

Issue Number .22 JUNE, 2022

# A-CHOICES

The African Lifestyle Magazine

## DR. MIKE UYI

President General Global Peace Movement, UK.



EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW:  
"KILLING OF DEBORAH SAMUEL,  
IS BARBARIC AND BRUTAL" ...

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

DEATH FOR 'BLASPHEMY'



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# ABOUT US

A-CHOICES -The African Lifestyle Magazine

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

### **Write for Us**

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

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

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

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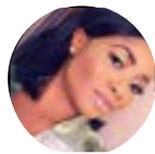
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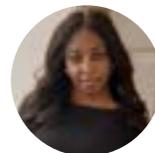
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# EDITOR'S LETTER



Welcome to the June issue of A-CHOICES Magazine.

This month,we've got the highly respected London based international human rights activist Dr. Mike Uyi. Dr. Uyi talks about Religious Intolerance in Nigeria,the gruesome murder of a defenceless student Deborah Samuel of the Shehu Shagari College of Education,Sokoto by her irate school mates, saying " it is yet another of the barbaric, unlawful and unconstitutional acts committed by some

citizens using religion as a cover".

Freedom of speech and expression is enshrined in the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria but that freedom is far from the realities of Nigerians. People are maimed at will and no one is held responsible. More than before, contemporary Nigerian society has been beset with religious conflicts that have threatened to tear the fabric of the country's unity.

To a large extent one can say that Nigeria of the past boasted of religious flexibility and tolerance for many years. However, recently, it seems to have been shelved as gruesome stories relating to religion rear their ugly heads frequently, causing loss of lives. One can say that a curious feature of today Nigerian society is religious intolerance, most especially in the Northern region of the country. Religious fanaticism in the Northern part of Nigeria has been hidebound and its spread is unbridled.

Religious violence has been unleashed on many innocent citizens of this country, that one wonders if Nigeria is truly a secular country which gives room for religious freedom.

A woman stoned, beaten and set on fire by a mob shouting 'Allahu Akbar'. But this didn't happen hundreds of years ago, it took place last month in Nigeria.

The victim was a Christian student named Deborah Samuel, from Sokoto in the North west of the country. Samuel's 'crime', for which she paid with her life, was to have allegedly posted blasphemous' comment on a WhatsApp group against the prophet Mohammed.

Even in a nation riddled by decades of ethnic and religious conflict where thousands of Christians have been killed, the incident has sparked uproar. But this outrage has mostly been confined to Nigeria itself; much of the Western world turns a blind eye to the horrors unfolding in Africa.

In the last year, more Christians have been killed for their faith in Nigeria than anywhere else in the world combined. In 2021, at least 6,000 Christians died for their religion; eight in ten were Nigerians, often at the hands of jihadists. Humanity has left us and we are now a bunch of monsters living as humans. We now take lives as though those lives belong to chickens. We slaughter with pride and no mercy.

Are you a business owner? Are you an entrepreneur? Do you have an event or product to promote? Then you should advertise with us as we promise to deliver. Send an email to [achoice@a-choicesmagazine.com](mailto:achoice@a-choicesmagazine.com)

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.

Thank you

A-CHOICES



welcome  
JUNE



## **“KILLING OF DEBORAH SAMUEL, IS BARBARIC AND BRUTAL”**

## **Interview**



By:Gbenga Teejay  
Okunlola  
London, UK

**A-CHOICES: Would you like to introduce yourself to our readers?**

Dr. Uyi:My Name is Dr Mike Uyi,I live here in London with my good family. I am the President General of The Global Peace Movement,An International Human Rights Organisation which started in University of Ibadan in 1986. It started as a result of too many unnecessary students riot and constant closure of the University resulting to motor accident while students were travelling home on each occasion. When i lost a friend on road accident as a result of one of the riots during the time of Professor Olayide tenure as the VC, myself and Mr Nworisara Nwokedi decided to form a counter organisation to resist the uncalled for riots in the University as we who never took part in any campus riots are made to pay for damages whenever the school resumes. We formed the Students Peace Commandoes to start educating fellow students not to join irrational mobilization by students Union leaders, This led to many students labeling me a government agent SSS, Babangida’s boy etc, they never really understood that we were saving lives on campus. I suffered what no student had ever suffered in the history of Nigeria Universities. First a student ran to my car in front of SULTAN BELLO HALL and wet my car LADA WR 2028 with Petrol and set it ABLAZE THIS HAPPENED AROUND 2 AM IN THE MORNING.

The Second incident happened when i travelled to Benin City to see my mother during General Babangida Administration and the students were holding meetings on “Babangida must Go” issue in SRC chambers in the student Union building and the Son of the Late former Chief Justice of Nigeria by name Omon IREKEFE threw Tear Gas into the chambers and the students rushed out of the chambers with one Idea and conclusion that it’s only Mike Uyi that would have done that as he is Babangida’s boy, they went straight to my hall of residence Sultan Bello to burn down my room,the box room is a one man room. all my books and belongings were

burnt down meanwhile i was in Benin City.

**A-CHOICES:Since inception what are the conflicts resolution the Global peace Movement has participated in?**

Dr.Uyi:Like i said earlier, as very law abiding student on campus trying to ensure there was peace on campus, the VC Prof Ayo Banjo has seen too many voluntary jobs done by the students Peace commandoes, he reported our good activities to the Oba of Benin His Royal Highness OBA ERADIUWA who was the Chancellor of University of Ibadan who then sent for me to give me a Prize and also appealed that we should see how we remove the WORD COMMANDOES as it runs contrary to the good works we are doing.

We then CHANGED IT TO STUDENTS PEACE MOVEMENT,and after leaving the university for Europe ,it became a Global organisation worldwide in 25 Countries.

We have involved in too many conflict resolution in many Countries. [www.global-peace-movement.org](http://www.global-peace-movement.org) There you will see all the conflicts we have helped to resolve all these years.

**A-CHOICES:Global Peace Movement International,UK has called on the Minister of Niger Delta Affairs,Senator Godswill Akpabio to contest for the 2023 presidential race. Would you say he has the credentials and pedigree to become Nigeria's president?**

Dr.Uyi: We are not sentimental people, we beleive in physical vissible projects and activities.whoever has been to AKWA IBOM STATE when Senator Godswill AKPABIO was the Governor of that State will simply ask you one Question, was this man born in Nigeria. the reason is that everybody in Nigeria was aware that AKWA IBOM STATE was only know for HOUSE BOYS AND HOUSE GIRLS STATE . A State with no social amenities since creation from Cross rivers state. it was also the HEADQUARTERS OF BIKES KNOWN AS OKADA IN NIGERIA. remarkably the popular singer of SWEET MOTHER PINNCE NICO MBARGA DIED FROM OKADA ACCIDENT. No taxis apart from motorbike. it was SENATOR GODSWILL AKPABIO THAT CHANGED ALL THE BACKWARDNESS OF AKWA IBOM STATE. EDUCATION BECAME COMPULSORY FOR ALL INCLUDING BURSARY FOR ALL STUDENTS. THE VERY BEST STADIUM IN AFRICA, AIRPORT,GOLF COURT .

RELOCATION OF PRISONS WITH FIVE STAR HOTEL GOOD ROAD THROUGHOUT THE STATE FIRST E LIBRARY LEISURE CENTRE CALLED TROPICANA, NEW GOVERNMENT HOUSE ETC, NEVER OWED SALARIES. BROUGHT IN GODLINESS INTO THE STATE, EMPLOYMENTS , EARNED GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS. THE ENTIRE WORLD LEADERS CONFIRMED AKWA IBOM STATE AS MOST DEVELOPED IN NIGERIA DURING HIS TENURE. WHO WOULD NOT BEG SUCH MAN TO QUICKLY COME OVER PARTICULARLY WHEN HIS NAME IS UNCOMMON TRANSFORMATION GOVERNOR. I CAN SELL MY HOUSE TO PROMOTE SENATOR GODSWILL AKPABIO, I CAN DEPORT MYSELF FOR SENATOR GODSWILL AKPABIO . HIS HEART IS TOO GOOD TOWARDS HUMANITY.

**A-CHOICES:Talking 2023 elections, what are your expectations from the agents that would supervise the electoral process such as, the INEC, the police and other stakeholders like the media and other observers?**

Dr.Uyi: THE EXPECTATION FROM ALL AGENCIES CONDUCTING OR SUPERVISING THE 2023 ELECTIONS

IS TOTAL HONESTY AND TRANSPARENCY WITHOUT BIAS OR HELPING ANY PARTY TO RIG THE ELECTION BY INTIMIDATING OTHER PARTIES AND COMPROMISING .

**A-CHOICES: A lot is going on right now in the country. There is a tussle about some parts of the electoral bill amendment, and then the security challenges in every part of the country. Do you think we are ready for 2023?**

Dr.Uyi: ON THE ELECTORAL BILL , IT IS FARE FOR ALL CONTESTANTS TO BE ON THE SAME PLATFORM WITHOUT ANY DUE ADVANTAGE OVER THE OTHERS. YOU CAN NOT BE USING GOVT,APARATUS AND MONEY TO RUN YOUR CAMPAIGN WILL OTHERS ARE BORROWING MONEY TO HIRE VEHICLS AND OTHER LOGISTICS. ON INSECURITY, IF THE AIM IS TO ENLONGATE THE TENURE OF THE OFFICE BY THE GOVT, IT WILL BE RESISTED BY ALL NIGERIANS. YOU CAN SEE THAT AKPABIO RESIGNED WITHOUT WAITING FOR INSULT BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE. WE ARE READY FOR THE ELECTIONS



A-CHOICES: This is coming early, But what's your message to the voting public in the face of these challenges we just talked about?

Dr.Uyi: GO OUT THERE REGISTER, HAVE YOUR VOTERS CARD, ITS YOUR NEGOTIATING POWER . JUST LOOK AT THE CANDIDATES PREVIOUS ACTIVITIES LOOK AT PAST AND PRESENT PEDIGREE. DONT VOTE FOR CASH DISTRIBUTORS.

A-CHOICES: Would you say that Nigerians living abroad should get involved in the country's politics as a way of supporting the leaders and helping to raise great leaders for the country?

Dr.Uyi: I DON'T THINK THAT NIGERIANS ABROAD IS THE ONLY ANSWER AS WE HAVE HAD SOME OF THEM BEFORE WHO NOW CAME AND EVEN BECAME MORE GREEDY AND SATANIC IN GOVERNANCE.

A-CHOICES: Talking about the youths and the rising unemployment rate in the country. There are lots of people out there that are unemployed, do you think the President and the government is doing enough to bridge this gap?

Dr.Uyi: THIS VERY GOVT IS THE WORST OF ALL TIMES IN TERMS OF EMPLOYMENTS. THEY WERE NOT SURE THEY WILL WIN THE ELECTIONS. THEY WERE MORE PREPARED FOR WAR RATHER THAN LEADING OR RULING. IT TOOK PMB ALMOST SIX MONTHS TO FORM IS CABINET.

A-CHOICES: Among these populations of the Nigerian youth, we have those that are actually doing well and these sets of youths are frustrated and angry about the state of affairs, how do you think our government can change the narrative?

Dr. Uyi: ANY GOVERNMENT THAT TAKES INTEREST IN YOUTHS BY ENGAGING THEM IN MEANINGFUL PROJECTS LIKE EDUCATION, SPORTS, TECHNICAL VOCATION JOB EMPOWERMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF ROADS AND POULTRY JOBS FARMING WITH REWARDS FOR GOOD JOB WILL CERTAINLY CHANGE THE NARATIVE. JOBLESSNESS IS THE KEY TO INSECURITY.



**A-CHOICES:**Nigeria is the largest,most populous and richest black country in the world, but poor leadership and western influence had caused scarce distribution of the country's wealth?

Dr. Uyi:THE WEST IS NOT TO BLAME. THEY ONLY AMPLIFIED WHAT YOU ALREADY HAD ON GROUD SINCE AFRICA GOVT DOES NOT BELIEVE IN GOOD GOVERNANCE BUT IN INTIMIDATION OF ITS CITIZENS. DO AFRICA LEADERS NOT SEE GOOD ROADS AND INDUSTRIES WHEN THEY TRAVEL TO THE WEST, DO THEY NOT SEE THE STRUCTURES PUT ON GROUNDS IN UK AND USA, DO THE WEST TELLS YOU NOT TO CONSTRUCT GOOD ROADS, EDUCATE YOUR YOUTHS,NOT TO BUILD INDUSTRIES FOR DEVELOPMENTS. BLAME AFRICA FOR THEIR EVIL LEADERSHIP.

**A-CHOICES:**There have been calls for successions from different quarters of the country. What do you think could be the solutions?

Dr. Uyi: SUCCESSIONS IS A RIGHT TO ANY GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT ARE NO LONGER INTERESTED IN LIVING TOGETHER AS AN ENTITY IF THERE IS MARGINALIZATION FROM ONE SECT OF THE COUNTRY TO THE OTHER. ALL CIVILIZED NATIONS HAS DONE THAT BEFORE. IT'S NOT A WAR BUT A DECLARATION OF WILL LIKE CZECHS AND SLOVAKS. YUGOSLAVIA RUSSIA INTO 16 COUNTRIES ETC. BUT IN NIGERIA IT CAN BE CORRECTED BY SIMPLE EQUITY AND BALANCE OF EQUATION OF EQUALITY IN OFFICES AND POWER BALANCING WITH LOVE AND UNITY. I LOVE ONE NIGERIA IN DIVERSITY NOT A DIVIDED COUNTRY .

**A-CHOICES:**Talking insecurity, Nigeria today is more dreadful than at the time of the civil war. Nigeria has assisted many countries in controlling and resolving problems of insecurity like 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. Why is that so?

Dr. Uyi:NIGERIA IS NOT IN ANY WAY DEFICIENT IN DOING ANYTHING GOOD. THE ONLY PROBLEM IS HAVING LEADERSHIP THAT IS TOO IRRESPONSIBLE THAT CAN

NOT LEARN OR TAKE CORRECTIONS, WE HAVE NOT REALLY ELECTED INTELLECTUALS THAT HAS TRAVELED WIDE AND EDUCATED IN MODERN CIVILIZATION. WE ARE FAR BEHIND AND THINKS THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR US. WE HAVE PRIMITIVE LEADERSHIP WHO HOLDS ON TO PRIMITIVE CULTURE AND TRADITION THE WORLD HAS LEFT BEHIND. WHEN A COUNTRY HOLDS ON TO RELIGION IN A CIRCULAR STATE AND CONTINUE TO USE IT AS A TOOL OF MANIPULATION THE RESULT WILL BE TERRORISM AND FANATISM WITH WITH LAWS THAT CAN NOT BE ENFORCED EITHER BY SECTIONAL OR RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS. NIGERIA HAS THE BEST AND WELL COMMITTED MILITARY BUT ITS UNDER COMMAND AND THE BODY LANGUAGE OF THE PRESIDENT MATTERS. BUT HOPE IS COME NOW THAT PRESIDENT BUHARI APPOINTED A PURE PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER LIKE THE PRESENT CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF LT GEN FARUK YAHAYA AND THE FORMER THEATRE COMMANDER GEN LUCKY ERABOR, THEY WILL CRUSH THE TERRORISTS SOONEST.

**A-CHOICES:**How do you think the President as the General Commander of the Armed Forces can handle this alarming level of insecurity?

Dr. Uyi: PRESIDENT BUHARI HAS PROVEN HIMSEF AS NOT FIT AND NOT IN CONTROL OF THE GOVT OF NIGERIA IN TERMS OF BEING THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE ARMED FORCES BUT HE HAS WOKEN UP WITH THE PRESENT SECURITY CHIEFS WHICH INCLUDES THE EFFICIENT INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE BABA ALKALI. NIGERIA IS A SPECIAL COUNTRY ON EARTH IT WILL BE GOOD AGAIN WITH GOOD LEADERSHIP AND NIGERIANS ARE GROWN UP NOW TO ALLOW NONSENSE LEADERSHIP IN 2023.

**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 since the spate of Boko haram insurgency, how can we get rid of these menaces?

Dr.Uyi: IT IS NOT PERCULIAR WITH THE NORTH WHEN IT COMES TO SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, ITS ALL OVER NIGERIA THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS THAT WOMEN IN THE NORTHERN PARTS OF NIGERIA HAS BEEN IN PERPETUAL OPPRESSION IN THE HANDS OF THEIR MEN IN THE NAME OF RELIGION. NORTHERN WOMEN HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE THEIR POTENTIALS IN THE NAME OF RELIGION EVEN AT THAT, THEY ARE VERY INTELLIGENT WOMEM. TALKING ABOUT RAPE AND OTHERS, THERE ARE NO EXCUSSES TO JUSTIFY RAPE IN ANY WAY, ITS A TABOO BY BOTH LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL NORMS. BOKO HARAM IS A DELIBRATE SITUATION CREATED BY THE NORTHERN ELITES BY NOT EDUCATING THE YOUTHS IN THE NORTH BUT INDUCTRINATE THEM INTO RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES AS THEIR FOOT SOLDIERS FOR VIOLENCE. BEFORE NOW, MAITASINE WAS ANOTHER RELIGIOUS GROUP LIKE BOKO HARAM BUT IT WAS DEALT WITH IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT PLAYING MACHANDISE WITH IT LIKE BOKO HARAM. EDUCATE THE YOUTHS IN THE NORTH AND EMPOWER THEM, BOKO HARAM WILL HAVE NO PLACE WITH AN EMPLOYED YOUTHS THAT ARE EDUCATED.

**A-CHOICES:Global Peace Movement International has strongly condemned the killing of Deborah Samuel,who was killed for allegedly blaspheming Prophet Muhammed;describing it as barbaric and brutal?**

Dr. Uyi:YES LOTS OF RELIGIOUS FANATICS RESIDES IN THE NORTHERN PARTS OF NIGERIA DUE TO MASS ILLITRACY OF THE YOUTHS, THEY ARE WRONGLY EDUCATED OVER THE CORRECT MESSAGE OF ISLAM. THERE IS ONLY ONE REDLINE IN ISLAM WHICH IS LOVE. THAT IS THE RED LINE. FOR INSTRUCTION AND GOOD LIVING ON EARTH TO THE END OF LIFE. THERE IS NOWHERE IN KORAN WHERE ANYBODY IS ASKED TO KILL FOR THE HOLY PROPHETS. THOSE ADDITIONS YOU HEAR THEM SAY ABOUT KILLING IS NOT IN THE KORAN IT IS EVEN MORE IN THE BIBLE. THOSE WHO KILLED DEBORAH MUST BE TRIED IN THE COURT OF LAW WITHOUT ANY COVER UP. MAY HER SOUL REST IN PEACE.

**A-CHOICES:She was dragged out, flogged and stoned. The last word in her mouth, as she pleaded for mercy was 'what do you hope to achieve with this?'Would you say that we should go our separate ways as we don't have anything in common with the Northerners?**

Dr. Uyi: DONT FORGET THAT AM A FULANI MAN MYSELF. BY CREATION, I BELONGS TO ALL TRIBES NO DISCRIMINATIONS , AM ABINI YORUBA, IGBO HAUSA MAN JOINT TOGETHER FOR GREATNESS NO ONE ASK THE PILOTS OR TAXI DRIVERS THEIR TRIBES OR RELIGION BEFORE TRAVELING WITH THEM.

**A-CHOICES:The North has long been destroying itself and that the self-destruction has its root in a feudalism system that makes social and economic progress impossible. What is your take?**

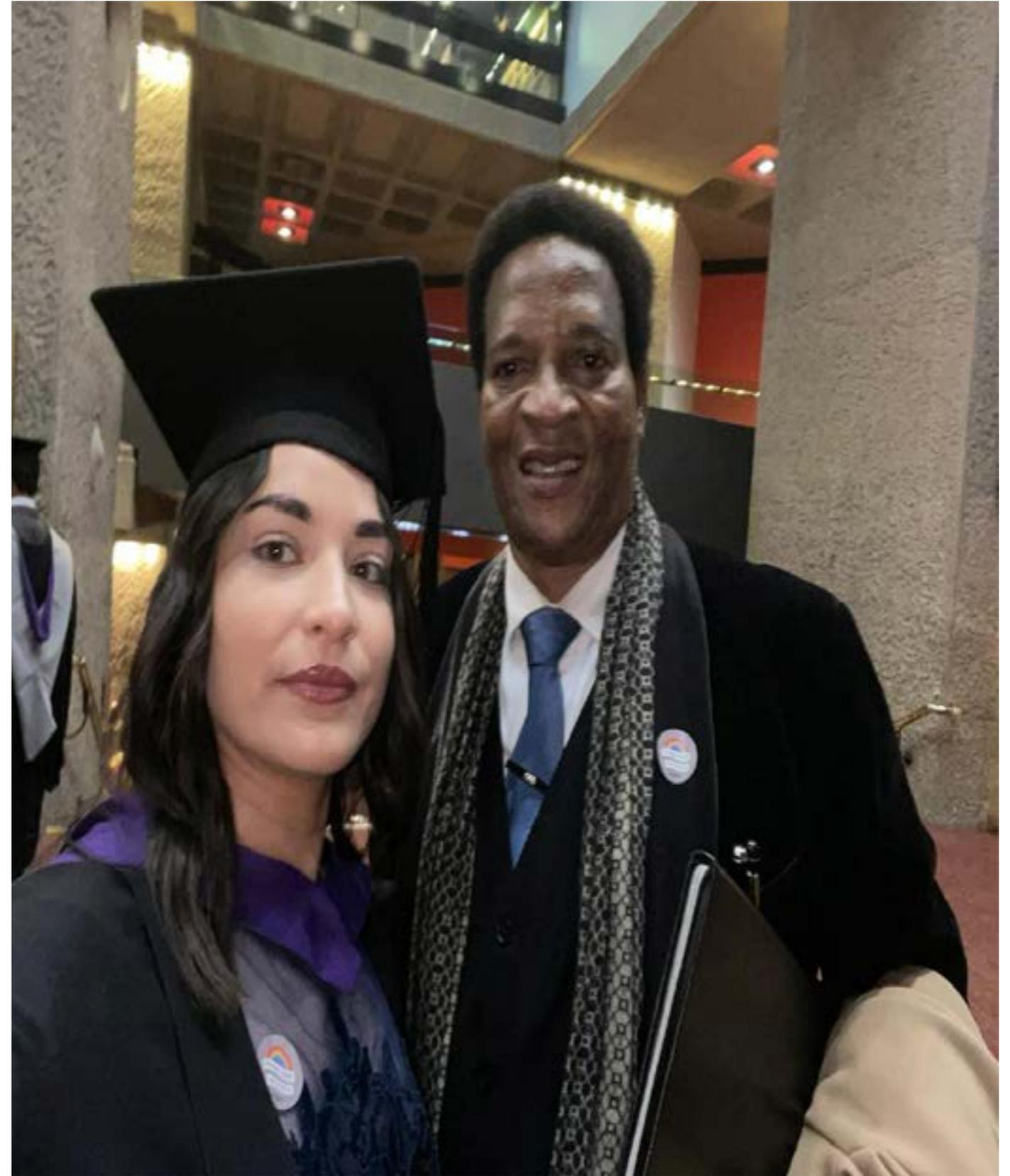
Dr.Uyi:THE TIME IS NOW FOR THE EDUCATED NORTHERNERS TO CHANGE THE TIDE AS THE WORLD HAS CHANGE FROM PRIMITIVE FEUDALISM OF SLAVES AND MASTER SERVANTS RELATIONSHIP. FEUDALISM IS DEAD FOREVER.

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

Dr. Uyi: THE GRACE OF GOD THAT MAKES ME COMFORTABLE WITH EVERY TRIBE AND RACE AND HIS KINDNESS FOR GIVEN US LIFE ABUNDANTLY.

**A-CHOICES:Final question,There was a pandemic two years ago and everywhere was on lockdown with travel restrictions in place. What were you doing during that period?**

Dr.Uyi: I WAS BUSY WRITING LETTERS OF ENCOURAGEMENTS TO PEOPLE AND SENDING LITTLE THINGS TO DIFFERENT PEOPLE ALL OVER AND GOD WAS ALSO BLESSING ME ALL OVER.



## JUSTINA MUTALE ADOPTS RURAL SCHOOL IN ZAMBIA.

# Politics

UK-based Zambian philanthropist, Justina Mutale has adopted a rural community school, in the Chitebule area of Nangoma in rural Zambia. The area serves 11 villages, with a population of over 6,000 people covering a 40 kilometres radius.

Sun-Tree Community School, which only had two classrooms, was blown away by rains over two years ago, leaving the children without space to learn from.

“I am a product of President Kaunda’s legacy. His passion and government policy to provide upward social mobility through access to free education for those of us who attained school going age soon after Independence, makes me the person that I am today. I believe it is our moral obligation to reciprocate and pay it forward by helping those generations in need that have come after us”, says Mutale.

In commemorating the first official Kenneth Kaunda Day, which marked the 98th Birthday of Zambia’s founding father and first Republican President Dr Kenneth Buchizya David Kaunda, on Thursday 28th April 2022, Zambians were called upon to emulate Dr Kaunda’s legacy of love, peace and selfless service to the nation and humanity as a whole.

At the time of his death, Dr Kaunda left a legacy of love, unity and patriotism and better life for all. As the first President of Zambia, Dr Kaunda established and built various systems and institutions with a quest to improve the livelihood of the Zambian people.

A number of Zambians have been emulating Dr Kaunda’s legacy, among them is UK-based Zambian Philanthropist, Justina Mutale, Founder and President of the Justina Mutale Foundation.

“In any country with rising populations, you will always find exploiters, the exploited and the outcasts, who fall through the cracks and go unnoticed. It is overwhelming for me to see that the children and women of Chitebule have been left with no proper education and no health care, and no one seems to take any notice”, said Justina Mutale

Mutale has adopted the school with the aim of rebuilding it to allow the children of Chitebule in Mumbwa District to return to school and gain an education. In addition, Mutale hopes to create a Health Post to service the people of the area, which has many women with HIV/AIDS. The area is off grid and has no running water and no electricity.

“I am so happy and beyond words. Thanks to Justina Mutale for accepting to sponsor and strengthen our community school, which has gone down in the past few years due to lack of support.



Justina Mutale's sponsorship will help bring back the former glory and go a long way to bring back and keep the children in school, especially the girlchild who when left at home are at risk of falling pregnant or getting married early. We are happy that the sponsorship will extend to the Health Post, which we would like to be brought near the people of Chitebule", says Ms Carol Nawina Maimbolwa, Patron of the School.

Mutale plans to utilise her networks to help the school to grow to international standards by connecting and affiliating the school with primary schools in cities such as Lusaka the capital city of Zambia, as well as other parts of the world. She hopes to match the school with a school in England and/or the United States of America as a twin school, so that the children of Chitebule can share their learnings and possible cultural exchange programmes with an overseas twin school. Mutale has also adopted the village Football Team, which she hopes to link with international teams to stimulate talent.

"On behalf of the other Headmen of Chitebule area, I would like to sincerely thank Madam Justina Mutale for coming to our aid to help revive the school. Our children will now have a school nearby, which has been a problem for many especially during the rainy season. May God bless you", Said Headman Chisule. Through her Foundation, Mutale advocates for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in political leadership and economic empowerment through the provision of leadership and entrepreneurship training, mentorship, and coaching.

She advocates for the retention and completion of tertiary education for young women and girls from rural disadvantaged communities in Africa by providing them with university scholarships to access tertiary education around the world. "I believe every child has potential. And it is my hope and prayer that every child, can be given an opportunity to access quality education. I believe the children of Chitebule village should be given an opportunity to access a good education to help them excel and realise their highest potential", says Justina Mutale.

A recipient of the MANDELA 100 Prize, Mutale has five times been honoured alongside the first President of the Republic of Zambia Dr Kenneth Kaunda on various platforms around the world, in recognition of her leadership qualities and outstanding service to humanity and to public life. She shares various other accolades with various world leaders and was in 2012 honoured as "African Woman of the Year".

Photo 1: Justina Mutale with the Children of Chitebule

Photo 2: Justina Mutale

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## **BROKEN HEARTED, THIS IS FOR YOU.**

By Akosua Darko  
Senior Writer  
London, UK

I have a personal story for you.

So many of us have been betrayed, hurt, maltreated and faced some sort of pain or heartbreak. Some of us carry the heavy weight and want to change who we are to protect ourselves from pain. However, why change over someone who hurt you? Why close yourself to love for someone who gave you hate? Why stay in negativity over someone who didn't give you positivity? Why stay angry and bitter over somebody who only brought you venom and pain?

Why not rejoice that you have seen that person's true colours and that you can now move on far away from someone who means you evil to someone who means well? See the thing is when people's evil is revealed we get angry and we get hurt. Instead of being thankful for the evidence to close their chapter in our life, so we can open the door to people who can offer us love and good things. People who will fulfil our expectations and treat us like eggs which are precious and who can easily crack.

You don't have to change who you are. You didn't make the mistake, they did. You didn't hurt yourself, they did. Sure they treated you badly because you opened your heart. Yet your open heart was not wrong it was just giving to the wrong person. So you can close the door to that person and open your heart to someone who will receive it, who deserves it who needs it.

I was bullied mercilessly as a child. I used to carry the blame of letting it happen. Yet recently I realised people being horrible to me was a reflection of themselves. I did nothing wrong therefore it's not me who needs to change, it's not me who had to be different. Who I was fine, sweet and sensitive. She just needed to shut the door to malice and look for love. situations.

## Lifestyle

I've faced so much betrayal, bad friendships and situations. Yet the people who did me wrong are the ones responsible for that not me. I did nothing wrong so I'm not the one who has to change and build walls. I have to just shut the door to those people and open the door to the correct people.

Do you need to shut some doors today? Continue being yourself and opening your heart to the right people? If you do, I extend my courage to do so to you. We do not build walls against the love we desire, we shut the door to those who cannot give it and abuse what we give. So we can let the right ones in.



# MAN WHO STABBED LONDON TEENAGER STEPHEN LAWRENCE TO DEATH IN RACIST ATTACK 'MAKES BID FOR MOVE TO OPEN PRISON'

By:Linda R. Jones  
London,UK

Crime

However, the killer's application was blocked last month by Justice Secretary Dominic Raab over concerns he still poses a risk to the public.

18-year-old Stephen was murdered by a gang of thugs in 1993 in Eltham. One of the men who stabbed teenager Stephen Lawrence to death in a racist murder in 1993 has made a bid for a move to an open prison as his minimum term nears its end. However, David Norris' application was blocked last month by justice secretary Dominic Raab over concerns he still poses a risk to the public.

The 45-year-old was jailed for life with a minimum of 14 years and three months for the murder of 18-year-old Stephen in Eltham, South East London. Stephen was stabbed to death by a gang of thugs shouting "what, n\*\*\*\*\*?" as he waited for a bus with friend Duwayne Brooks.

Norris is held in category C Dartmoor Prison in Devon, but had hoped for a move in preparation for his release. Sources confirmed his application was refused by Mr Raab without it being referred to the Parole Board for consideration.

According to a Ministry of Justice insider: "The Justice Secretary is clear that dangerous offenders can't move before they've proved they're no longer a risk." Although he will be legally entitled to apply to the Parole Board for release when he completes his minimum sentence in 2024.

Norris and Gary Dobson, now 46, were the only two of the five suspects held for the murder to be jailed after failings by police.

Dobson, jailed for a minimum 15 years and two months, is in category C HMP Warren Hill in Suffolk, and it is understood he will become eligible to apply for a move to open conditions in the coming months.

At the time of the murder Norris was 16 and living with his dad in Chislehurst, Kent. He was later captured in a police surveillance video using extreme racist language to describe how he would kill black people, people of Pakistani origin and police officers. He said in a clip shown at his trial: "I'd go down Catford [in South East London] and places like that, I am telling you now, with two sub-machine guns." He talked about torturing a black person and setting them alight, saying: "I'd blow their two arms and legs off and say, 'Go on, you can swim home now'."

Sentencing him, the judge was constrained by the law as it was at the time of the attack, a decade before tougher sentencing rules came in. Jailing Dobson and Norris at the Old Bailey in 2012, Mr Justice Treacy admitted the sentences could be seen as soft but insisted his hands were tied. He told them: "In modern times an adult committing this crime would be facing a life sentence with a starting point for a minimum term of 30 years."

Norris suffered a broken nose and ribs at HMP Belmarsh in 2011 where he was being held on remand ahead of his trial. He sued for damages and won a £10,000 payout after the assault.



## **POLICE OFFICER DISMISSED BLACK BRIXTON MAN'S PLEAS FOR HELP AS 'NONSENSE' SHORTLY BEFORE HE DIED FROM ASTHMA ATTACK IN CUSTODY.**

Crime

By:Linda R. Jones  
London,UK

Ian Taylor repeatedly told the all-white police officers arresting him that he could not breathe and was going to die before suffering a fatal heart attack. A Metropolitan police officer has been referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct after an Inquest into the death of a Black man from Brixton concluded last Thursday (May 19) at Inner South London Coroners Court. The jury at the inquest found that Ian Taylor, 54, died from a heart attack caused by acute asthma and situational stress, alongside two underlying health conditions, with dehydration on the hottest day of the year also playing a role. They also concluded that Ian died because the police who arrested him after he was involved in a fight did not correctly assess the risk he faced, telling him among other things to "grow up", "stop acting up", and dismissing his pleas for help as "a load of nonsense" in the hours before he died.

Ian, who had previously been hospitalised for severe asthma, had been arrested by police on Coldharbour Lane in Brixton on June 29 2019 when he began experiencing breathing difficulties and asking for help.

An ambulance was called but Ian was not made a priority and it was repeatedly delayed. In the meantime, despite repeatedly telling the all-white police officers who had arrested him that he could not breathe and was going to die, Ian was left lying on the street on one of the hottest days of the year without an inhaler, water or medical assistance.

Ian was eventually moved into a police car in an effort to cool him down, but just a few minutes later he suffered a cardiac arrest and stopped breathing entirely. Despite receiving CPR from paramedics he died in hospital later that same evening.



Ian's Cousin, Michael Cooper, said: "Watching the video footage of Ian fighting for breath and desperately pleading for help, but being dismissed and even mocked by police officers, is utterly devastating. The police are trained to deal with situations like this, yet they did not do what anyone else would have done and drive him to a hospital that was three minutes away. No one in the UK should die from asthma and yet Ian did. How many more deaths will it take before the police take seriously a Black man who says he can't breathe?"

The inquest heard that although the police were told the ambulance service had suspended responses to all but the most urgent calls due to high levels of demand that day, the officers with Ian did not consider driving him to a hospital two streets away. The Met Police are allowed to drive detainees to hospital in exceptional circumstances, including where ambulances are severely delayed, and when it is believed that a person will die or seriously deteriorate if not taken to hospital immediately.

The court heard expert evidence that Ian's respiratory rate – measured using the body worn video footage – was between 30 and 40 breaths per minute. Any respiratory rate of over 30 breaths per minute is considered to be a medical emergency.

Although the police are trained to measure the respiratory rate and vital signs of people suffering from asthma in order to assess the severity of their condition, the officers responsible for monitoring Ian did not do this. At one point an officer was captured on body worn video footage fetching water for herself from one of multiple plastic water bottles in a police car. When asked at the inquest why she did not offer any of the bottles to Ian, she stated that this water "belonged to other officers".

Another police officer was recorded telling his sergeant that Ian was "playing the old poor me poor me card" and, six minutes before Ian collapsed, that he was "saying he's got chest pains, he can't breathe, blah blah blah, it's all a load of nonsense but there we go".

When giving oral evidence at the inquest, this officer was asked several times if he had learned anything from the incident or would do things differently now. He was unable to specify a single action or learning point.

After about 25 minutes on the ground, Ian was eventually moved to a police car, where it was thought he would be cooler. It took the efforts of two police officers to walk him to the car, as by this point Mr Taylor could barely stand. When Ian had difficulty getting into the car, one officer can be heard laughing on the body worn video footage and another saying, "you are not helping yourself".

The court heard that the London Ambulance Service were extremely busy at the time of the incident due to the hot weather that day, with temperatures reaching a high of 34C. This led to the service holding all calls except the most urgent, meaning an ambulance was not available to be dispatched to Ian when the police first requested one.

In his concluding remarks, the Coroner, Senior Coroner Andrew Harris, said that he was surprised the officers did not automatically think about the distance to the hospital when assessing whether to take Ian there in the car. Regarding their monitoring of Ian's respiratory problems, the Coroner said that for some of the officers in this case, it was not a matter of lack of training but a lack of application of their training.

He also said that it was "dismaying" the Met Police had done nothing for the last three years to address the conduct of the officer who had dismissed Ian's pleas for help as "nonsense". The Coroner has now referred this officer to the IOPC for further investigation of his conduct.

Following the inquest, Ian's Aunt, Pauline Taylor, said: "I need my inhaler...I can't breathe...I'm dying.' These were the last pleading words of my nephew. He died on the street begging for help not from just one, but seven police officers who casually dismissed his pleas and even went so far as to laugh and mock him.

“The officers on that day acted in good faith and they did what they thought was best for the welfare of Mr Taylor.

However, we acknowledge the comments made by the Coroner and the jury and we will carefully consider their findings and the Preventing Future Deaths report when we receive it. We will also be speaking to our colleagues at the London Ambulance Service to ensure improved partnership working in the future.

“As in all cases where someone dies or suffers serious injury following police contact, we immediately informed the Met’s Directorate of Professional Standards. A mandatory referral was made to the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

“Following a thorough independent investigation, which also focused on why the police waited for the London Ambulance Service instead of taking him to hospital themselves, the IOPC concluded that there was no case to answer in respect of the conduct of any officer involved in this matter. No local learning was recommended.

“However, the Coroner has stated that he will be re-referring the Met to the IOPC in regards to comments made by one of the attending officers. We now await the IOPC’s decision of how the matter will be progressed. It would be inappropriate to comment further on that at this time, save to say that we will actively cooperate in the usual way.

“The Metropolitan Police Service is a learning organisation and we always strive to learn and improve. We continually review our policies in line with national guidance around restraint as well as how we assist those suffering from medical emergencies.”



## THE EU PLAN TO EXPAND 'HELLISH' REPRESSION OF BLACK MIGRANTS.

### Politics

Andrew Collins  
Senior writer  
London, UK

Despite justifiable outrage over the UK Government's plan to send asylum seekers who have entered Britain illegally to Rwanda – which has been accused by the US State Department of "impunity" in significant human rights abuses such as arbitrary killings, torture, force disappearances, and beyond – there has been almost complete silence on the European Union's latest plan to do the same in partnership with a whole variety of African nations. The plans are alluded to in the EU External Action Agency's new Strategic Compass for Security and Defence document, released in March shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine, but have received no coverage until now despite their dire implications.

The EU's migrant partnership with Libya has already been the subject of harsh criticism from Amnesty International, which described the conditions migrants and refugees are being returned to in Libya as "hellish". According to Amnesty, it is unlawful to return anyone to a place where they face serious abuse.

A report by the UN human rights council released in March revealed alarming evidence of murder, torture, inhumane acts, rape, persecution, and enslavement of migrants in Libya. Yet under the EU's cooperation agreements with Libya over the last five years, the EU, Italy and Libya have intercepted 82,000 refugees and migrants at sea and sent them back to Libya where they are detained indefinitely with no due process. They then end up facing what Amnesty describes as "arbitrary detention, torture, cruel and inhuman detention conditions, rape and sexual violence, extortion, forced labour and unlawful killings". However, in recent comments, the European Commission has defended the policy as being based on a "do no harm" principle, while confirming plans to expand "the effectiveness of the Libyan search and rescue operations." But according to the EU Observer, the EU's partnership with Libya has been so aggressive that it regularly put the lives of dozens of people last summer at risk.

Astonishingly, the EU document proposes that the solution to this is to expand the "positive" policies showcased in its partnership with Libya, by ensuring more cooperation between civilian border forces and military personnel: in other words, militarising the borders:

"Greater cooperation for mutual benefit between CSDP civilian and military operational engagements and the EU's justice and home affairs actors, such as EUROPOL, EUROJUST and the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), is necessary. We can build on the positive experiences of border assistance in places such as Libya or the crime information cell established in the EU's naval operation in the Mediterranean."

The document further calls for an expansion of its partnerships in Africa to tackle the migration problem, including an expansion of EU military and police operations in coordination with local forces.

"In this context, we will offer more comprehensive security packages to southern neighbourhood partners ready to deepen cooperation on a range of issues, including operational cooperation", the document proposes.

"We will seek a more robust and balanced security partnership with African partners. To this end, the EU will develop closer operational ties with regional and sub-regional organisations such as the G5 Sahel and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), as well as ad hoc bodies or coalitions in Africa. We will develop military-to-military and police-to-police contacts with African counterparts to enhance our situational awareness."

Overall, this suggests that the EU is looking to expand its Libya model across Africa. It also reveals that despite extensive criticisms from human rights organisations, the EU is unrepentant, characterising its horrendous Libya partnership as an example of "positive experiences of border assistance".

With the EU pursuing this inhumane policy for so many years, it's no wonder that Brexit Britain has moved in the same direction through its devastating partnership with Rwanda.

A foreign affairs spokesperson for the European Commission promised to provide Byline Times with a comment “clarifying the apparent confusion on the topic, policies and strategies of the EU”. However, they failed to do so.

From Australia to Israel, to Denmark, to the EU and now to Britain, this new model of migrant management has become a fast-growing global trend. Its common denominator in all these regions is the control and brutalisation of vulnerable people of colour fleeing from zones of conflict, terror and poverty.



# **Emmanuel Odunlami, 32, was stabbed to death near St Paul's Cathedral**

Andrew Collins  
Senior Writer  
London,UK

**H**is next of kin are aware and being supported by specialist officers. One person was arrested on suspicion of murder and has since been bailed. Enquiries are ongoing and officers are continuing to appeal for any information.

One person was arrested on suspicion of murder following the incident and has since been bailed.

Commander Umer Khan, from the City of London Police, said the team's thoughts and condolences were with Emmanuel's friends and family, at what he called a "difficult" time.

"We are continuing to appeal for any information, no matter how small it may seem, to help with our enquiries," he said,

"Even the smallest piece of information may be significant to our investigation.

"We are continuing to appeal for any information, no matter how small it may seem, to help with our enquiries," he said,

"Even the smallest piece of information may be significant to our investigation.

"A number of people were in the area at the time of this tragic incident and officers would like anyone with further information to come forward.

"This can be done anonymously and in confidence."

## Crime





## **'I work just as hard as white NHS keyworkers but I don't get the same sick pay'**

## Race

By: Sandra Goss  
London, UK

Landmark tribunal judgements could change the lives of low paid Black workers who are being outsourced on worse terms. Security staff at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) are fighting alleged racist outsourcing which they argue means a mainly Black, brown, and migrant workforce is denied full sick pay and other NHS employment rights. The hospital has refused to budge after seven weeks of strike action, despite taking cleaners in-house when they threatened strike action with the same demand. The guards - employed by Carlisle Support Services - argue the hospital's refusal to take them in-house amounts to racial discrimination while their generally white colleagues in other key worker roles enjoy six months sick pay and maternity leave. Statutory sick pay is £99.35 a week (£14 a day) - which they say is nowhere near enough to support a family at a time of rocketing inflation.

One guard said she earns only £11.03 an hour - less the London Living Wage (£11.05). This is despite security staff working the most unsociable hours which are usually rewarded with at least a 30 per cent boost for in-house NHS roles. Outsourcing means guards were also denied the recent three per cent pay rise given to NHS workers, despite working alongside them.

Security guard Mimi Longangu, 46, has worked at GOSH for six years says she led the strike at great personal cost, paying for extra childcare and forcing her husband to take overtime. She said: "I have seen colleagues at work sick but they won't go home. They would prefer to have an emergency break to take some medicine and go back to work. We have been working in these conditions for years and we cannot take it."

She also decried the GOSH ethos of 'putting children first', asking why it did not extend to her own child, and claimed security guards had gone above and beyond

in the pandemic - "doing the jobs no one else wanted to do" - moving sick patients around the hospital without full PPE. Commenting on the claims, GOSH said: "It is not (and was not at any point during the pandemic) the role of security staff to move patients around the hospital. They have also been provided with the same fluid repellent surgical masks that all our staff wear."

Strikers say this is important because it put them at higher risk of illness and death. At the height of the pandemic there was a disproportionate number of BME key workers in London, and Black people were four times more likely to die from Covid-19, according to ONS figures.



Mimi claimed: "In our job most of us are Black or Asian and we do not get what other workers get and most of them are white. Most of the jobs with white people are all in-house. Nobody likes being treated like that, I feel bad and discriminated." GOSH did not comment on this and has not confirmed whether Mimi's claims are accurate.

Strikes are now on hold after exhausting the legal number of strike days. The guards - who are part of the United Voices of the World union - must re-ballot before taking more action. UVW general secretary Petros Elia believes GOSH are "backed into a corner" but will not engage because there are less security guards than the cleaners. GOSH argue the decision to outsource security is due to "regulatory requirements" and "value for money for the public purse".

It comes after a landmark employment tribunal in November 2021 ruled complaints of indirect race discrimination against Royal Parks were "well-founded" after the outsourcing of mainly BME workers was found to be "at a particular disadvantage when compared with non-BME/white workers" in pay terms.

Security guards at St George's University are now waiting for the outcome of their own tribunal, in which they have complained of the same alleged "two-tier system" of pay and conditions. St George's security guard Cetin Avsar claimed the Royal Parks judgement "had set a precedent unmasking racist outsourcing which can't be ignored".

The guards at GOSH have received wide support from MPs including John McDonnell, Caroline Lucas, and Tim Farron. A motion tabled by MPs last December said they were "appalled that they [the guards] are provided with far worse terms and conditions than other NHS workers and are the only group of workers who are denied full sick pay which is of particular concern during a global pandemic".

A spokesperson for Great Ormond Street Hospital said: "Like many hospitals, we provide efficient, high-quality services for our patients by operating a mixed model, where some services are provided in-house and some are outsourced. Decisions on how services are provided are taken on a case-by-case basis after careful consideration.

"For our security service these considerations included our compliance with the regulatory requirements of the security industry, the quality of the service including cover arrangements, the employment conditions offered by the provider and value for money for the public purse."



## **I have a mandate to do things differently, Banky W says as he wins PDP House of Reps primaries**

### Politics



:Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior Writer  
Lagos, Nigeria

**A** Nigerian celebrity, Mr Olubankole Wellington, popularly known as Banky W, was declared the winner of the PDP primary for the Eti-Osa constituency House of Representatives ticket in the 2023 general election. Banky W had a landslide victory, polling 28 out of 31 votes cast by delegates at the primary. He contested against a legal practitioner, Mr Sam Aiboni, who polled three votes. The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that the delegates consisted of 31 ad hoc members of the PDP and one national delegate.

#### **What Banky W is saying**

Banky W, in an interview with NAN, said that the election was a free and fair one, he stated that he had won the election by the grace of God and the will of the people.

"I am overwhelmed by the support of my constituency, the people, the ward chairmen, the leaders and the chieftains of the party." "I feel the support even from the grass root, honestly, I can't be happier than I am now," he said.

Banky added that he had a message, a vision and a mandate to do things better in the constituency and that he would achieve them through transparency, accountability and service.

"The real work begins now, the primaries is just the start and thankfully, we have the grace of God with us; we move," he added.

#### **What you should know**

This will be his second attempt at winning a ticket to contest as a member of the green chamber.

In the 2019 elections, Wellington contested the House of Representatives seat

under the Modern Democratic Party (MDP), but lost to Ibrahim Obanikoro of the ruling All Progressives Congress (APC).

Ahead of the 2023 general elections, Banky W had announced that he had decamped the MDP for the PDP, to seek the party's ticket to again vie for the Lagos Eti-Osa Federal Constituency seat in Nigeria's House of Representatives.





## Racism in America, as told by immigrants.



### Politics

By: Bunmi Johnson  
New York Bureau Chief  
USA

The 2020 murder of a black man, George Floyd, by police in Minneapolis shone a spotlight on racism in America. It also made black immigrants wonder if America's ideals of freedom and opportunity could be realised.

Joseph Edghill, 65, has lived in the US for nearly half a century, but the past few years have felt very different to him.

Hailing from Trinidad & Tobago, he followed his mother to America at age 17 to attend college and make a living in a place he thought of as a land of prosperity. He remembers his homeland as a mixture of races, where school and other aspects of daily life were well integrated.

But in America, it seemed, "it was quite a difference. The whole idea of race was in the news and you'd hear about it so frequently". Early on, he consciously avoided engaging in it. "I wanted to succeed in spite of race," he told the BBC. "If somebody else had issues with my race, that was their problem."

Then, on 25 May 2020, George Floyd - an unarmed African American - was murdered by police in Minnesota.

Footage from the incident, in which an officer knelt on Floyd's neck for more than nine minutes, stunned the world and drew millions of protesters - including Mr Edghill - onto the streets.

"That was the first time I ever went out and protested anything," he said. "Floyd was the first time I felt like that could be me." Joseph is part of a growing population of black immigrants in America.

Although the majority of black Americans are the descendants of enslaved people brought to the US, one in 10 - close to five million in total were not in the US but

but came here to find a better life, according to the latest data from Pew Research Center.

US Census Bureau projections suggest the black immigrant population will more than double by 2060 and while many are happy with their adoptive home, Floyd's death and other incidents of violence against black people have shaken the faith of some in the ideals that America represents.



GETTY IMAGES

The death of Patrick Lyoya, a 26-year-old who escaped to the US from the Democratic Republic of Congo with his family nearly eight years ago, is another recent case that has struck a chord.

Lyoya was fatally shot in the back of the head by a police officer in Grand Rapids, Michigan, during a routine traffic stop last month.

Footage released from the incident showed Lyoya and a police officer wrestling on the ground. Police said the officer fired his Taser twice, but failed to hit Lyoya. Footage showed the officer demanding Lyoya “let go of the Taser” several times before firing the fatal shot.

Reacting to video of the encounter, his parents expressed shock that their first-born had been “killed like an animal” in their adopted home, which was supposed to have been a “safe haven”.

Peter Lyoya added that he “didn’t know” law enforcement could commit an “execution”. Representatives for the police department have rejected the characterisation, saying the officer “has the legal right to protect themselves and community in a volatile dangerous situation such as this”.

But to some, Lyoya’s death is a worst-case scenario in how black- and brown-skinned immigrants experience life in America.

Silvia Holt said she understood what it was like to be in a new country and afraid of the police.

Her migrant worker parents left impoverished conditions in Guadalajara, Mexico, and smuggled her across the border into California at nine months old. She became a citizen at age 12.

Settling in rural Oroville, Ms Holt, now 43, would accompany her parents through gruelling agricultural work.

“Working in the fields, my mum would always advise me never to run - because then you become suspicious,” she said.

“The people that ran away were the ones that would get deported, caught, bruised up.”

The father of Ms Holt’s son, Timothy, is African American, and she sees his fear, like hers, of the police, she told BBC.





When they were stopped over a traffic issue when he was five years old, he asked: “Is the policeman going to hurt me?”

Lyoya was a refugee with an obvious language barrier who might not have known any better in the moment than to run away, Ms Holt said.

“It’s mind blowing that a traffic stop ends in a person dying.”

The police officer who shot Lyoya is currently on paid administrative leave, and local prosecutors are set to soon issue a ruling on whether he should be fired and charged with a crime.

Some black immigrants are feeling especially targeted in the wake of a mass shooting this month in Buffalo, New York.

The gunman - a white teenager radicalised over the internet - travelled some 200 miles from his home and targeted a supermarket in a predominantly black area. Ten of his victims were black.

Ahead of his rampage, the gunman referenced “white replacement” conspiracy theories and expressed resentment for immigrants and minority groups in online posts.

For Benjamin Anom, a military veteran who has been treated for post-traumatic stress disorder, the events in Buffalo were “a new PTSD”.

“It scared me,” he said. “It could have been anywhere. A group of people looking at another group like they were aliens to society... It goes beyond hate”.

Mr Anom moved to the US from Ghana in 2000 with his wife Lily.

Enlisting in the US Army shortly after his arrival, he served in Iraq and that led to a fast-tracked citizenship process under the Bush administration.

The 51-year-old now has three children, four graduate degrees in various disciplines and a doctorate in biomedical ethics.

That makes him grateful to the country, for him, the “American dream” - working hard and finding success regardless of one’s background - remains intact.

“It would not have been easy doing all that in Ghana, with a family and a job,” he said. “In most parts of Africa, you inherit the successes of your parents.”

But for people like him who pursue their dreams here, there is a need to be hyper-vigilant to “avoid the scenarios we see on TV”.

No matter whether he is going on a short walk or an hours-long road trip, he filters through a daily mental checklist.

He rehearses with his kids how they should behave during any given police interaction.

“It’s almost a full-time job,” he said. “But the precautions are not always enough.”

Some years ago, Mr Anom got lost driving alone at night from Texas to Kansas, and pulled over to ask for help. Leaving the high beams of his jeep switched on, he honked at a nearby house from what he believed to be an unthreatening distance and then stood by his vehicle.

The homeowner aimed a gun at him and ordered his hands up - until he mentioned he was a lost soldier in need of directions.

“If you had not mentioned that you were a soldier, I was going to pop you,” he claims the man said.

Mr Anom said he typically avoids labelling people as “racist” and gives people the benefit of the doubt whenever possible.

But, from Floyd to Lyoya to Buffalo, he said he is not naïve about the level of distrust and hate festering in American society.

“This is how this place has been for a long time,” he said.

Credit:<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-61238017.amp?fr=operanews>

## Naomi Campbell slays on Cannes red carpet after rare sighting with her baby daughter.

# Entertainment

By: Linda R. Jones  
London,UK



Naomi Campbell cut a glamorous figure on the red carpet in Cannes hours after being spotted on mummy duties with her baby girl.

The supermodel looked typically striking in a black feathered gown, with white bow details on the shoulder, as she posed for photographers.

She was at the screening of Decision To Leave (Heojil Kyolshim) during the 75th annual Cannes Film Festival at Palais des Festivals on Monday.

Her gown, which was from the Valentino Haute Couture Spring/Summer '22 collection, also featured a voluminous full skirt.

The 51-year-old star teamed the stand-out look with a pair of black heels, a diamond necklace and matching silver bracelets

Earlier in the day, she was spotted cradling her baby daughter while out and about in the French town.

She was dressed stylishly casual in a blue patterned maxi dress, sunglasses and Nike high top trainers as she held the little one, whose name she is yet to share publicly.

Her daughter was dressed in a white, sleeveless playsuit with shorts.

Naomi, welcomed the tot in May, 2021, and made a rare appearance with the little one as they arrived at Cannes exclusive Hotel du Cap Eden-Roc hotel.

Although she has remained tight-lipped since her arrival, the fashion icon opened up about her daughter in a recent interview with Vogue.

'She wasn't adopted – she's my child,' she told the publication.



## Caster Semenya: 'Athletics chiefs thought I had a d--- so I offered to prove I didn't'

## Sports



By: Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior writer  
Lagos, Nigeria



**S**emen also proclaimed that artificially lowering her testosterone levels to compete was 'like stabbing yourself with a knife every day'

Caster Semen is a two-time Olympic 800 metres champion and poster girl for athletes with differences in sex development (DSD)

Caster Semen has accused athletics chiefs who "thought I had a dick" of forcing her to take medication that "tortured" her and made her so sick she feared she would have a heart attack.

In an explosive interview with HBO Real Sports, the two-time Olympic 800 metres champion and poster girl for athletes with differences in sex development (DSD) proclaimed artificially lowering her natural testosterone levels in order to compete in women's races was "like stabbing yourself with a knife every day".

The South African star also revealed that when doubts about her gender first emerged after she won her first world title aged just 18, she offered to show officials her genitals to prove she was female.

"They thought I had a dick, probably," she said. "I told them: 'It's fine. I'm a female, I don't care. If you want to see I'm a woman, I will show you my vagina. All right?'"

After Semen underwent medical testing, it emerged she had been born with internal testes.

She was told that in order to continue running in women's races, she would need to take medication to lower her natural testosterone levels.

'I didn't know if I was going to have a heart attack'

She said: "It made me sick, made me gain weight, panic attacks, I don't know if I was ever going to have a heart attack.

It's like stabbing yourself with a knife every day. But I had no choice.

"I'm 18, I want to run, I want to make it to [the] Olympics, that's the only option for me. But I had to make it work."

Jonathan Taylor, World Athletics' lawyer, disputed that the medication given to Semen and others was unhealthy.

He told the programme: "You say, medically, it's not healthy for me, then my question back to you is: 'Why do the world's leading experts say that that is what we would prescribe?'"

But Semen hit back: "Jonathan must cut his tongue and throw it away. If he wants to understand how that thing has tortured me, he must go and take those medications. He will understand."



Semen, now 31, took the medication for several years before lodging a legal challenge against rules currently governing races taking place over distances between 400m and a mile.

After unsuccessful appeals at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) and Switzerland's Federal Supreme Court, she was unable to defend the Olympic titles she won in London and Rio at last year's Tokyo Games.

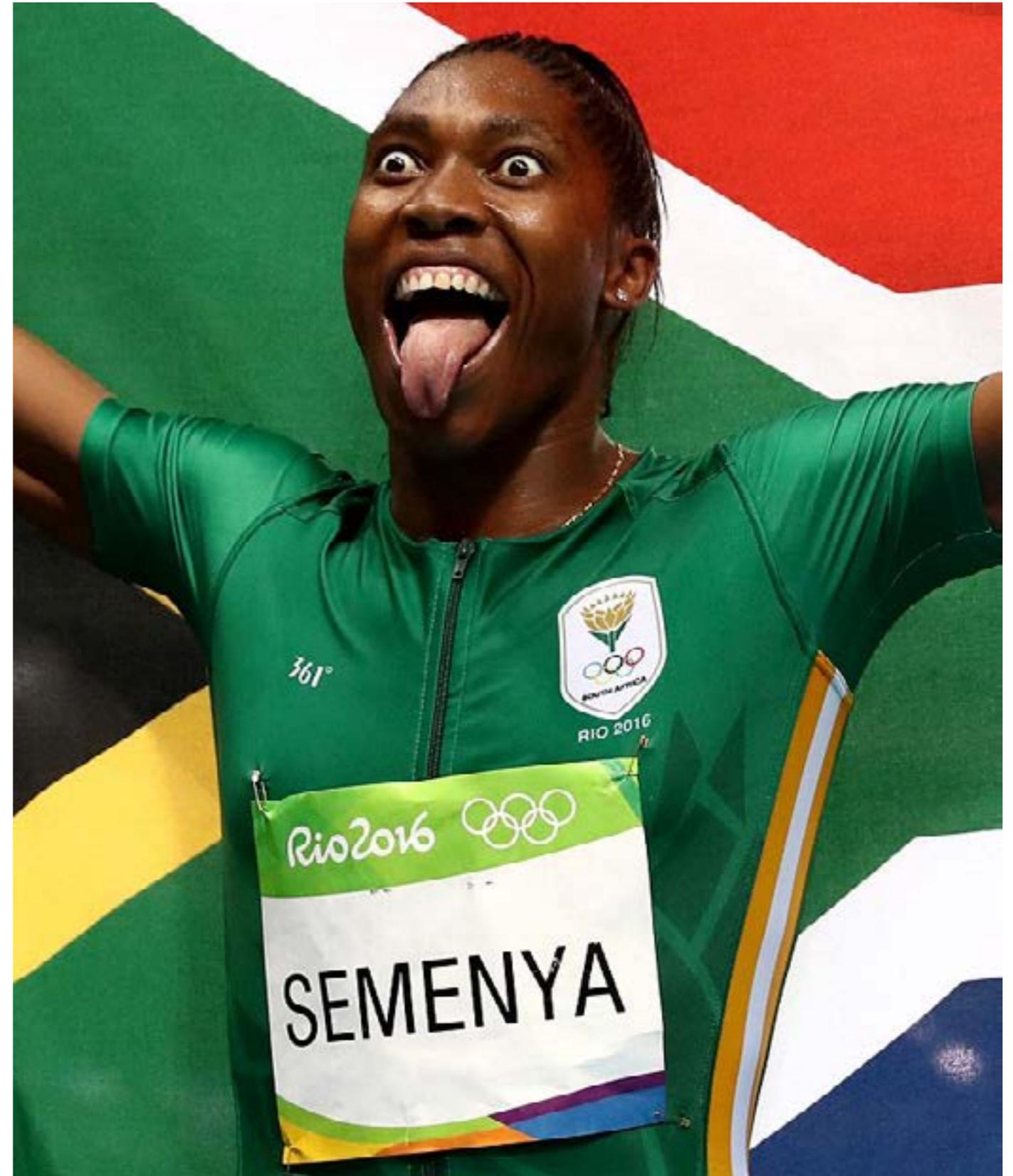
She is currently awaiting a hearing at the European Court of Human Rights and, in the meantime, has been competing across longer distances, clocking a personal best time of 8min 54.97secs over 3,000m in March.

In a scathing Twitter post days later, she wrote: "So according to World Athletics and its members, I'm a male when it comes to 400m, 800m, 1500m and 1600m.

"Then a female in 100m, 200m, and long-distance events. What a research. What kind of a fool would do that?"

World Athletics recently confirmed it would not be changing its regulations allowing DSD and transgender athletes to enter women's events if they lowered their testosterone.

That was despite reviews being launched in both swimming and cycling following an outcry over similar rules permitting trans athletes Lia Thomas and Emily Bridges to switch from competing against men.



## Nigerian born British nurse jailed 18 years for s\$x trafficking.

Andrew Collins  
Senior writer  
London,UK

## Crime

**A** London-based nurse has been jailed for trafficking Nigerian women into Germany to work as prostitutes after subjecting them to “voodoo” rituals.

A Nigerian-born British nurse, Josephine Iyamu, has been sentenced to 18 years in prison by a Birmingham Crown Court after she was found guilty of trafficking women and teenage girls, mostly from Nigeria, to the UK and forcing them to become sex slaves for her personal gains.

Josephine Iyamu forced the five women to swear oaths to hand over money to her during “juju” ceremonies.

Iyamu, 51, formerly of Bermondsey, was convicted of arranging or facilitating travel for sexual exploitation and perverting the course of justice. She was jailed for 14 years at Birmingham crown Court. Iyamu became the first British national prosecuted for Modern Slavery Act offences after trafficking victims outside the UK.

She was also convicted of perverting the course of justice while on remand, by arranging for relatives of her victims in Nigeria to be arrested.

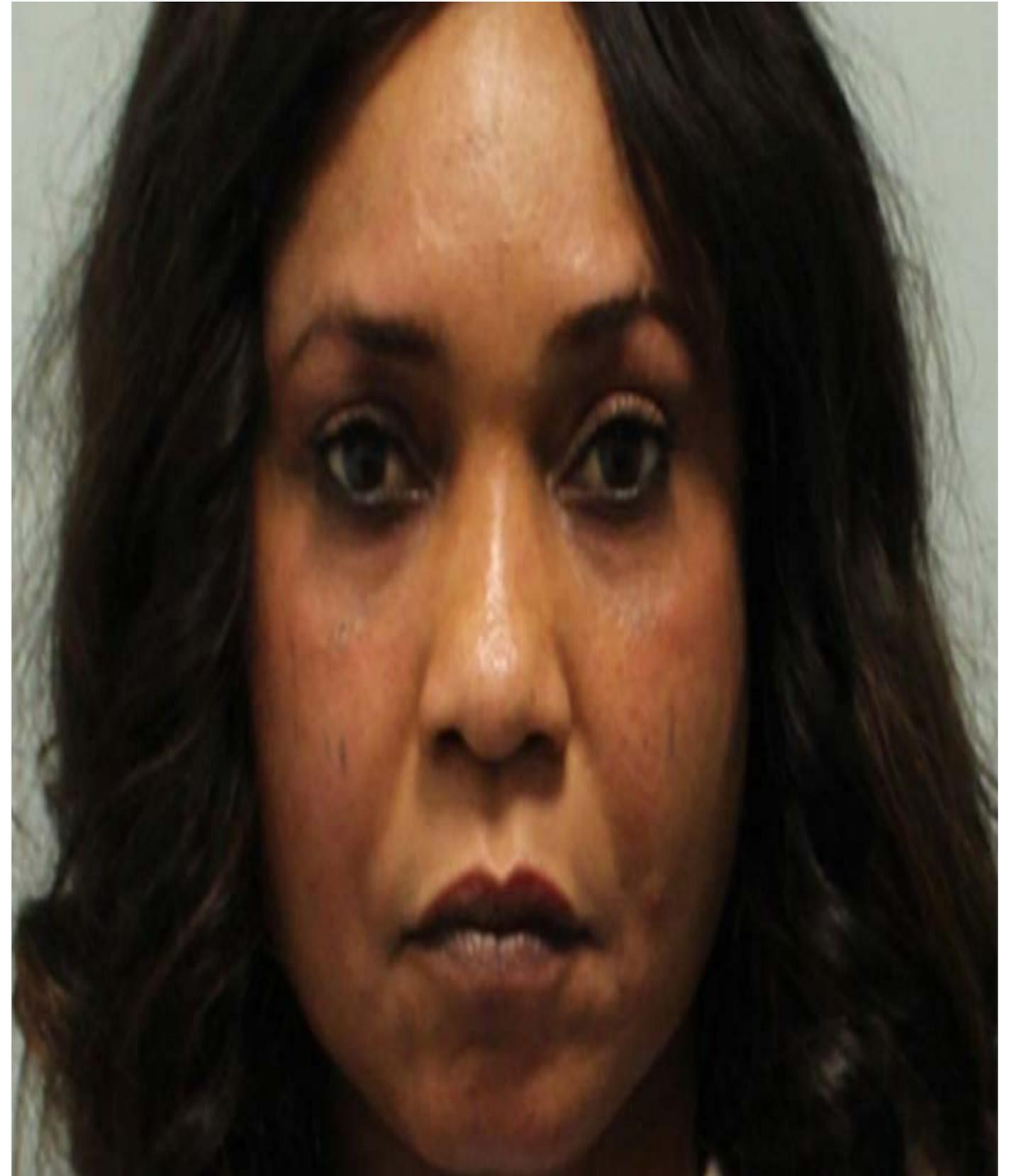
The court heard the women were forced to eat chicken hearts, drink blood containing worms, and have powder rubbed into cuts during the rituals.

Sentencing, Judge Richard Bond said the 51-year-old had shown “a complete disregard for the welfare of these women”.

He said she had exposed them to a “real and significant” risk of death as they travelled across the Mediterranean on inflatable boats.

All five women had be rescued from the boat they were on, before being put into a camp in Italy.

“You saw them not as living, breathing human beings but as commodities to earn you large sums of money,” he said.



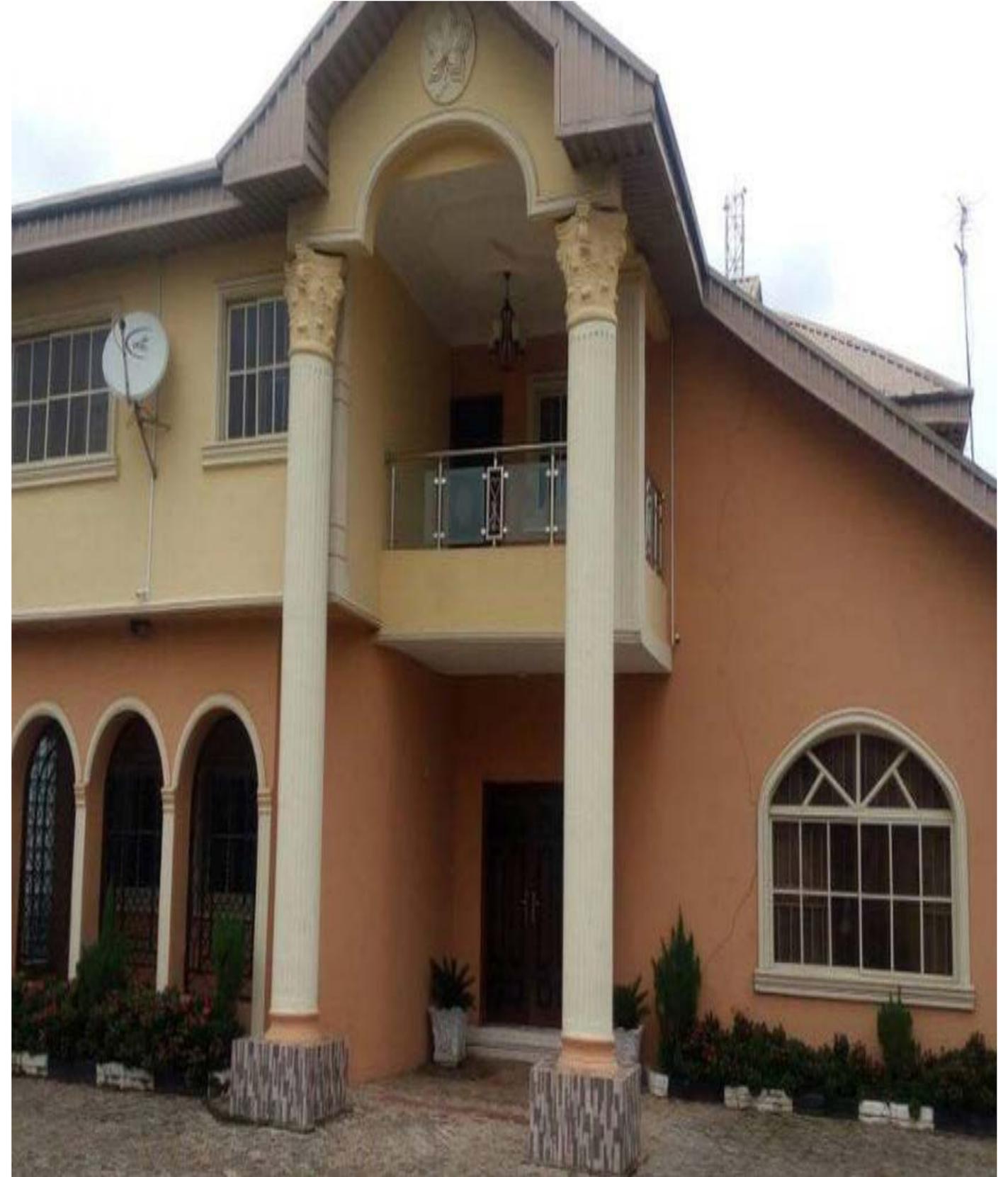
Iyamu was born in Liberia, but became a British citizen in 2009 having been allowed to stay in the UK due to her nursing qualifications.

She was known to have declared a modest income of about £4,500 in 2016/17 from her work as an NHS agency nurse.

However, investigators discovered she spent thousands on international air travel and owned a large home in Benin City, Nigeria, complete with servants' quarters.

Iyamu's defence counsel John Benson QC told the court his client had "lost everything" as a result of her conviction, including her hope of pursuing a political career in Nigeria.

Her husband, 60-year-old Efe Ali-Imaghodor, was acquitted of doing acts intending to pervert the course of justice.



## **We'll be seeing riots on streets of London because of the Met's new stop and search powers'**

## **Crime**

By: Linda R. Jones  
London,UK

**A** former police officer has spoken out against the lifting of restrictions on stop and search powers, saying it lead to riots. Ali Hassan Ali, who served under the Metropolitan Police officer as Police Constable between 2019 and 2021, says that increased police powers announced by Priti Patel on May 16 are a "tool to traumatise young men" and will lead to clashes with civilians.

The Home Secretary's permanent changes will see the length of time as Section 60 can be enforced extended from 39 hours to 48. Furthermore, lower ranking officers can now deploy stop and search and rather than anticipating that serious violence "will occur", they only need to anticipate it "may occur."

As well as these changes, police no longer need to inform communities publicly of stop and search powers in the area. However, the former officer has questioned the logistics and safety of the new measures and says that another incident involving a child will be the tipping point for riots.

Ali said: "The sentiment in London is just sort of like, 'We hate the police, we cannot stand these police cars.' And when you remember this sentiment being in London, it was twice before the riots. It's going to take one more incident with a young child where something happens to a young child, and that gets recorded. I think it's just going to explode."

In 2020, a 15-year-old Black girl referred to as Child Q was strip searched while on her period, which sparked outrage in the Black community. In the same month that Child Q was strip searched, another 15-year-old girl was also placed in the same situation and had her underwear cut off while on her period during a 20 hour detention in police custody, in front of male officers.





The Metropolitan Police has since referred itself to the police watchdog.

During Ali's time as an officer, he says that while conducting stop and searches, he witnessed teenagers shaking with fear when approached by police but more often than not, they were unproductive. He said: "Search after search after search after search, we would go directly into areas of so-called high crime, violence and gangs and drug dealing. Youngsters who are dressed in fashion sense of the era. They're all in black puffer jackets and all that in order to look like their friends. "So when these kids were getting searched, they were saying, 'Why why are you searching us?' This is where they live. You know, they're residents. You might have a small minority, which is often no good, but the vast majority we stopped, their searches were satisfactory when they came back."

Police stop and searches still disproportionately affect Black and ethnic minority communities. Between April 2019 and March 2020 there were six stop and searches for every 1,000 white people, compared with 54 for every 1,000 Black people according to government data.

The Londoner says that stop and search is "racial profiling" and that it causes long term health problems. The former officer continued: "This is racial profiling. You are criminalising the whole community and traumatising these young men and potentially causing long term mental health problems."

He went on to add that giving the inspectors the right to authorise a Section 60 is giving the "most responsibility" to the people with the "least experience." Furthermore, he believes that Superintendents who will now be able to extend the authorisation of Section 60 aren't aware of the areas they have the power to police and "leave communities with scars."

The 41-year-old said: "Everything is just getting relegated and relegated to the person with the least experience and given the most responsibility. They just come in, they just my blanket area and just disrupt it. They leave the area and then the next day the community wakes up with scars."

“For these youngsters, no one’s challenged the Metropolitan Police in high courts to say that ‘We’ll take it to court for this.’ And I think once someone does it, you realise what was going to fall apart completely because the numbers are just horrifying every year.”

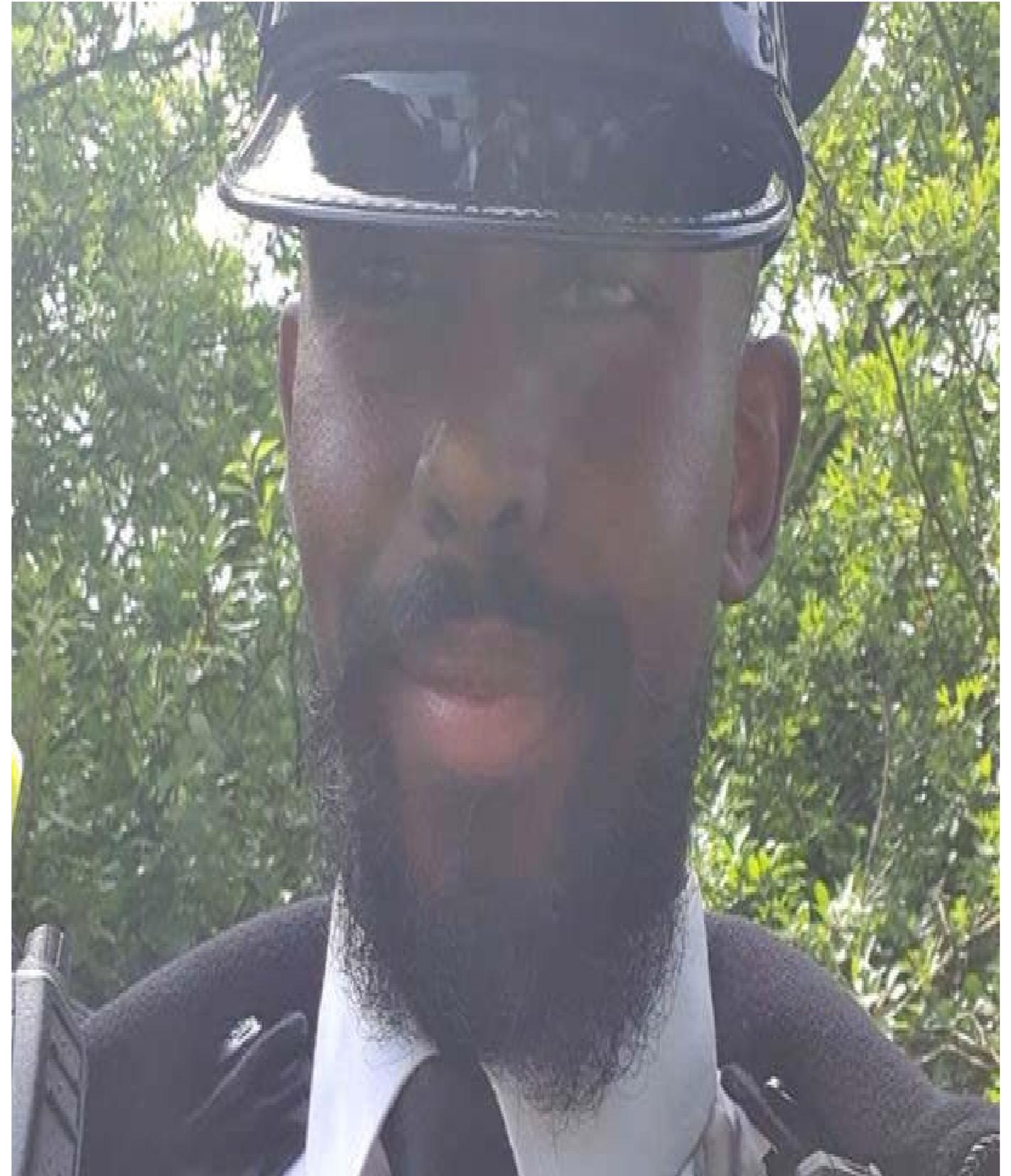
From year ending March 2020 to year ending March 2021, 695,009 searches were conducted under section 1 PACE according to government data. The outcome for 77% of stop and searches conducted was ‘no further action needed’.

As part of a campaign group called Operation Withdraw Consent, the former officer says he wants to legally challenge stop and searches. Ali said: “With the Operation Withdraw Consent, a part of what we’ve been discussing are ways to see if we can legally challenge this. And it’s a good amount of evidence to suggest that this can be challenged.”

A spokesperson for the Home Office said: “Every knife taken off our streets is a potential life saved. Stop and search removed almost 16,000 dangerous weapons from our streets and resulted in almost 80,000 arrests last year. Crime statistics show increasing proactive policing, like stop and search, is helping the police find more knives and drugs, and arrest more criminals.

“Nobody should be stopped and searched because of their race and extensive safeguards such as statutory codes of practice and body worn video exists to ensure that this does not happen.”

Credit:<https://www.operanewsapp.com>



## KIZZ DANIEL HITS GLOBAL STAGE WITH 'BUGA'

# Entertainment



By: Ibukun Babatunde  
Port-Harcourt  
Nigeria

**O**luwatobiloba Daniel Anidugbe, better known as Kizz Daniel, is a Nigerian singer and songwriter. He is best known for his singles "Waju" and "Yeba". He went by the stage name Kiss Daniel prior to changing it in May 2018.

The handsome singer is currently receiving accolades across the world with the release of his latest banger, Buga. Since the release of the hit song, social media has been awash with creative skits on Tik Toks, jigs and twists to the rhythm.

This, according to music enthusiasts, is a song like no other, as it has made the top charts in every music show across the world.

From the just concluded Kizz Daniel, also known as Vado, sold out 02 in London tour to Birmingham on Saturday 21st May this year, Vado was seen making energetic and smooth steps to the music. There were flashes from mobile phones, turning the Arena into a magical scene.

Commenting on the outing, the Waju crooner said: "After the London tour, I'll still be on the road. I want to connect to my fans worldwide. The US Tour is next, followed by Africa, Australia, Europe, etc"

Buga, which has become the lead song on Apple Music's top 100 in Nigeria, has been performed in Birmingham.

He added: "It's a great feeling. When you put out a masterpiece and the rest of the world accepts it as one, that's a satisfying feeling right there. And such encourages you to do more."

This is as Kizz Daniel has rolled up his sleeves to storm the city of Birmingham to seamlessly spin and thrill music aficionados and fans. It's currently the top 1 among top 100 on Apple in Kenya.

Kizz Daniel's song Buga is revealed as the world's top five Afrobeat songs trending globally as Shazam also has named his song the most Shazam song in

the world.

According to its tweet, "Big congrats to @KizzDaniell! #Buga is the most Shazamed song in the world."

Buga didn't just blow the music scene away with soft serenity, it also designed a dance step that spurs confidence in listeners into holding their heads up positively.

More so, Buga is described as a beautiful song that lifts the spirit and massages the soul effortlessly.

"Buga is a Nigerian parlance. It means "Show off", "stunt on them". So in this context, it means after you've put in the work, let your results speak loudly. Enjoy your success. Whatever you're seeing out there, whatever results the song is generating, that's the result of hardwork and I've consistently put in my best in all my songs. Nothing good comes easy," he said.

According to the singer and father of two on his Instagram page, @Kizzdaniel: "As long as people work so hard to make legit money, they should be proud to flaunt their wealth to the public".

Watch as Sierra Leone's First Lady, Fatima Jabbe-Bio, joins Kizz Daniel's Buga challenge as she celebrates her husband's homecoming

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5ShXBRhOW8>



## NIGERIAN IDOL—NEW CELEBRITY ON THE BLOCK

# Entertainment



By: Joy Gofwen  
Lagos Bureau -Chief  
Nigeria

**P**rogress Chukwuyem has won the 7th edition of the Nigerian Idol after weeks of competition. Host, IK Osakioduwa, announced at the finale on Sunday, May 22, 2022.

The 21-year-old singer won after polling more fans' votes to beat fellow finalist Zadok in a record-breaking voting season. The top-2 secured 45 million votes in the finale week alone and over 220 million votes all season long. IK Osakioduwa revealed this in a celebratory finale episode on Sunday.

He won a cash prize of ₦30 million, a brand-new SUV, a Bigi branded refrigerator and a year's supply of Bigi drinks. He will also get to record an EP and six music videos, a weekend getaway from TravelBeta, and a DStv Explora fully installed with a 12 months premium subscription.

Speaking after his big win that night, Progress shared what would be his next steps. He said, "Music is my life, it's everything, and it comes from a place of passion. So definitely from here, I'm making music - great music. I'm going to express myself in the best way that I can. Out here, I'm in no competition with anybody, so I'm going to take it one step at a time".

On the finale night, Zadok, who has been a fan favorite from the beginning of the show, performed Whitney Houston's 'Dance with somebody'. In contrast, Progress sang Ariana Grande, Jessie J and Nicki Minaj's 'Bang Bang' and Ruben Studdard's 'I Need an Angel' at the live show, which had hundreds of audience members at the studio and was watched by millions of fans across Africa on DStv and GOtv, and across Europe via the Showmax app.

Simi took a minute to address the top 12, telling them, "And for you all who took part in this experience, it takes a ton of bravery to do what you have done. I'm proud to have experienced this with you. You're so amazing, and I wish you so much goodness in your future, present, and everything you do."

Simi took on the stage at the finale singing her hit song, Duduke. Fellow judge D'banj also performed a medley of his biggest songs, including Oliver Twist, Emergency and Your Face Show. Other performers at the highly-charged live show included Nigerian Idol season 6 winner Kingdom, the Nigerian Idol season 7 top 10, and popular musician Pheelz.

D'banj, who performed with Zadok and Progress, said a few words about his unreleased track, I Got My Answer, with the top two finalists. He said, "myself and my family went through a traumatic time when I lost my son. It was so devastating, and I felt like the world caved in. All we could do was pray to God for restoration. The song was done, written in Los Angeles two weeks before I had my new son".

### Journey to finale

Getting to the final was not an easy feat, as they had to join thousands of applicants to jostle for a place on the show. In all, the judges gave out 75 golden tickets. After another round of screening, 50 contestants qualified for the theatre week, where they paired them with other contestants. They went through another round of screening before 12 contestants made it to the live performance stage.

From the beginning of the live performances, both Zadok and Progress gave their best and raised their games, making their presence in the final well deserved.

The Delta-state born singer and season 7 winner captured the hearts of many globally when he took over the 'Showstopper' week with his fantastic performance of Ariana Grande, Jessie J, and Nicki Minaj's 'Bang Bang'.

Nigerian Idol Season 7 premiered Sunday, 6 February with the weekly shows covering the auditions leading to theatre week before the live shows started in March. The show was sponsored by Bigi Drinks and Binance. We wish him the very best in his career.





## DEBORAH: ARE WE STILL HUMANS?



By: Joy Gofwen  
Lagos Bureau -Chief  
Nigeria

# Religious Crime

**H**umanity has left us and we are now a bunch of monsters living as humans. We now take lives as though those lives belong to chickens. We slaughter with pride and no mercy. As sacred as life is and should be, that of Deborah Samuel was dastardly taken away from her by hooligans.

Freedom of speech and expression is enshrined in the constitution of the federal republic of Nigeria but that freedom is far from the realities of Nigerians. People are maimed at will and no one is held responsible. Sam Nwaoko of the Nigerian Tribune Newspaper in his column of May 14, 2022 titled "Murdered Deborah and the miseducation of Northern Muslims" blamed some of these atrocities to the lack of education in the North. I took the pleasure of sharing with you, have a good read below.

### **Murdered Deborah and the miseducation of Northern Muslims**

MANY Nigerians would be learning about the existence of Shehu Shagari College of Education, Sokoto, for the first time. It wouldn't be a good first impression for this 52-year-old institution of higher learning. When this college opened its doors in 1970 as Advanced Teachers College, many who are parents today - and many of the people all over who would be smearing the institution with all kinds of foulness - were not even born. There must have been so many other things about the college over the decades. Its alumni would look back with varied feelings. They might recall the time students unionism had thrived there. The Kegites Club might have held gyrations there; it might even have had an Ilya as part of the vibrant Northern Hemisphere of the socio-cultural club. There would be nostalgic remembrances of feats by the college and its past, but the present of the college has been enmeshed in an ugly row of religious intolerance. The college has become super prominent because of the gruesome murder of Deborah Yakubu.

Deborah was, until Thursday, 12 May, 2022, a student of the college. She was stoned to death allegedly by a mob of her fellow students for alleged blasphemy against the holy Prophet of Allah. Deborah had reportedly vehemently kicked against the posting of religious materials by other students to a WhatsApp group to which she belonged, believed to be that of students of her class. Going by a voice note said to be hers, she had reacted in annoyance to the posts and said things that her accusers considered blasphemous against Prophet Muhammad.

Another report claimed that she was killed by a mob in the college for daring to contend, in an online argument, that she managed to pass her examinations, which she was said to be writing at the time of the incident, with the help of Jesus. "She (Deborah) was having an argument with some of her school mates over their ongoing examinations and when she was asked how she managed to pass her exams, she said it was Jesus. She was asked to withdraw the statement and apologise, which she refused to do. The school security officers intervened, took her to their post, but they were overpowered by the protesting students who brought her out and killed her. After killing her, her body was burnt on the school premises."

Yet another report of the circumstances that led to the stoning to death of Deborah held that the events that culminated in her death had been brewing since the month of Ramadan when the college was on break. It had smouldered through the period but did not die. There was online altercation in their WhatsApp group, the third report said, during which she allegedly blasphemed Prophet Muhammad. "When they sighted her at school today (Thursday 12th May, 2022), all available Muslim male students surrounded her and started stoning her. They continued until she fell. They made sure she died and subsequently set her body ablaze."

Barring the gaps in the reports, one outstanding thing lacking in the accounts is not about how Deborah was killed, that is an established pattern. It is also not about how others who had gone the same way as Deborah in our religiously volatile North met their end. The reports highlight, in vivid reality, the obvious miseducation of the ever-ready stoning mob found in northern Nigeria.



Their religious education, in no small way, shows lack of humanity and that is one area that we would need the Ulama to step in and help the country. There is no contending the entrenched position that Islam means peace, but there are acts by some adherents of the religion which bring this assertion to disrepute. From a distance, and going by Islam as seen practiced in the Southern parts of Nigeria, the intent of any teacher of the faith that could pass for a member of the Ulama, is not to teach his pupils to kill at will. A body of Muslim scholars recognised as having knowledge of Islamic sacred law and theology would know that Islam recognises civil authorities and would encourage Muslims to be law-abiding. Islam teaches the sanctity of human life. So, where does the teaching that we should descend into blinding violence and kill for the sake of Almighty Allah and his holy Prophet come from? Who is fuelling this miseducation and for what purpose?

Of course, we would be foolish and insensitive not to recognise our religious differences and defer to them as often as we should. It is sure naivety for you to toy with the sensitivity of people of the same faith or who do not share the same faith with you. The same goes for cultural and other differences. However, because of the kind of education given to millions in the North over the years, Nigerians have been made to perpetually walk on eggshells when the issue is religion. The common example is the air of tetchy volatility of religious matters that makes all who visit the North to be wary of the grounds they step on. There is a thin line between what could kill you and otherwise - the case of a child walking with death without realising it.

At Easter, Sterling Bank did what many people considered as despicable. Easter is the height of Christian celebration; Easter, the resurrection of Christ, is the hub of the Christian religion. Sterling Bank Plc saw the need to greet Christians at Easter; and the bank also felt that the best way to celebrate with Christians was to compare the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to the yeast-induced rising of 'Agege bread'.

The bank published that insensitive message on Twitter but took it down soon after it saw the angry reaction of Nigerians. People showed how much they abhorred the message but, not by rioting or killing of anyone or burning of property.

The bank did not have any of its branches across the country under any threat. Yet there were protests and reactions, so much that the Advertisers Practitioners of Nigeria (APCON) announced that it would sanction the bank. That type of protest and reaction cannot resonate with the kind of education some Islamic clerics give their followers. Education makes a lot of difference. But what type of education? For the sake of 'Whataboutism', arguments have risen to the hilt in many quarters and comparisons cited of the dastardly reign of terror unleashed on the South East region by the destructive and condemnable activities of IPOB. There is no mincing word that each (tribe, religion, geo-political zone) has his own shortcomings, but the degree matters a lot to the cohesiveness, growth and development of the country. Violence is condemnable everywhere and every time.

The Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Saad Abubakar III, has condemned the killing of Deborah. Muslim media practitioners have condemned the killing and described it as 'not Islamic'. The Catholic Bishop of Sokoto, Matthew Hassan Kukah, has also condemned the killing. Both religious leaders have charged the state government and the security agencies to deal with the perpetrators. They are criminals who have stepped out of the bounds of Islam to give the beautiful religion a bad image. Most out-of-school children in Nigeria are in the North.

There appears a deliberate design to keep children out of school so as to perpetually use them for political purposes. The statistics are frightening and there doesn't seem to be any conscious effort to change the status quo. (Tribuneonline)

What better excuse could one give to that act of barbarism? However, unknown to them, Deborah's demise turned out as a turning point for the family as popular Port Harcourt-based cleric and Founder of Omega Power Ministries (OPM), Apostle Chibuzor Chinyere gave parents of Deborah Samuel, a mini estate of 14 flats and a car.

The pastor, Apostle Chinyere redeemed his promise on the arrival of Deborah's family to the state after they honored his invitation. He took the visibly emotional family to the mini-estate and handed them keys to the flats, assuring them of lifetime ownership. According to Chinyere, the gesture was to alleviate the effect of the loss of their daughter. We pray this goes a long way in helping them recover.





## **“It’s horrible”: Family-of-five share beds inside overcrowded Manchester flat**

Lifestyle

By:James Osondu

‘m really depressed – very, very depressed. I don’t even sleep’

A mother-of-four has described how her and her children are sharing beds in an overcrowded flat.

Omosivie Eze is trying to move out of her two-bedroom apartment in Newton Heath, which she has described as “horrible” for her four children. The 35-year-old has applied for a four-bedroom house from Manchester City Council but fears she could face a long wait to be rehomed.

The family moved into the private rented property in 2018 – the only home they could afford at the time. Omosivie sleeps in one bedroom with two children while the eldest are forced to share a bed in the second room.

The single mum says the lack of space is driving her family to breaking point and she is losing sleep over the ordeal. She says that her 15-year-old son finds their living situation so distressing he has threatened to run away from home.

Speaking to the Manchester Evening News, Omosivie, who lives in the property with her children Emeka Junior, 15, Chiamka, 11 Ogechi, nine and Adaora, two, said: “He shares the same bed as his sister. When he turned 15, we were hoping we could have a bigger place and he could have his own bed.

“We’ve complained to the council loads of times. We applied for a four-bedroom house but they don’t have enough houses. I’ve tried to look into private rented housing loads of times but I can’t afford it.

“My second daughter sleeps in the same room with me but I managed to get a small bed for her,” she continued. “The little one sleeps in the bed with me.

“I’m really worried about my son because he’s still complaining that if we don’t get a bigger place he’s going to walk away. He’s only 15, when he’s at home he fights with his sister most of the time.

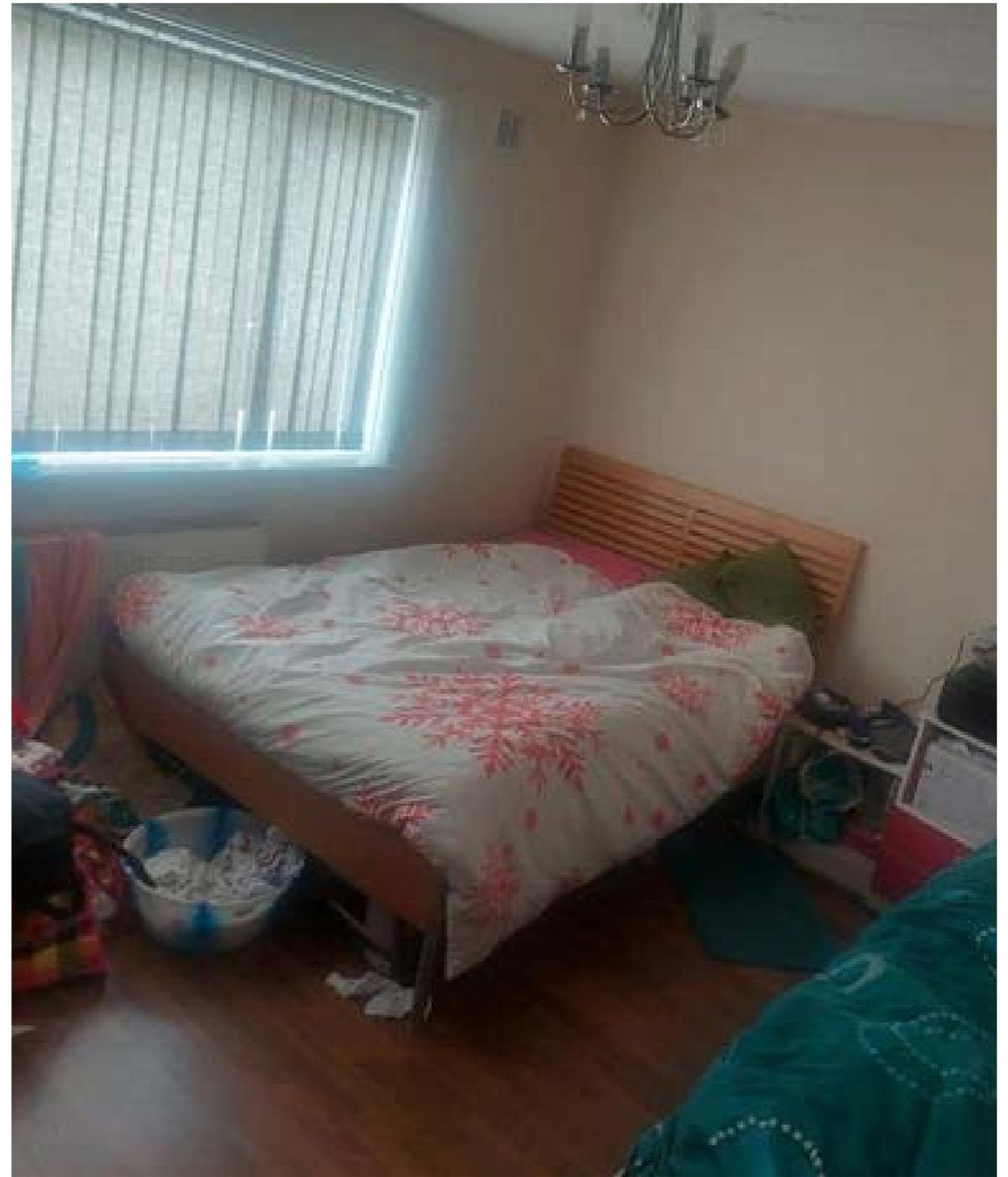
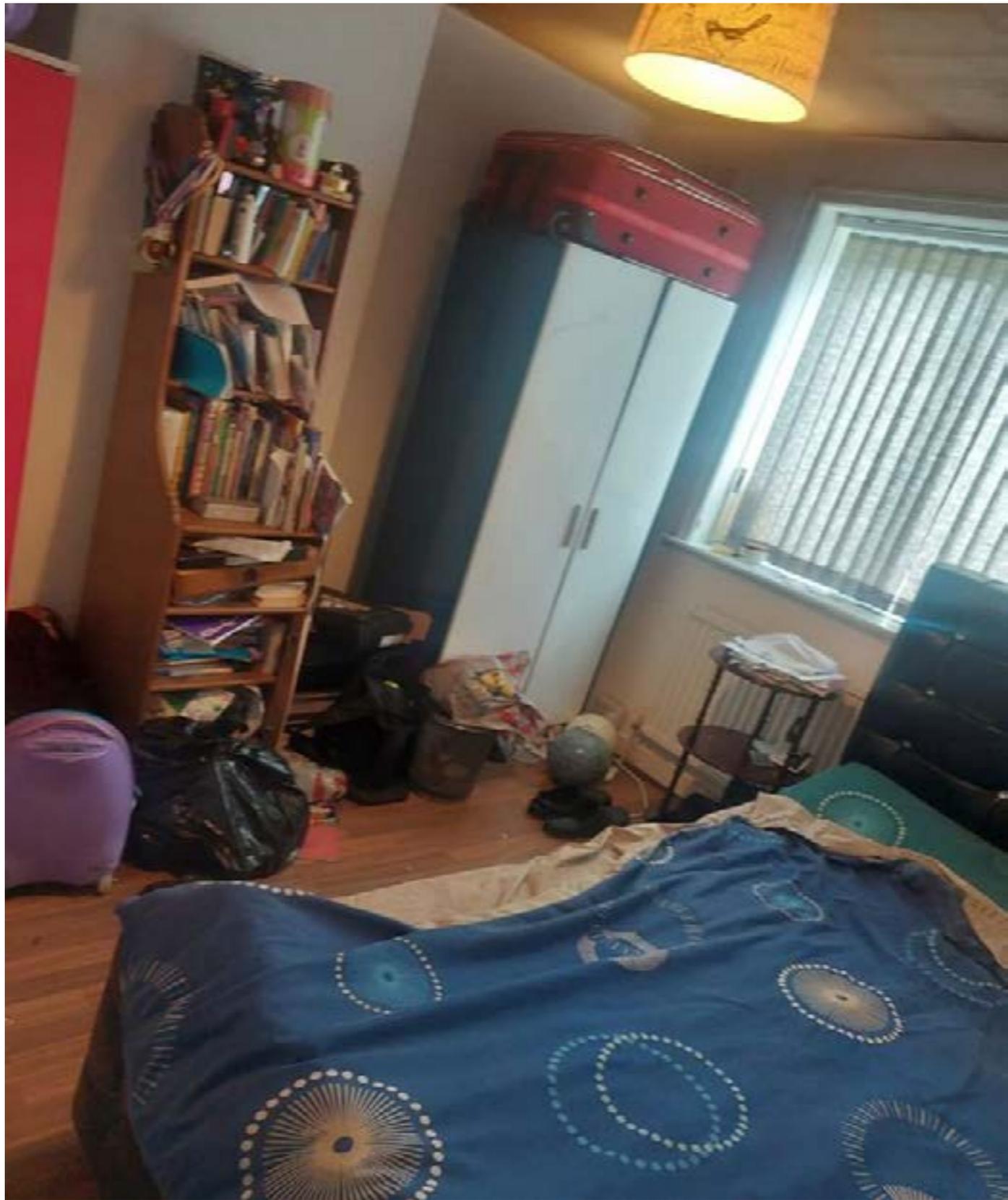
“I’m really depressed – very, very depressed. I don’t even sleep. The amount of time I sleep every day is two hours and I’m awake during the night. It’s so horrible. It’s really horrible.”

A spokesperson for Manchester City Council said: “Ms Eze has been placed in priority band 2 for rehousing, which recognises that her family are currently living in an overcrowded privately rented home. She requires a four-bedroom social property and has indicated that she does not wish to consider moving to another private rented home.

“Unfortunately, there are a high number of priority band 1 residents awaiting a four-bedroom property and this means people currently in band 2 will wait longer for a social home to become available.

“The City Council is committed to increasing the number of affordable and social homes in the city, including larger family homes, to meet growing demand and help to reduce the time residents are waiting for a home through the city’s social housing allocations system, Manchester Move.”







## Eto'o and not paying child support: Mother and daughter can die for all I care, leave me in peace



By: Okunlola Kayode F.  
Senior writer  
Lagos, Nigeria

## Sports

Former footballer's ex-wife goes public with situation. Former professional footballer Samuel Eto'o is embroiled in controversy after it came to light that he does not pay child support for his daughter.

Additionally, some harsh statements have been revealed where he demanded a friend not to bother him with this issue because for him they do not exist, it is as if she and her mother were dead.

Although Erika Eto'o do Rosario is legally the Cameroonian's daughter, the sportsman continues not to fulfil any of his obligations as a father. That is why, four years after discovering the identity of her father and after having obtained the corresponding legal recognition, the young woman has started, together with her mother, a new legal battle. They are claiming from Eto'o the 1,400 euros per month that a judge decreed he should pay as child support, according to information gathered by El Mundo. The amount has never been paid and the sum owed is now close to 40,000 euros.

The mother, Adileusa 'Dee Dee' do Rosario has spoken to La Vanguardia and stresses that what is being claimed from the former Barcelona footballer is all for her daughter. "He has never given her anything. He hasn't even given the child a lollipop since the day she was born," Adileusa told La Vanguardia.

"Absolutely nothing, not even with a court decision.

"She has grown up without her father and she feels very sorry for him because he has not even given her the opportunity to meet him."

The mother's anger is such that she does not hesitate to share the harshest details of the non-existent relationship between the ex-footballer and his daughter.

The sportsman's ignorance of everything that had to do with Erika goes as far as his not knowing about the operation that the girl underwent when she was three and a half years old, when she ended up having a kidney removed.

"The doctors needed to know the medical history of the parents, to find out if there was a history," said Adileusa.

"She was three and a half years old. I contacted a mutual friend and he said he'd rather not insist.

"Look, Dee Dee, I've already told him and the last time he said 'I don't care if the mother and child die, leave me alone'. I was absolutely broken."

Samuel Eto'o and his history of paternity suits

The case of Erika Eto'o is not the first paternity suit involving the Cameroonian former footballer that has ended up being resolved in court.

In 2004, a court in Palma de Mallorca ruled in favour of Anna Barranca, a young woman he met in Palma de Mallorca and with whom he had a three-month relationship that ended when she became pregnant.

However, over the years, Samuel Eto'o has been dodging the payment of the alimony imposed by the judge and both Barranca and her daughter Annie have taken him to court on at least two other occasions (2019 and 2020) in the hope that the Cameroonian sportsman will pay them the arrears (of 10,000 per month) he's run up in child support payments due.

In addition, in 2018, the mother of another of his children, Maria Angeles Pineda, demanded the payment of 16,400 euros in alimony owed by the player. Initially, Eto'o was supposed to pay her 3,000 euros a month, but the amount was reduced to 900 euros after the footballer agreed to pay the child's school fees. However, he has not paid this amount either.



## **Bobby Brown couldn't date 'crush' Janet Jackson because her dad disapproved**

# Entertainment



Bunmi Johnson  
Bureau-Chief  
New York

**B**obby Brown has opened up about his doom romance with Janet Jackson, calling her the 'crush of my life' but admitting they couldn't be together because her dad Joe didn't like him.

Bobby Brown was totally smitten with Janet Jackson but they couldn't have a relationship because her strict dad didn't approve of him.

The New Edition star has opened up about his doomed romance with Michael Jackson's singer sister, admitting he had a huge crush on her but the relationship didn't last very long because they were from different backgrounds.

Speaking in an A E 'Biography' special, Bobby explained: "I had a big crush on Janet. Everything. Her little smile, her body, dance moves, her little laugh." "We loved each other's company."

However, he revealed the romance didn't last and he's convinced it's because Janet's notoriously strict father Joe Jackson didn't want her dating a man from the "hood". "Her father wouldn't allow her to be with someone like me. Janet was the crush of my life."

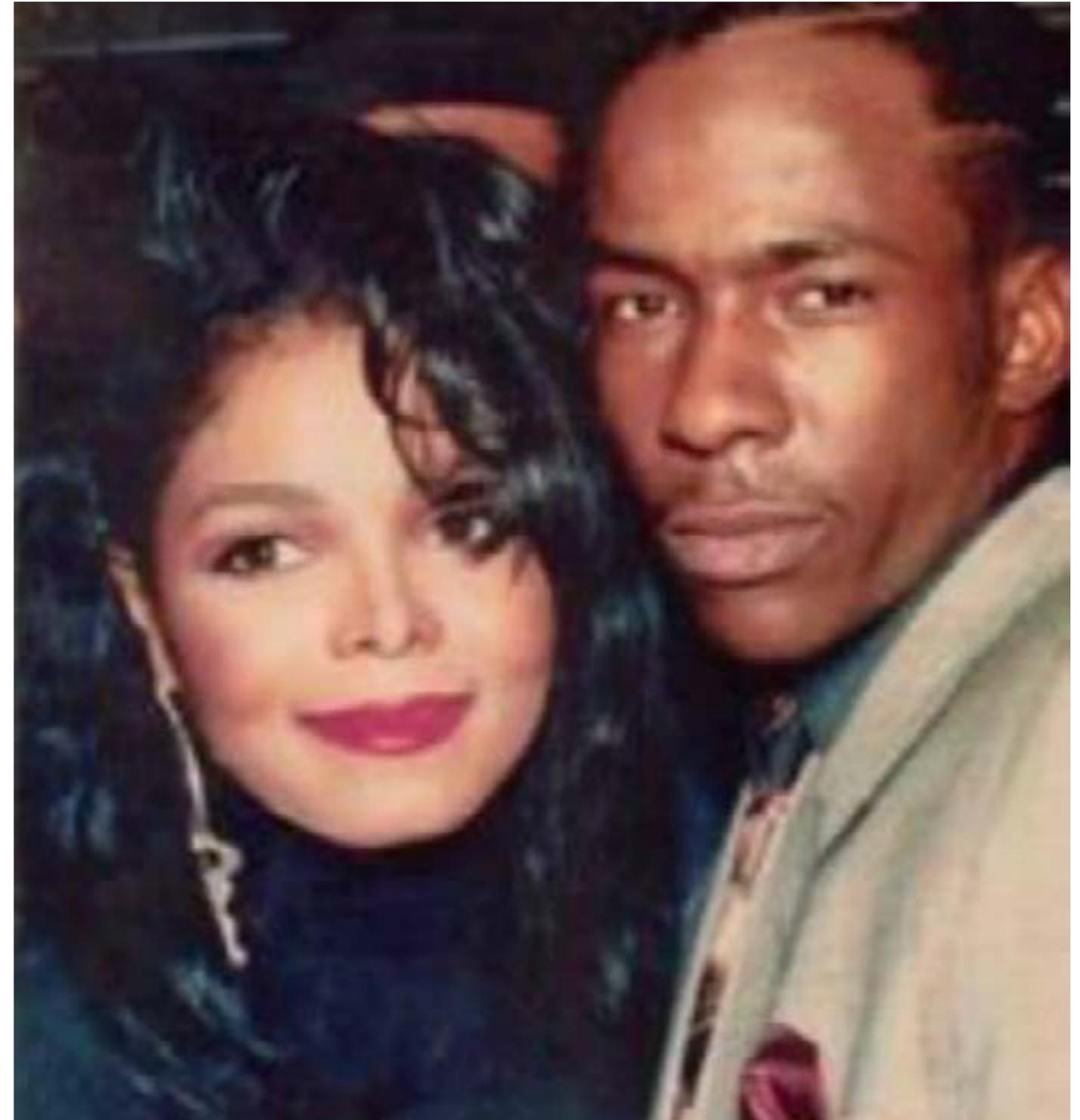
After his romance with Janet fizzled, Bobby went on to romance another very famous pop star - Whitney Houston.

The pair married in 1992 and their daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown was born in 1993. Bobby recently gave his thoughts on a new movie biopic based on Whitney's life titled 'I Wanna Dance with Somebody'.

It boasts actress Naomi Ackie in the lead role and Whitney's long-time pal Clive Davis among the producers.

Speaking with Billboard, Bobby insisted he hopes the film focuses on Whitney's music rather than her troubled personal life. He said: "I truly hope that they let her rest and also let our relationship rest. I don't know anything about the biopic that Clive is doing. "But hopefully it won't dive into our relationship. Hopefully it will be more about the music and not about her personal life."

The superstar singer spent years battling drug problems and died in 2012 at the age of 50.



**A-Choices magazine Associate Editor Albena A. Jones receives a prestigious award in Bulgaria!**

**“To be presented with the International Achievements Award at Mrs. Lady of the Year 2022 was an exceptional delight! My gratitude to the organisers Mrs. Universe Ltd.- Megi Savova for the nomination, to Junona FH Sofia for the beautiful evening dress and to my friends and loved ones for the support”! -Albena A. Jones**

**A Big Congratulations from all of us at A-Choices!**



















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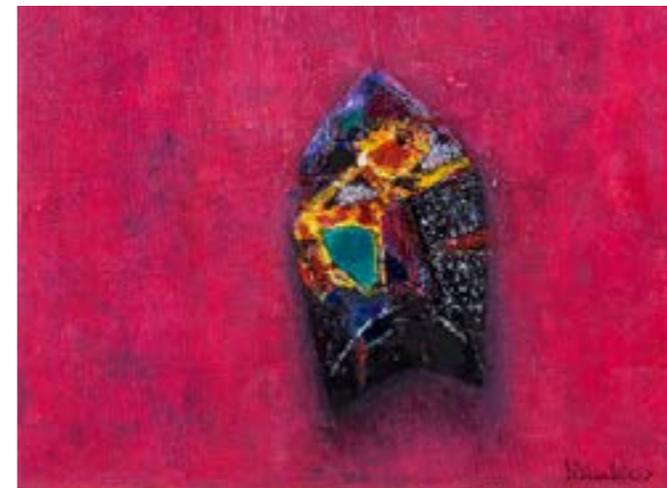
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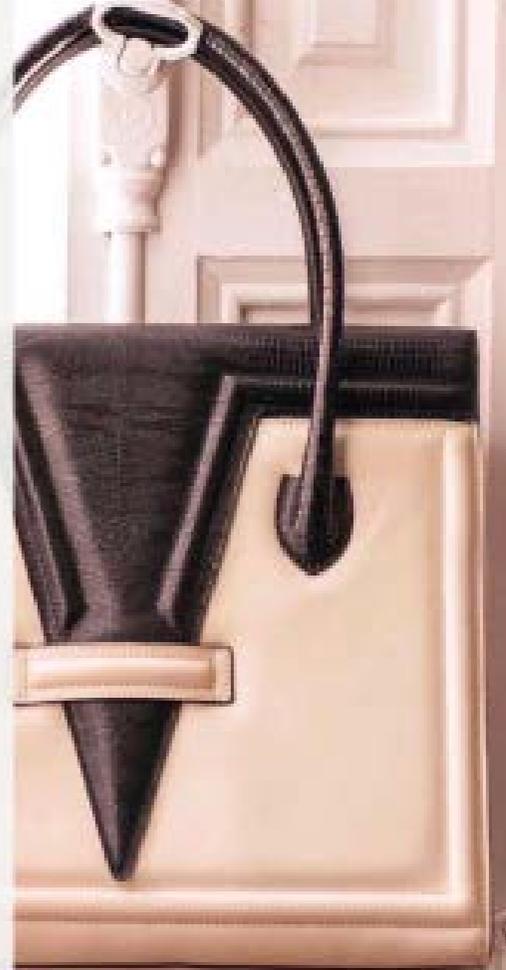
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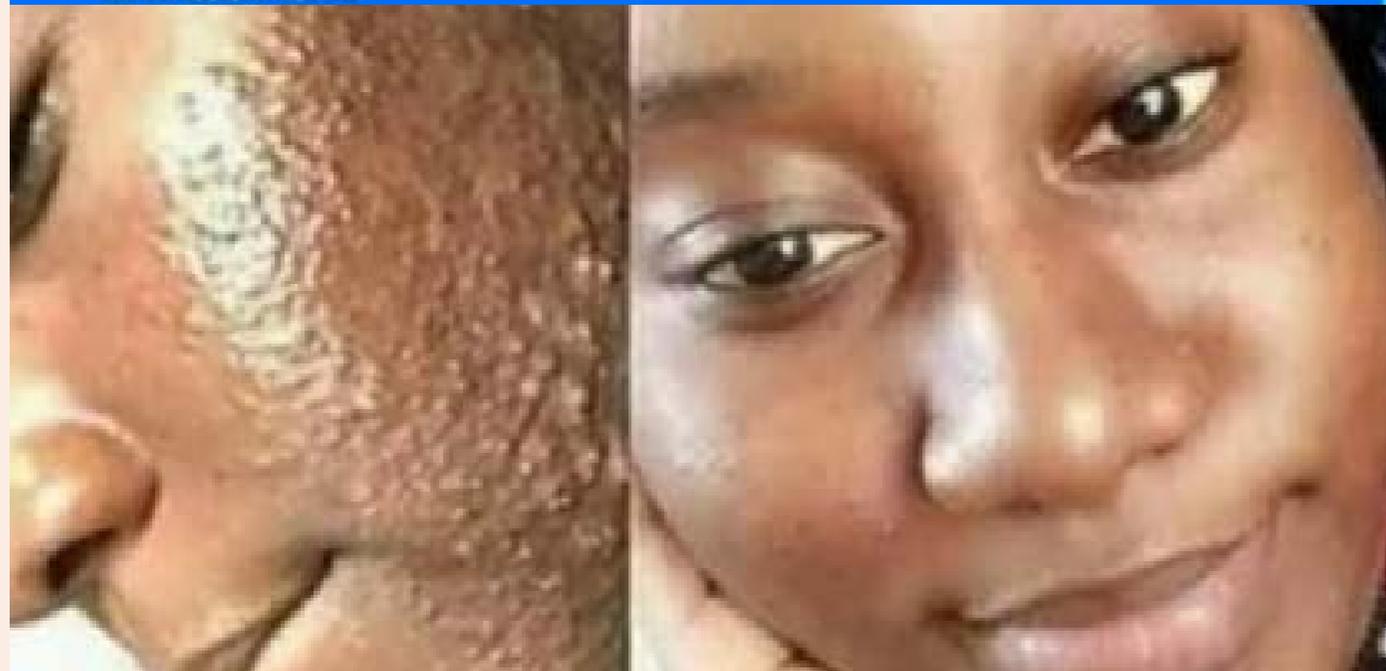


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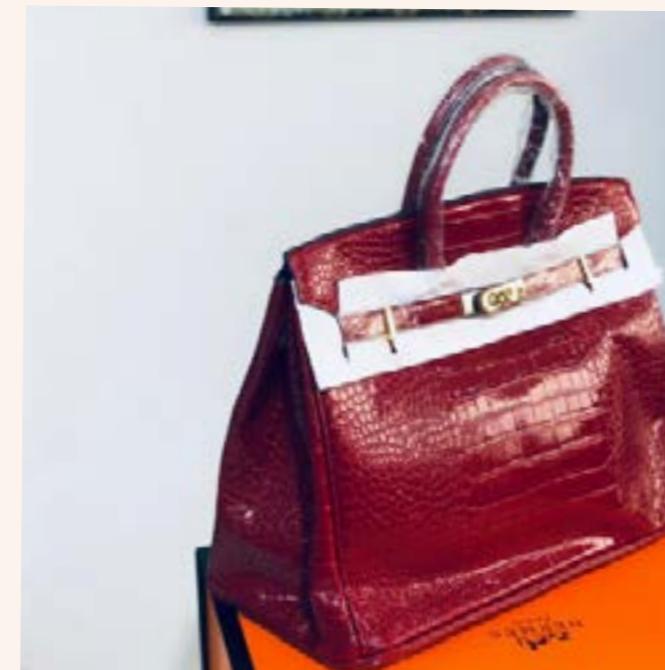
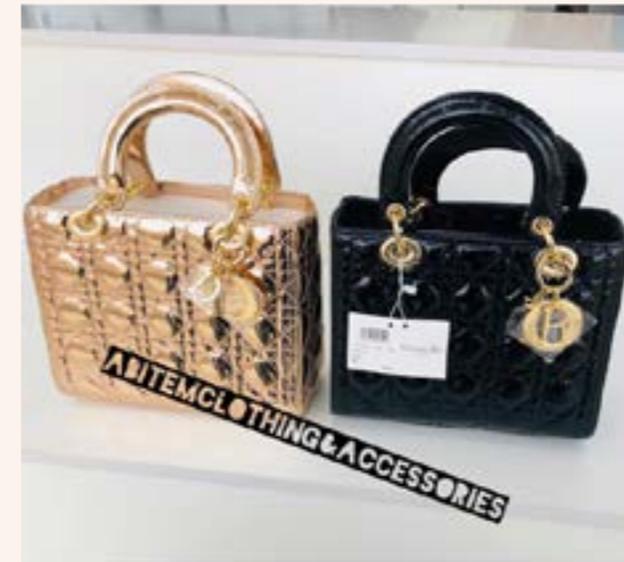
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# HOW TO BECOME A BULGARIAN PERMANENT RESIDENT OR CITIZEN BY WAY OF PURCHASING PROPERTY

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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