuja to order the NDLEA to grant him bail on health grounds, pending the hearing and determination of his fundamental rights enforcement application. Funny, how the mighty are falling.

## Stephen Lawrence killer David Norris is furious at being transferred to one of the UK's bleakest jails

**By:** Linda R. Jones  
London, UK

**S**TEPHEN Lawrence killer David Norris is said to be furious at being transferred to one of the UK's bleakest jails. Norris, 45, was moved out of Cat-B HMP Garth, Lancs, now he is deemed a lower-risk inmate. But he was "incensed" by the switch to HMP Dartmoor, Devon.

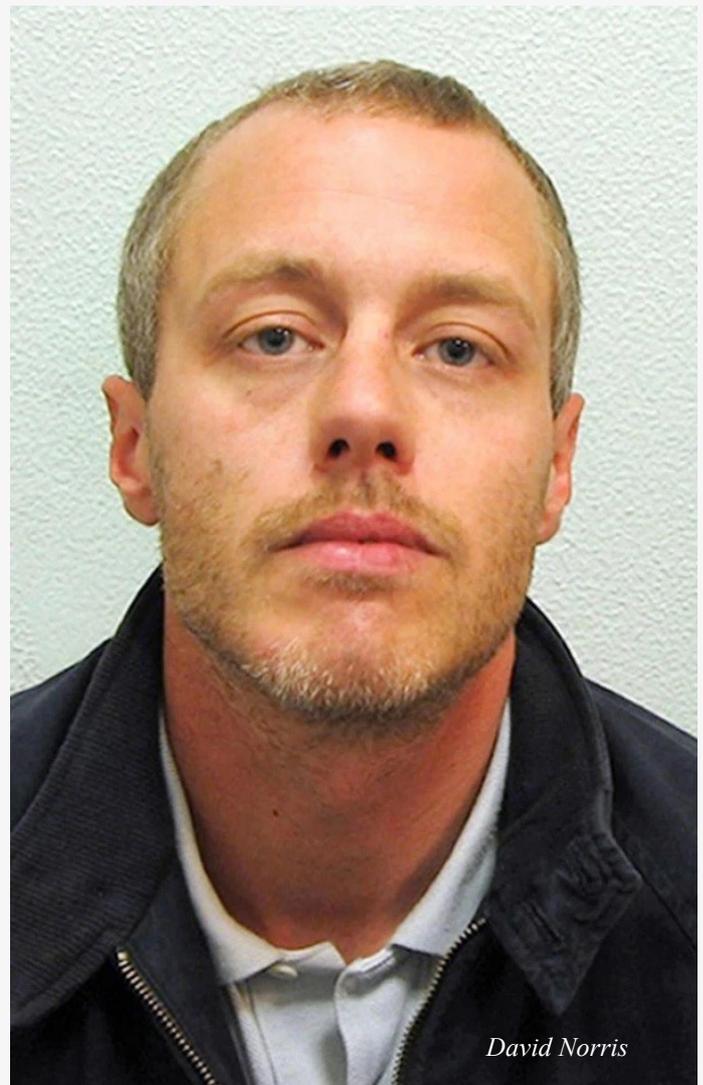
A source said: "Norris was delighted when told he was being moved to a lower category prison. But this turned to anger when he was told it was Dartmoor, notorious for being isolated and bleak. "It is also hundreds of miles from his home manor and hard to visit. "Norris got a minimum 14 years in 2012 for the 1993 racist murder of Stephen, 18, in Eltham, South East London.



*Stephen Lawrence*

In the event, Dobson was given at least 15 years and two months behind bars while Norris was told he must serve at least 14 years and three months before being considered for release.

Stephen Lawrence, 18, was murdered on 22 April 1993. He was waiting for a bus in Eltham, south-east London, with his friend Duwayne Brooks when a group of white men of similar age attacked him. One was heard to say "what nigger" before a



*David Norris*



*Neville Lawrence Stephen's Father*

Doreen and their three children in Plumstead, south-east London when his eldest son Stephen was murdered. Mr Lawrence and his then wife, Doreen, spent many years campaigning for justice for their son believing the police investigation had been inadequate. Events took their toll on their marriage and Mr Lawrence returned to live in Jamaica. The couple divorced in 1999. Following the announcement of a new public inquiry into undercover policing, Mr Lawrence said he still feared that the full truth about the police investigation into his son's death would not emerge.



*Stephen's mother*

Doreen Lawrence was living with her husband Neville and their three children in south-east London when her eldest son Stephen was murdered. Having emigrated from Jamaica as a child, she began a family in the UK after marrying Neville in 1972. Alongside her husband, she campaigned tirelessly for justice for her murdered son. In 1998, she set up the Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust, which gives bursaries to young people who want to become architects. Mrs Lawrence was created a life peer in 2013 and she sits on the Labour benches as a working peer.



*Stephen's friend*

knife was plunged twice into the teenager, severing two arteries. He had done nothing to provoke his attackers. At the time of his death, Stephen was taking his A-levels and planned to study architecture at university.

Neville Lawrence, a carpenter, upholsterer, tailor and plasterer who had emigrated to the UK from Jamaica in the 1960s, was living with his wife

## Alleged Cocaine Deal: Court declines DCP Abba Kyari's bail application



**By:** Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior Writer,  
Lagos, Nigeria

**J**ustice Inyang Ekwo of the Federal High Court in Abuja has declined to grant the bail application of suspended Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Abba Kyari. The Federal High Court, refused to grant the bail application of Abba Kyari, who is being investigated over his alleged involvement in a 25 kilograms cocaine deal.

Justice Inyang Ekwo, in a ruling, said the application had been overtaken by events following an order of a sister court, granting the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency's prayers to detain Kyari for another 14 days to enable it to conclude its investigation.

Justice Ekwo held that the sister court, which gave the order in favour of NDLEA on February 22, was a court of coordinate jurisdiction.

The judge, however, said he was inclined to hear Kyari's fundamental enforcement rights suit with the urgency it deserves after the expiration of the 14-day court order.

He subsequently adjourned until March 15 to hear his application on his fundamental right enforcement.

Kyari, last week, approached the court praying that the Federal Government be ordered to pay him N500million and also tender a written apology to him in two national dailies for the unlawful violation of his fundamental human rights.



*Deputy Commissioner of Police  
(DCP) Abba Kyari*

He is further praying the court for, "a declaration that arrest and continued detention of the Applicant by the Agent of the Respondent without bringing him before a court of competent jurisdiction from

12th of February 2022 till date, is Illegal, unlawful and a gross violation of his fundamental right.

Among other demands, he also prayed the court to order his release on bail to enable him to take care of his deteriorating health condition.

Kyari told the court that he is suffering from "diabetes; high blood pressure and severe heart disease that may cause death."

The anti-narcotics agency had, on February 14, confirmed that the embattled Mr Kyari was in its



*NDLEA*

custody after it declared the cop wanted for allegedly aiding and abetting drug pushing and running his own drug cartel.

after the former police intelligence unit commander was indicted in an Internet fraud case by a U.S. court.



*Abba-Kyari*

As a result of the declaration, the Nigerian police announced that Mr Kyari was arrested alongside four other members of the police intelligence response team and handed over to the NDLEA.

The declaration by the NDLEA came a few months

# Nigerian man who stowed away on ship killed himself after asylum application was thrown out

**By:** Linda R. Jones  
London, UK

# A

Nigerian man who stowed away on a container ship and engaged in a 14-hour stand-off with police on the Thames Estuary in a desperate bid to

escape poverty in his home country killed himself before he could be deported.

Toheeb Popoola, 29, stowed away with three other men on the Grande Tema ship when it departed from Lagos, Nigeria, in December 2018. The group was found a few days later by the ship's captain. They were barricaded inside a cabin, where they remained for five days before they broke out, armed themselves with metal poles and threatened crew members. A tense 14-hour stand-off on the Thames Estuary ensued before special forces boarded the ship and arrested the stowaways.

Toheeb was sentenced to 31 months in prison. He was released in August 2020 and placed in government-run housing in Bradford under the condition he was not allowed to work or obtain an education, and was ordered to report to the immigration office regularly.

He applied for asylum, but this was rejected in early 2021.

On July 26 2021, he was found hanged by his partner, Judith Stalker, at her South Shore home.

She said: "We live in a country where we can get money, we can get work. Toheeb didn't have the money to come over here, he didn't have an educa-

tion. He was scared. That's why he did what he did.

"I knew Toheeb as a person. He was a brilliant stepdad to my kids. He was there for my kids every day, he tidied up after them, he brushed their teeth, he read to them at night and did everything for them.

"He loved dancing, singing, and playing with the kids. He was like a big kid himself.

"People struggling in this country get benefits. In Nigeria, they have nothing. They had to struggle for minced meat. At the end of the day, he was scared not only for himself but for his friends as well. He just wanted a better life.

"It bothered him that he couldn't work and earn his own living, because where he came from, if you don't work you don't eat."

At a pre-inquest review at Blackpool town hall, the court heard how Toheeb had been released by the immigration office and was awaiting deportation when he died.

In August 2020, Toheeb underwent a psychiatric evaluation which found he was suffering from mental health problems as a result of the trauma he had experienced in Nigeria, and his subsequent imprisonment. He was prescribed antidepressants by his GP in Bradford.

But Judith, 34, said she did not know her partner was struggling, as he was 'always cheerful'.

She told the court: "He never did anything before. He used to say 'I'm a happy person, I don't like arguments'.

"He told me his solicitor said to him if he went to the doctors and got medication for his mental health problems he would be more likely to get



*Toheeb Popoola*

asylum. But he never took them in my house.”

Coroner Alan Wilson mentioned the possibility of the inquest being heard before a jury, which occurs if a person dies in custody, however, Home Office counsel Tom Hynes said: “My view is that this gentleman was not in state detention. While Mr Popoola was arrested and remained in custody on entry to the UK in December 2018, and remained in custody until the court case thereafter... he was released on August 26 2020 on conditional bail.

“At the time of his death Mr Popoola had not signed on with the immigration officer since May 4 2021, and was largely living in Blackpool. In my submission he was not in state detention at the time of his death.”

A full inquest, without a jury, was arranged for March 28.

Judith, a mum of four, said: “Toheeb was a loving person. He was a good stepdad to my kids and was like a role model in their lives.

“He kept himself to himself; he was a quiet person and a family man.

# Queen Elizabeth II alive, rumors of her death denied

By: Linda R.Jones  
London, UK



**I**t's not uncommon for rumors about Queen Elizabeth's death to make headlines, but this time, recent reports have royal followers seriously wondering if it's true. Is Queen Elizabeth dead?

Queen Elizabeth II Is Not Dead Despite Rumor, But Family Prepares for 'the Worst'. Rumor that the British monarch has died after she tested positive for COVID-19 has been denied, but it is claimed that the 96-year-old royal is in 'bad shape.' An hoax announcement of Her Majesty's death sent social media into a frenzy—but many spotted some tell-tale signs the news was fake. Buckingham Palace has since confirmed the Queen took part in her weekly phone call with the Prime Minister, on February 23, definitively putting paid to the rumor.

The report that the queen has died made its round on Twitter on Tuesday, February 22 after Holly-



wood Unlocked claimed insiders informed them the 96-year-old had lost her life. "It is with our deepest regret to inform you that Britain's Queen Elizabeth has died," their report read. "Sources close to the Royal Kingdom notified us exclusively that Queen Elizabeth has passed away. She was scheduled to attend the wedding of British Vogue editor Edward Enninful, but was found dead."

However, that couldn't be further from the truth. Dayo Okewale, a chief of staff in the House of Lords, said the report about the queen's death was "false. Radar Online also denied that the queen has passed away, but claims that she is in "bad shape." Thus, the royal family is reportedly "making final plans" as the family "is getting ready for the worst." So-called insiders tell the site, "They desperately don't want her to end like this."

"Her Majesty is experiencing mild cold-like symptoms but expects to continue light duties at Windsor over the coming week," the statement continued to read. "She will continue to receive medical attention and will follow all the appropriate guidelines." Her COVID diagnosis arrived ten days after her son Prince Charles tested positive for the virus. His wife Camilla was also diagnosed with coronavirus four days later, on February 14. So, is Queen Elizabeth dead? The answer is a resounding no. At the time of writing, the Queen is alive.

## Vladimir Putin declares war on Ukraine as Russia invades and blasts heard

By: Edward Collins  
London, UK

**U**kraine's president has declared martial law and urged citizens not to panic with blasts heard across the country on Thursday morning

Ukraine's president has declared martial law and urged citizens not to panic as Russia launched military strikes on the country, while the country's foreign minister called it a "full-scale invasion". The Russian president announced the action during a televised address early on Thursday morning, saying the move was a response to threats from Ukraine.

Ukraine's border guard agency said the Russian military attacked the country from neighbouring Belarus. The agency said that the Russian troops unleashed an artillery barrage as part of an attack backed by Belarus and Ukrainian border guards



were firing back, adding that there was no immediate report of casualties.

Russia's military said it had targeted Ukrainian air bases and other military assets and had not targeted populated areas.

Explosions were heard in the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv as well as Odesa and Kharkiv following Vladimir Putin's announcement that the military operation had begun.

The Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dmytro Kuleba, said that Russia has launched a "full-scale invasion of Ukraine".

Mr Kuleba said that Ukraine would defend itself against the Russian aggression "and will win".

When did Russia start invading Ukraine?

The Russo-Ukrainian War is an ongoing war primarily involving Russia, Belarus, and pro-Russian forces on one side, and Ukraine on the other. Armed conflict began in February 2014 in the wake of Euromaidan, centred on the status of Crimea and parts of the Donbas, which are internationally recognised as part of Ukraine.

## UK flights ordered to avoid Ukraine airspace

Aircraft flying to or from UK airports are being ordered to avoid Ukraine airspace after the crisis in the country intensified. Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said he made the decision “following the horrific events overnight” as Russia launched a major military assault.

The Cabinet minister tweeted: “I’ve instructed @UK\_CAA (the Civil Aviation Authority) to ensure airlines avoid Ukraine airspace to keep passengers and crew safe.

“We continue to stand with the people of Ukraine and work with our international partners to respond to this act of aggression.”

This is affecting UK flights to and from Ukraine airports, and which were due to fly over the country.

Ireland brands Russian attack on Ukraine a ‘murderous act of aggression’

Ireland has branded Russia’s military assault on Ukraine a “murderous act of aggression”.

Taoiseach Micheal Martin condemned the latest action by Vladimir Putin on Thursday, as the Department of Foreign Affairs urged all remaining Irish citizens in Ukraine to seek shelter in a secure place.

It advised citizens not to move around the country in the coming hours and to follow the advice of local authorities.

The London Stock Exchange’s leading FTSE 100 index plunges more than 200 points

The London Stock Exchange’s leading FTSE 100 index plunged more than 200 points, or 2.7%, within moments of opening in reaction to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.



*lugansk-ukraine-troops*

Russian Defence Ministry says Russian strikes have ‘suppressed air defence means of the Ukrainian military’ The Russian Defence Ministry said the Russian strikes have “suppressed air defence means of the Ukrainian military,” adding that the infrastructure of Ukraine’s military bases has been

“incapacitated”.

It denied claims that a Russian warplane was shot down over Ukraine.

The Ukrainian military, meanwhile, reported it has shot down five Russian aircraft while fending off the attack on the country.

Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that he unleashed an attack on Ukraine in a televised address early on Thursday, drawing international condemnation.

Ukrainian brothers — former world boxing champs — ready to fight Russian troops

Both won several world heavyweight boxing championships, known for smooth footwork and fierce jabs. One never faced a knockdown in the ring. The other was undefeated for a decade.

Now, after Hall of Fame boxing careers, Vitali



*Ukrainian brothers*



*Scenes from the Start of War as Russia Invades Ukraine*

Klitschko and Wladimir Klitschko are again on the world stage, united in Ukraine's fight against Russia's invasion.

In the days since the assault began on their home country, both have said they plan to take up arms to defend against the Russian military as it moves closer to Kyiv, the Ukrainian capital.

Vitali Klitschko, 50, who since his retirement from boxing in 2013 has served as mayor of Kyiv, said



*Ukrainian firefighters arrive to rescue civilians after an airstrike hit an apartment complex in Chuhuiv, Kharkiv Oblast, Ukraine on February 24, 2022.*

in an interview on ITV's "Good Morning Britain" that he would stay and fight. "I don't have another choice. I have to do that. I'll be fighting," he said. "It's already a bloody war."

In January, Wladimir Klitschko, 45, enlisted in Ukraine's army reserve in Kyiv. "Now, the Russian president [Vladimir Putin] is using war rhetoric ... he makes it clear that he wants to destroy the Ukrainian state and the sovereignty of its people," Wladimir wrote on LinkedIn on Thursday. "Words

are followed by missiles and tanks. Destruction and death come upon us. ... We will defend ourselves with all our might and fight for freedom and democracy."

"You're on your own": African students stuck in Ukraine seek refuge or escape route

When Percy Ohene-Yeboah peered down from his high-rise apartment in the city of Kharkiv in eastern Ukraine on Thursday morning, the street below was clogged with traffic. People hurried along the



*Ukrainian security forces accompany a wounded man after an airstrike hit an apartment complex in Chuhuiv, Kharkiv Oblast, Ukraine on February 24, 2022.*

sidewalks, wheeling suitcases behind them.

The Ghanaian engineering student went to a window on the other side and discovered why: Russian planes were flying low above the city, trying to evade missiles that rifled through the sky - a scene resembling one of his favourite video games, Call of Duty.

As reality dawned, and with nowhere to turn, the 24-year-old, packed a bag and ran to the nearest underground train station for shelter, one of thousands of African students stranded in Ukraine during a Russian invasion, with no idea of how to escape.

"In a situation like this, you're on your own. You've got to find the best way to find refuge for yourself," he told Reuters by phone from the basement of a church where he eventually settled on Thursday night.

## How much did Kell Brook earn in prize money? Fight purse vs Amir Khan

**By:** Steve Jones  
Guest Writer  
London, UK



**K**ell Brook came out victorious from his box office grudge match with Amir Khan, stopping the former Olympic silver medallist in the sixth round.

The 35-year old was the pre-fight favourite to win the much anticipated contest at Manchester's AO Arena and demolished his opponent in convincing style.

The fight started at an incredible pace and Brook was able to knock the Khan down in the first round before keeping the pressure up throughout the following five rounds before referee Victor Loughlin stepped in.

# Tribute: Jamal Edwards

-1990—2022

By: Edward Collins  
Senior Writer  
London, UK

**We**'re so sad to hear the news about Jamal Edwards. His vision, creativity and generosity launched the careers of so many artists. He was a true inspiration. Jamal Edwards MBE, son of Loose Women's Brenda Edwards, has died unexpectedly at the age of 31. The young entrepreneur was best known as the founder of film production company, SBTV, as well as his work as an author, director and DJ. Jamal's music platform, SBTV, helped launch the careers of artists including Ed Sheeran, Jessie J and Dave. He also became an ambassador for the Prince's Trust, received an honorary MBA from Luton and Bedfordshire University and an honorary degree from the University of West London.



Jamal Edwards tragically died from a sudden illness his devastated family have confirmed in an emotional statement.

The 31-year-old's heartbroken mum, Loose Women star, Brenda Edwards confirmed the tragic news. "It is with the deepest heartache that I confirm that my beautiful son Jamal Edwards passed away yesterday morning after a sudden illness," Brenda penned.

"Myself, his sister Tanisha and the rest of his family and friends are completely devastated. He was the centre of our world. "As we come to terms with his passing we ask for privacy to grieve this unim-



aginable loss. I would like to thank everyone for their messages of love and support. "MUSIC mogul Jamal Edwards sadly passed away on Sunday, February 20, 2022.

Thousands of friends and fans have rushed to pay tribute to the 31-year-old. Brenda's Loose Women co-star Denise Welch tweeted: "My heart aches for my friend Brenda. I can't bear it. Jamal Edwards was a wonderful son and brother. "The official Twitter for MOBO wrote: "We are deeply saddened to learn of Jamal Edwards passing. As the founder of @SBTVonline, his ground-breaking work and legacy in British music and culture will live on. Our hearts and thoughts are with his friends and family."

Presenter Jamie East penned: "I cannot overstate how tragic it is to lose Jamal Edwards. Without a shadow of a doubt one of the brightest, generous and kindest people I've had the pleasure to know. A pioneer, a testament to entrepreneurship and hard work but above else just a lovely man. Gutted."

Journalist Robert Peston echoed: "I am shocked and immensely sad to hear about the death of Jamal Edwards. He was such an inspirational and kind



man. I loved filming with him at the BBC. And he was important to @speakers4schools in its early days as a brilliant speaker. Condolences to all close to him."MP Florence Eshalomi MP said: "Very sad hearing this loss. To have made such an impact at such a young age with SBTV. Rest in peace Jamal Edwards. "Businessman Frank Khalid added: "I'm absolutely heartbroken of the news that my friend Jamal Edwards has passed away. Just spoke with him a few days ago."



And ITV reporter Jam Williams-Thomas stated: "This man did so much for grime and UK music. I grew up watching SBTV to see all the underrepresented artists of the scene. His grind is unmatched. A real inspiration and a huge, huge loss to the industry. "Jamal appeared alongside his mum, Brenda, on Loose Women in November. When asked about the inspiration behind his business, he admitted that his mum's "work ethic" played a huge part.

# Tyrese Gibson Mom Dies from Covid



**By:** Seyi Awoloye  
Los Angeles, CA  
USA



“Fast and Furious” star Tyrese Gibson bid farewell to his mother, Priscilla Murray, who died after a weeks-long battle with pneumonia and COVID-19.

Tyrese Gibson is mourning the death of his mother Priscilla Murray, who died on Monday 14 February from Covid-19 and pneumonia, according to the actor. Murray had been hospitalized and died on Monday, Gibson shared.



On Valentine’s Day, the “F9” actor shared a video of himself holding Murray’s hand on a hospital bed, telling her that he would keep holding it for the rest of his life. “I’m gonna hold your hand for the rest of my life, OK?” he said

in the emotional video, stroking his mother’s hand near where an IV line had been inserted. “Everywhere I go, I’m gonna hold your hand. The way you held my hand when I was a kid. Every journey this life takes me to, from here on, you’re gonna hold my hand, Mom, OK?” In the accompanying caption, the actor-singer confirmed her death and said it was “the saddest moment” of his life.

“My sweet Valentine just passed away..... May the lord Jesus Christ and his angels open the doors of

heavens and embrace her,” the 43-year-old star wrote. “We as a family are broken and just can’t believe this..... May the lord Jesus Christ honour your walk with him and embrace you into the heavens..... From here on I ask that you HOLD MY HAND MOTHER and never let my hand go..... Like you held my hand as a child and a teen never let my hand go mother.....”

Gibson, whose oldest sister, Salendra, died suddenly four months prior, had been chronicling his mother’s harrowing journey on social media for days. On Feb. 5, the “Morbius” actor and “Sweet



Lady” singer broke the news to his Instagram followers that his mother had been ailing and said he had to drop out of filming to be with her. He did not say what movie he was

working on or where his mother was being treated. The “Masked Singer” contestant said Murray was in an intensive care unit and had pneumonia and COVID-19. She was sedated and couldn’t breathe or eat on her own. He said he was feeling “helpless.”

The next day, Gibson flew out to be with her, thanking his director for having the “heart and compassion” to “re-arrange a wall to wall shooting schedule” so they could be together. He also urged his followers to “take this stuff that’s going on out here in this pandemic serious[ly].”

“I am far from perfect but I thank God that he has kept me and covered me and my family through this all so I’m expecting a miracle over my mother and this too shall pass amen,” he wrote. Gibson posted several updates from the hospital, as well as calls for prayer. He travelled back and forth from his film set to be with Murray and still wrapped up filming.

# SNOOP DOG BECOMES OWNER OF DEATH ROW RECORDS



By: Seyi Awoleye  
Los Angeles, CA USA



**S**noop Dogg has officially become the owner of Death Row Records. The record was before Snoop Dogg's ownership, controlled by the Blackstone company MNRK Music group. According to a press release, the rap prodigy will be heading the record as the owner in the

coming years.

Snoop initially became part of Death Row in 1993 and dropped his much-admired debut album, titled 'Doggystyle' with the record. The rap legend purchased Death Row Records and the music publishing company MNRK Music Group, which is funded by the investment firm Blackstone. Details of the deal have not been disclosed, but in a press release announcing the sale, Snoop Dogg said, "I am thrilled and appreciative of the opportunity to acquire the iconic and culturally significant Death Row Records brand, which has immense untapped future value. It feels good to have ownership of the label I was part of at the beginning of my career and as one of the founding members." He added that this is an "extremely meaningful" moment in his career and thanked everyone "who worked collaboratively with me over several months to make this exciting homecoming a reality." The musician concluded, "I'm looking forward to building the next chapter of Death Row Records."



Death Row Records was founded by Dr. Dre, Suge Knight, The D.O.C., and Dick Griffey in 1991. The record birthed the legendary West Coast rappers in the history of hip-hop. Snoop in an interview described how his request to buy Death Row records was turned down and how this led to a role as an



executive creative consultant with DefJam. “eOne Music [which owned Death Row Music until April 2021] didn’t want to give me action at it. So then, I asked, ‘could I buy it?’ And they acted like they didn’t want to sell it. Then they sold it [to the Blackstone Group], and the man in me was hurt, but the businessman in me said, “Okay, I got to

find something else to do to take this energy of mine that I’m holding on to.”

Blackstone's Senior Managing Director David Kestnbaum said of the deal in a statement to People, “We at Blackstone are strong supporters of the artist and creator community in our entertainment investments. We are excited to put the Death Row Records brand back in the hands of a legend like Snoop Dogg. We wish him success in the years ahead as the brand moves forward under his leadership and vision.”

Snoop said of the honor, “I’m still thinking I’m in a dream because I can’t believe that they will let a real hip-hop artist grace the stage in an NFL Super Bowl. We’re just going to wait for that moment and put something together that’s spectacular, and do what we’re known for doing and add on to the legacy.”

# Happy Birthday



A vey happy *86th* birthday to **Mrs Lovinah Ngerri**. Wising you more years in good health and wealth in Jesus mighty name God's richest blessings upon at all times

Best wishes from,  
**A-CHOICES magazine**



# Happy Birthday



IT'S MY MOTHER'S DAY :

Mother : She, who can take the place of others, but whose place no one else can take. A symbol of awesome love, care, sacrifice and loyalty.

Dear Mama, it didn't take me becoming a parent for me to start appreciating how lucky I am to have you as my mother.

There is no way to pay you back the magnitude of your love, loyalty, sacrifices and goodness to me.

I only wish to make you understand how much I am indebted to you.

Happy Birthday Dear Mama !

Wishing you many more years !!

Congratulations !!!

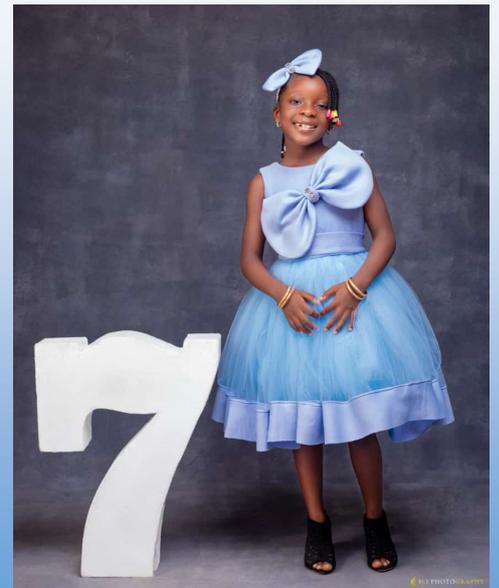


# Happy Birthday



Wishing **Yasmeen Ifedolapo Sanni** a very happy birthday! God's richest blessing upon you at all times. We love dearly!

Best wishes from,  
Mom and Dad



# Happy Birthday

Wishing **Mrs Etinosa Adekanmbi** a very happy birthday! Lines shall continue to fall into you in pleasant places as you continuously have Godly heritage in Jesus Mighty name! We love you dearly!

**A-CHOICES** magazine

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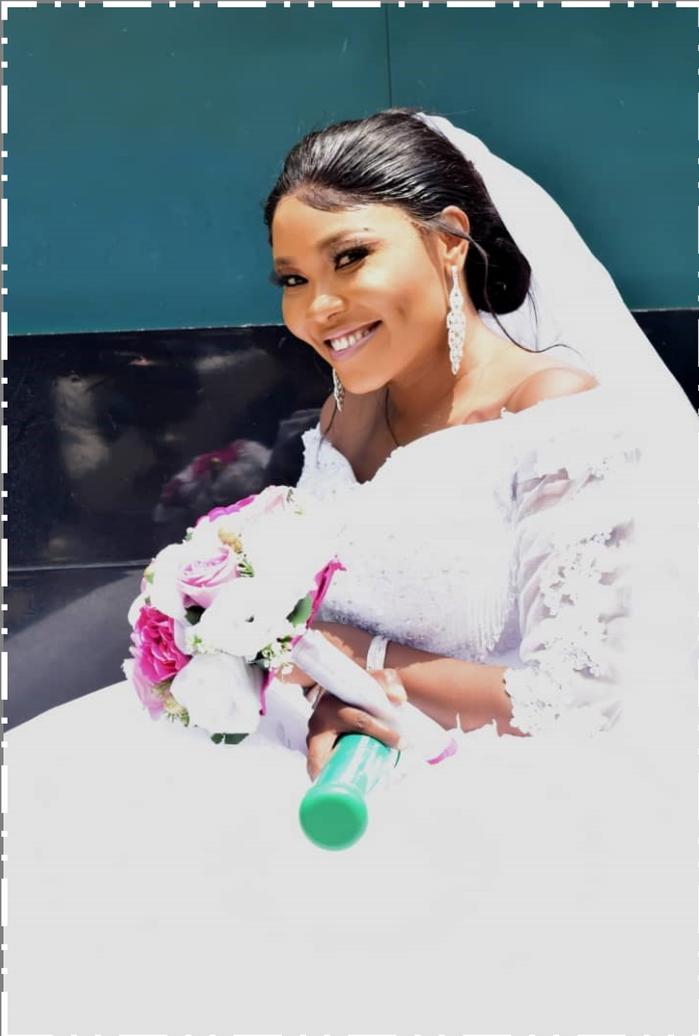
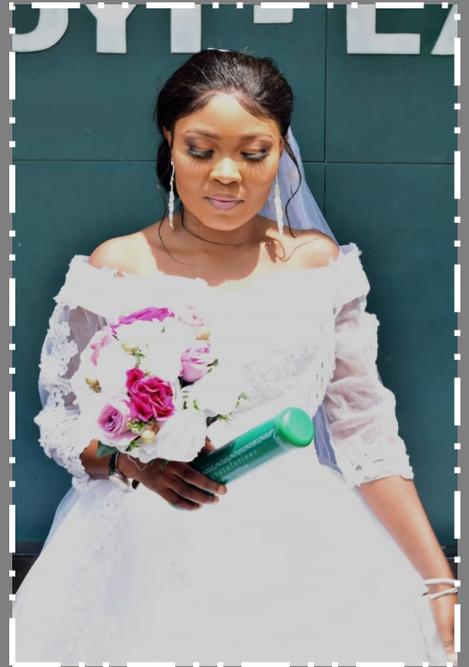
# Happy Matrimony

Congratulations to the newest couple in town **Mr. Kayode and Mrs. Olusola Okunlola**. Wishing you a lifetime of love and happiness. May the years ahead be filled with love and joy. God's richest blessing upon you at all times.

Best wishes from,  
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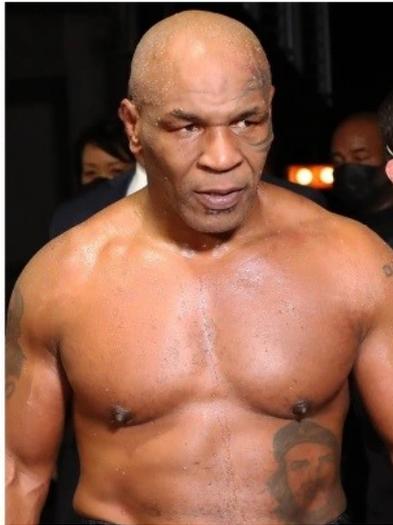




# Mike Tyson says his mother's things me' that ever happened to death is 'one of the best



**By:** Bunmi Johnson  
Bureau Chief  
New York  
USA



***The outspoken former boxer Mike Tyson has claimed his mother dying was one of the best things to ever happen to him.***

Tyson was 16 when his mother, Lorna Smith Tyson, died of cancer. His father had abandoned them in their family home in Brownsville, Brooklyn, when he was just two. Yet, in a recent interview with Shannon Sharpe on the Club Shay Shay podcast, Tyson stated that had things been different he never would have become a champion.



Tyson has been open about his upbringing in Brooklyn, New York, where he had to fight to survive. "One of the best things that ever happened to me is that my mother died. My mother would have babied me. There is no way I would have ever got into a street fight, no way I ever would have learned to stand up for myself."

Raised in Brownsville, a neighborhood rife with crime, Tyson had a tough start to life - fit for the boxer he became. He didn't know his biological father Purcell Tyson and his stepdad Jimmy Kirkpatrick walked out on him and his family soon after he was born. Tyson would later say about Kirkpatrick: "My father was just a regular street guy caught up in the street world."

This is despite Tyson having been arrested on multiple occasions before he was 14, at which point he claims to have known he had what it takes to become heavyweight champion. Significantly, after his mother's death, Tyson was left in



the custody of his legendary boxing trainer Cus D'Amato.

The Brooklyn-born boxer credited his mentor for guiding him to success in the fight world, and went on to say, “he always told me that one day I would be a great.”

Cus sadly died in 1985, soon after his most prized student had broken onto the scene, therefore never saw what he would go on to achieve in the sport.

‘Iron Mike’ became the youngest heavyweight champion in history at just 20-years-old. A year later in 1987, he claimed the other two belts in the division and became the undisputed World Heavyweight Champion.

In a matter of no time, Tyson had established himself as one of the most feared fighters in boxing history and remains so to this day.

However, difficulties in his personal life ultimately brought the warrior to his knees in time...

He enjoyed his last professional victory in 2003, before filing for bankruptcy in 2004, after earning over \$400m dollars throughout the span of his career.

# I'm not in a haste to win Grammy- Bella Shmurda



By: Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior writer  
Lagos, Nigeria

**N**igerian singer, Bella Shmurda has stated that he has a lot of work to do and not in a haste to win a Grammy Award. The 24-year-old said this in a recent interview with media personalities Do2dtun and Eva on the Midday Show on Cool FM.

According to him, what's more, important is the extent to which a person is able to impact other people and the music culture at large.



“I definitely will work towards winning a Grammy but it not about the award. When you look back what do you see?”

“You know, your works, your strength, the people you showed love; things you’ve done. That’s what matters the most. Because award will just be at home, your name will be there.”

“But how much have you done for your people? How well did you help the music itself not even by winning the Grammy. Anybody can win Grammy but what is your contribution?”



“I still have a lot of work to do. I am not rushing, I am not in a haste. Grammy will come when it’s right but right now, I have to fulfil all righteousness.”

# Woman "crumbles" at Anthony Joshua's cheeky comment after bumping into him at gym

By: Edward Collins  
London, UK

A powerlifter admitted that she "crumbled" when Anthony Joshua strolled past her in the gym and gave her a warm smile and made a cheeky comment, with the footage going viral.

A powerlifter admitted she "crumbled" after bumping into Anthony Joshua at her gym.

Chiz Egbuziem, a 22-year-old student and powerlifter at Loughborough University, posted the video on TikTok and it's received over 200k likes on the social media platform.



"So this happened just before my bench set", she wrote in the caption, with the former world champion walking past her as she was about to attempt a chest press.

Joshua was seemingly heard saying: "Get them weights in girl", while Egbuziem visibly could not contain her excitement.

She captioned the video "I crumbled girls I crumbled" alongside a crying emoji.

The video has gone viral, with online users commenting how they would have acted in the same way in such a chance encounter.

One wrote: "Could this happen to me please?"

Another said: "I fully would too lol."

The rematch between Joshua and Oleksandr Usyk is expected to be announced for early summer this year but still nothing has been confirmed yet. The

Brit was beaten convincingly by Usyk at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium in an upset last September, losing his WBA (Super), IBF, WBO, and IBO titles world heavyweight titles.

Now Joshua is out for redemption this year. He had hoped to face Tyson Fury in 2022 for a unification fight but now things have changed and a rematch with the Ukrainian is on the cards.

Joshua told Sky in January that those belts were rightly his: "I belong on the big stage, I belong as a champion, I belong among the names of this current generation. And you'll see why.

"If I didn't fight the best, I may not have lost. I know people have high expectations of me as well. I think sometimes that's why they're shocked. And I have high expectations of myself as well.



# Emmanuel Eboué told Queen he wanted to quit football and look after her corgis

By: Linda R. Jones  
London, UK



**F**ormer Arsenal defender Emmanuel Eboué told Queen Elizabeth II that he wanted to quit football and look after her pet corgis full-time. Eboué spent seven years with the Gunners and his infectious personality made him a cult hero despite the club's struggles in that time.

His crowning moment arguably came in 2007 when he visited Buckingham Palace along with his Arsenal teammates, and was warned to keep a lid on his antics by Thierry Henry.

He told *The Telegraph* back in 2016: "We went there and Thierry Henry said to me: 'Please, Emmanuel, this is Buckingham Palace, it's the Queen's



house, don't do anything.' 'No problem,' I said. 'Don't worry'.

"So the Queen came in and went along shaking each player's hand. After she'd finished I saw all her corgis so I said, 'Ma'am, Ma'am'.

"She turned back and asked, 'How are you?'

"And I said, 'Ma'am, I am OK thank you but please, I don't want to be a footballer any more, I want to look after your dogs. I want to take them for walks, wash them, feed them. I want to be a dog carer'.

"The Queen, honestly, she was laughing. Prince Philip was laughing too. All the team were laughing."



Eboue is a former Ivory Coast international and perhaps his funniest moment came in the 2010 World Cup.

The right-back followed North Korea's Hong Yong-jo to the touchline and pretended to understand the instructions he was receiving.

Never change, Emmanuel.

2016 saw Eboué return to England with Sunderland, but he'd never play a game for the club after being given a one-year ban from all footballing related activities for failing to pay an agent.

For years rumours have swirled in regards to who Her Majesty supports, but the Daily Mirror reportedly have the answer.

Staff in Buckingham Palace learned Queen Elizabeth a fan of West Ham United after overhearing a conversation.

"The Queen has never wanted people to know who she supports because she wants to be seen to be neu-

tral," a Windsor Castle source explained.

"But she gave up her secret after overhearing one of her staff members saying he was a Millwall fan and was talking to another member of staff about the derby between West Ham and their arch-rivals.

# COVID-19; Uganda suspends mandatory testing for travellers at airport



**By:** Clara Mpheza Manda  
Senior Correspondent  
Lusaka, Zambia

**T**ravellers entering Uganda will no longer have to undergo mandatory COVID-19 testing as has been the case. The new measures took effect on February 16, 2022. According to a statement released by the Ministry of Health, the decision to stop testing was made by Cabinet during its weekly meeting.

This comes after the health ministry decided to stop travellers due to a reduction in COVID-19 reported cases. Records from the health ministry show that the number of new COVID-19 cases has gone down. The positivity rate in the country now stands at 1 percent.

The director general of health services, Dr. Henry Mwebesa says the new measures are as a result of few travellers testing positive for the disease.

Dr. Mwebesa however quickly adds that the new measures only stops mandatory testing at Entebbe International airport. He says all travellers, entering and leaving the country will however be required to present a 72 hour negative COVID-19 test.

” The requirement for COVID-19 testing 72 hours before boarding for both incoming and exiting travelled remains in effect. Our health workers will continue to screen all travellers both at arrival and departure and verify their COVID-19 test certificates,” says Dr. Mwebesa.

The minister of Health, Dr. Jane Ruth Aceng in an interview indicated that the testing had been suspended for now but can be re-introduced when there is an increase in cases.

Previously all travellers were required to pay 105,500 shillings (USD 30 ) to be tested. The money was paid through Post Bank Uganda.

Before the restrictions, incoming travellers were only required to show a valid negative PCR certificate obtained from an accredited laboratory in their countries of origin.

# You will live Happily

Once upon a time,  
There were 4 wicked girls called Jackqueline, Courtnae, Steffi and Rebecca, they knew a beautiful girl called Akonoba, they were determined to destroy, she was beautiful, soft hearted, kind and graceful. Yet treated like a dirty tag by many in the land. For Jackqueline it's because she was jealous of all Akonoba was yet because of her darkness in her heart she could never be her.

For Courtnae it was because she did not have a mind of her own and followed other people as she was a chicken. Rebecca was mean, and couldn't stand the purity of Akonoba or her ability to be different and stand on her own mind. Yet Steffi like Jackqueline was even meaner than Rebecca, she was wicked and heartless like Jackqueline and hated young Akonoba's innocence, kindness and good heart because hers was one filled with hypocrisy and darkness.

After Akonoba showed all 4 kindness especially to the darkest Steffi and Jackqueline they turned on her to taunt her and make her upset. Steffi turned Courtnae against Akonoba as well as everyone else. Rebecca made Akonoba know that others disliked her and Jackqueline tried to in her own words steal her joy. They saw pleasure in her turmoil. Sadly instead of young Akonoba to see these evil witches were not her company and move away.

For many years she tried to fit in with the witches and other evil ones in the land to her disappointment she could not. She wasn't hard enough they said for

the brutal world they happily made. She began to rightfully seek an eye for an eye but lost her kind wonderful soul in return. She became lost ready to prove to the unworthy she was worthy. When she had been worthy all along. In the end one day she woke up and realise her big heart could no longer contain the sour she needed to go back to the beauty she was, so ugly could continue to be repelled by her and beauty loved her.

So she let go of the walls and all they said she had to be and wasn't and let her full worthy self free. She deemed them unworthy of the revenge and unworthy of her time. In the end she found out despite all the hurt, betrayals and people taking the enemies side she could walk away and that she did. She is anew and has found many with beautiful in their heart who show her, her, her beautiful heart, who she is, has always been right and enough.



She will live Happily ever after.

I hope this story inspires you to know in life we will be surrounded by wicked people who only get pleasure in snuffing the light out of us, for reasons will never know. All we need to do is flee from their evil and determine to surround ourself with good to keep our pure hearts. Though they say that makes us easier to dominate, in the end the good hearted enjoy the purity and love of life. The ugly hearted are never content or satisfied.

Yours sincerely,  
Always believe you are enough and your beautiful heart is too.



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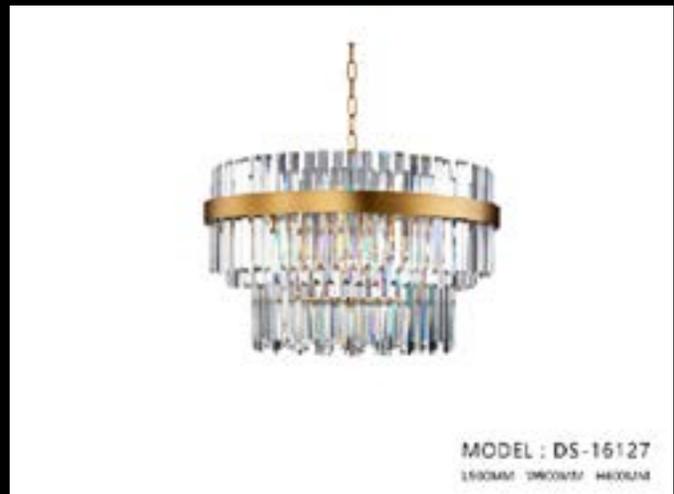
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IRussev-Turquoise



IRussev-Turquoise



LDimanov\_The\_Butterfly



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NManev\_Golden\_Fairy



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danzas sensuales



NYanakiev\_Expectation



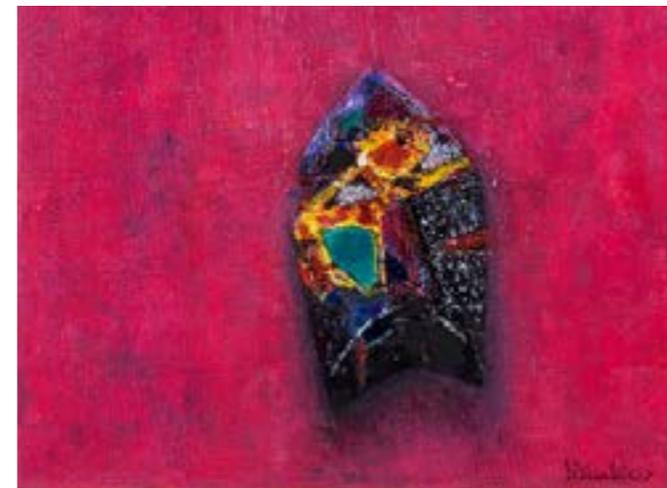
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2. Representation of an Artist, Gallery, or Collector. The service comprises a full scale of artist/gallery representation including the creation of editorial content, advertising, legal representation, and logistics.
3. Art and design consulting of the ArtWizard platform. The service comprises personalized advice on what artworks to buy for an office or home interior. The ArtWizard team helps to find the specific artworks that will be affordable and suitable for any interior.
4. Live price index.\* The service is designed to show how different art categories that a collector possesses are willing to buy sell globally. It can be used for management decisions related to art, investment decisions, or for the creation of art collection portfolios.
5. Art Investment Consulting. The service comprises the valuation of specific artworks as an investment asset and providing auction estimates.
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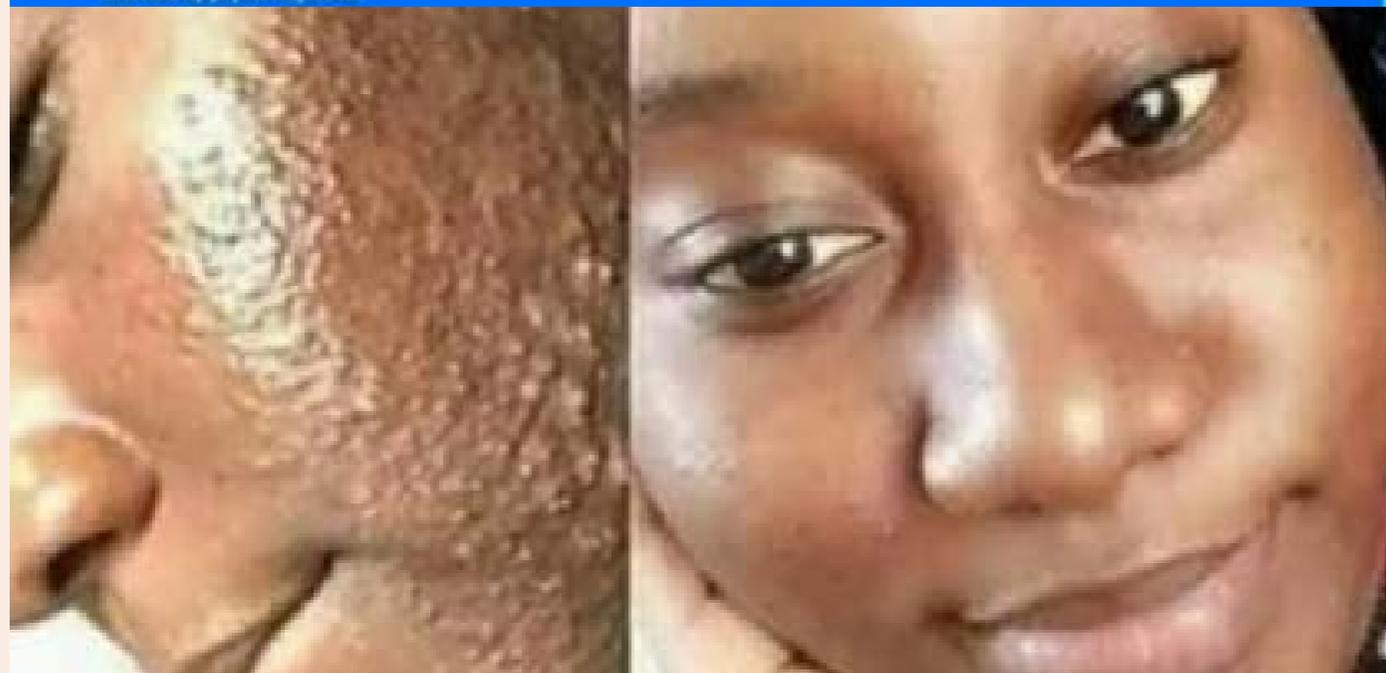



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# HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

By: Gbenga Teejay Okunlola & Albena Jones

Although EU citizens can travel and work freely throughout the EU member states, there are still some restrictions in place for those who wish to relocate permanently and for those who are from "third countries", meaning non-EEA countries and people who are not Swiss citizens. Did you know that if you bought a Bulgarian property or business you can obtain permanent citizenship? The recommended way, is to hire a specialist law firm to arrange for immigration and deal with work permit requirements before you arrive. In addition to dealing with your permanent residency needs and work permit issues, a law firm based near your future home can also deal with arranging family permits for non-EU national family members who wish to join you. In this issue we would like to introduce you to such an opportunity. A law firm in Sofia that offer full planning services from buying or renting property, both residential and commercial all the way to assisting you with child care and education if needed.

## CITIZENSHIP BY INVESTMENT

Since 2013, Bulgaria's government has offered a immigration program that can lead to long- term residency and, where applicable, to full citizenship. Since that year, foreign investors have been spending more than 500,000 Euros or 1,000,000 BGN on amazing residential properties that represent excellent value for money and in due time they have been enjoying the benefits of being EU citizens without limitations.

Recently many have discovered the beneficial ways to obtain residency by investment is to either start or buy a company that is registered in Bulgaria. There are certain advantages doing this, as Bulgaria has one of the lowest flat tax rates in the EU (10% at the time of writing). Once the legal period of actually living in the country has been met, it is possible for

non-EU residents to apply for full citizenship. If you happen to be from a third country, investing in a Bulgarian business or investing in Bulgarian real estate can provide you with EU nationality and visa free travel throughout the whole territory of the EU. One advantage of choosing Bulgaria is that the investment is 100% refundable, if you purchase, for example, Bulgarian shares on the stock exchange or buy government bonds or similar investment vehicles. Doing so means you gain unlimited living and working rights throughout the EU territory.

It is also possible to acquire permanent residency status by investing more than 1,000,000 BGN in a Bulgarian licensed credit institution for a time of no less than 5 years or by investing at least 6,000,000 BGN in the capital of a Bulgarian company, where shares are not traded on a regulated market. Investors who get involved with large-scale development projects, such as infrastructure for example, are also able to obtain long-term residency rights. If you are planning to invest in Bulgaria, be it in a company formation, a trade representative office, a second residency opportunity for you and family or simply to retire, live and work in Bulgaria, one must consult a specialist law firm about residency, inheritance and taxation issues.

A-CHOICES recommend our legal partners DP Law Firm, who are one of the most reputable and leading multilingual law firms in Bulgaria. To familiarize yourselves review the published company profile in this issue. When contacting them quote ref: a-choices magazine.

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