



Nubiart Diary

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'A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THE AFRIKAN WORLD'

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- ~ Barbara Campbell (- 28 Dec 2019). Journalist. Publisher. Editor. Mentor.
- ~ Kobe Bean Bryant (23 Aug 1978 - 26 Jan 2020). Basketball star. Coach. Filmmaker. Motivational speaker.
- ~ Kenneth Lynch, OBE (18 Mar 1938 – 18 Dec 2019). Singer. Songwriter. Entertainer. Actor. Nightclub owner. Events promoter.
- ~ Vincent Chukwuemeka Ike (28 Apr 1931 – 8 Jan 2020). Chief. Writer. Academic.
- ~ Francisco Brennand / Francisco de Paula de Almeida Brennand (11 June 1927 – 19 Dec 2019).

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

- ~ CODE OF DELIVERANCE: VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 (THE CURE) - Von Mozar (Author) & Nicholas L Harrison (Editor) [IPNM / Harrick Media Ltd. ISBN: 978-1093594201]

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- ~ SLY & ROBBIE VS. ROOTS RADICS - THE FINAL BATTLE – Various Artists [Serious Reggae – Out Now]
- ~ 'MORE WORK TO BE DONE' – Third World [Ghetto Youths International – Out Now]

NUBIART LIBRARY – JAN MEDIA

- ~ 'DJEHUTY/HERMES: FOUNDATIONAL PHILOSOPHER IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (SLAVERY, THE VATICAN INQUISITION, SACRED INITIATION & THE AFRICAN WORLD)' - Amon Saba Saakana [Karnak House / Per Rekh Mdw Press. ISBN: 978-1-872596-31-0]

NUBIART DIARY

NUBIART EDITORIALS

Nubiart Editorials for previous years are available as annual reviews in MS Word. To receive them e-mail us stating which year you are interested in. You can view the video of the Arts section for this edition on Youtube.

The video for the arts section of Nubiart Diary No.424 is at: <https://youtu.be/IIR-nxX1JuY>

The video for the arts section of Nubiart Diary No.423 is at: <https://youtu.be/4Y1VWBACO14>

The video for the arts section of Nubiart Diary No.422 is at: <https://lnkd.in/gFsXW2H> or

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAYE_JsWoDg

LYRICS & SPIRITS

“May their knives never get the mastery over me, may I never fall under their instruments of cruelty, for I know their names, and I know the being Matchet who is among them in the house of Osiris, shooting rays of light from [his] eye, but he himself is unseen.” – Ch. 17, *The Papyrus of Ani*



~ ISFET

(Disorder - Kemet)

“O ye gods of the underworld, who set yourself up against me, and who resist the mighty ones, the stars which never set have led me on my way.” - *Ch. 78, The Papyrus of Ani*

Part One

Another Sunday on my own

Sitting waiting for you to phone

Like you promised

But you left me so alone

Contemplating the truth

As an honest, conscientious youth

Living only on hope

When what I need is proof

Here I stand crying again
Needing the pleasure, feeling the pain
'Woe, Woe, Woe is me!'
The sad, lonely refrain

Part Two

But in lands and times of corruption
The honest man is king
You cheated, you lied
Are you no longer Afrikan?

There's nothing so whole as a broken heart
Is that to be my part?
Life begins where books end
I'm looking through you, where do you start?

'Modern', 'Twenties', 'New', 'Independent'
Women and men reject tradition
And cycles for lines.
Distant relations / dysfunctional relationships.
© *Kubara Zamani* – 19 Jun 1998

AFRIKAN WORLDVIEW UPDATE



Image copyright AFP / UN

Over 1,300 people died after Cyclone
Idai hit Mozambique and Zimbabwe

~ AFRIKANS AND OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE SUFFER MOST FROM CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate specialist Richard Washington has said in a recent report that Afrika is more vulnerable than any other region to the world's changing weather patterns. The four key reasons for this are: Afrikan societies are very closely linked to the climate system with hundreds of millions of people depend on rainfall to grow their food; the Afrikan climate system is controlled by a complex mix of large-scale

weather systems from distant parts of the planet but is vastly understudied leaving scope for unexpected impacts; the scale of the expected climate change is large with the two most extensive land-based end-of-century projected decreases in rainfall anywhere on the planet occurring in north and southern Africa; many African societies lack the capacity for adaptation to climate change due to poverty and the repeated failure of governments to prioritise strategies to cope with climate change.



Image copyright AFP
Sahara dust storms

The Sahara has few systems for taking weather measurements yet is central to the West African monsoon system responsible for the three months of rain that interrupts the nine-month long dry season in the Sahel region, south of the desert. Rainfall has been declining for decades leading to famine, mass displacement and the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and the displacement of many millions. The long period of drought covering such a vast area has been caused by Western industrial aerosol pollution which cooled parts of the global ocean altering the monsoon system.

Southern Africa is facing a delay in the onset and a drying of early summer rains meaning temperatures are predicted to rise by more than five degrees especially in areas of Namibia, Botswana and Zambia that are already intolerably hot. In east African countries such as Kenya and Tanzania the long rains from March to May have been starting later and ending sooner. Central Africa is one of the three regions on earth where thunderstorms drive the rest of the planet's tropical and sub-tropical weather systems. It is at the rainfall minimum needed to support the world's second largest rainforest system. Any further decline could endanger the forest and its massive carbon store.

Each region and sub-region of Africa is changing differently but an emerging commonality is a shift towards more intense rainfall - even where there is observed and projected future drying. The rainfall arrives in shorter bursts, causing more runoff instead of seeping into the water table as happened in the past and thus longer dry-spells in between.



The aftermath of Cyclone Idai

in Mozambique, 15-16 March
2019. Credit: Denis Onyodi /
IFRC / DRK / Climate Centre.

Cyclone Idai on southern Africa's east coast was the most powerful storm in Mozambique's recorded history when it hit last March. However, it was then surpassed by Cyclone Kenneth a month later. Large areas of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe were affected with over 1,300 fatalities and 1.8 million people affected as basic infrastructure, entire villages and their surrounding farmlands were deluged by the flood. People were so hungry that they were fishing for individual grains of rice from the floodwaters. Given the scale of the disasters the \$1.3bn pledged mainly from international donors would not be enough to rebuild even if all the promised money was forthcoming.

This is an example of how climate change and other environmental threats and unexpected extreme weather events will hit the poorest countries hardest. With no stability or economic prospects the number of refugees will only increase. In the south of the continent the destination of choice is South Afrika. However, they may find little succor there. The stage 6 power cuts faced by South Africa at the end of last year may have their immediate roots in corruption and poor planning but they were precipitated by a week of relentless, unseasonal rain which soaked the coal supplies, making them unusable. In the north of the continent a changing climate is at the core of much of the conflict in the Sahel and in the basin of the disappearing Lake Chad. It is behind the decrease in fish catches in east Africa's Great Lakes region. It also explains why Egypt is so strident about Ethiopia building the GERD Dam as its farmers do not have enough water for their own crops.



Image copyright Getty Images

Millions of Ethiopians took part in a
tree planting day across the country

Ethiopia undertook a major national reforestation programme this year, with the ambitious target of planting four billion trees in just three months. On one day last July people across the country turned out to help plant up to 350 million tree seedlings on 6.5 million hectares of rural land. It was part of the Green Legacy Initiative championed by the country's Nobel peace prize-winning Prime Minister, Abiy Ahmed. The country has pledged to restore 15 million hectares of degraded forests and landscapes by 2030. It seeks to reverse a decline in forest cover which stands at only 15%, down from 40% 50 years ago.

Many of the indigenous-knowledge systems and techniques for predicting and preparing for changing weather are no longer working as well as industrialisation, urbanisation and enclosure present their own challenges. Afrikan-derived solutions include building on higher ground or on stilts and instituting early warning systems and designated safe gathering points to prevent large-scale deaths from floods.



Indigenous groups protest against Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's policies in Brasilia. Image by Karla Mendes / Mongabay.

At least ten indigenous people, including seven tribal leaders, were murdered in Brazil in 2019. This is the highest level for two decades. Murders of indigenous people made up 37% of all rural killings this year, up from 7% in 2018. Most violence is in the state of Maranhão, in northeastern Brazil, where the Guajajara tribe are resisting illegal logging and Jair Bolsonaro's support for agribusiness and mining companies in the Amazon. According to data from CIMI land invasions in indigenous territories more than doubled in the last year. Over 153 different lands were encroached upon, with over 160 cases registered in the first nine months of 2019. Since Bolsonaro took office in Jan 2019, land invasions in indigenous territories have more than doubled from the same time period in 2018. Amazon Watch program director Christian Poirier said: "An institutionalized genocide of indigenous peoples is taking place in Brazil."

~ FRANCE'S FORMER WEST AFRIKAN COLONIES DITCH THE CFA FOR THE ECO

French President Emmanuel Macron confirmed on a visit to west Afrika at the end of last year that former colonies in the ECOWAS will be able to adopt the new Eco currency. He also claimed that the reserve of money Afrikan states were forced to keep in an account at the French Treasury will be eliminated. The move is a partial success for those campaigning for greater financial independence from the colonial region.

The change will affect the eight countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union: Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo, once they meet the Eco convergence criteria. They had been forced to keep at least 50% of their foreign exchange reserves in the French Treasury in return for a guarantee of convertibility with the Euro. In 2015, the countries transferred 19 billion euros to this account. Initially, the Eco will maintain a fixed parity with the Euro and its convertibility guarantee will always be provided by the Banque de France. There are fears that

France will maintain its control of the economies through the Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara as a way of ensuring there is no real independence and the Anglophone economies such as Nigeria and Ghana are unable to dominate the region's economy.

The CFA franc was the last colonial currency on the African continent and was used by 14 countries covering 187 million people. The CFA franc had always been overvalued leading to low domestic and export competitiveness reflecting economies producing and exporting primary goods and importing nearly everything else. France was thus able to rebuild after the Second Imperialist World War at the expense of its former colonies as it could buy raw materials in its own currency at below world-market prices while maintaining currency, diplomatic, military and industrial control after countries gained their independence. In a typical example of double-speak in July 1960, French premier Michel Debré wrote to his Gabonese counterpart Léon Mba, "We grant independence on the condition that the independent state endeavors to respect the cooperation agreements ... The one does not go without the other."

Countries that refused to accept French bullying were on the receiving end of the usual colonial machinations. Guinea, under the leadership of the trade unionist Sekou Toure, achieved independence in 1958 and exited the franc zone in 1960. In retaliation, the French secret services flooded its economy with counterfeit banknotes completely sabotaging the Guinean economy. In Togo Sylvanus Olympio formally created a national central bank on 12 Dec 1962. On 13 Jan 1963 he was killed by Togolese soldiers trained in France and the plans for a national currency were dropped. Eventually, Mali, Madagascar and Mauritania did manage to escape the clutches of the franc zone.

The other countries - Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Gabon, Congo, and the former Spanish colony of Equatorial Guinea, plus the Comoros Islands - will retain the CFA until a finance strategy is developed for their region.

~ FRANCE PROMISES TO RETURN LOOTED BENIN STATUES BY 2021

The French Culture Minister Franck Riester has confirmed that his government will return artworks looted from Benin during the colonial conquest of the region. Speaking on a visit to Benin he said 26 thrones and statues now in the Quai Branly museum in Paris would be sent back next year. They were stolen in 1892 during a colonial war against the then Kingdom of Dahomey. During the colonial period hundreds of thousands of cultural artifacts were seized from the continent by Western countries. With the Quai Branly Museum having 46,000 pieces in its Afrika collection mostly acquired by force or deceit. Benin is planning a proper exhibition facility to house its treasures.

~ LIBERIA SENDS 'HAZARDOUS WASTE' BACK

Liberia is to return four shipping containers stuffed with tonnes of hazardous polyethylene waste bags that had been smuggled into Liberia 'under the pretext of being recyclable materials' back to Greece.

Environment Protect Agency head Nathaniel Blama said anti-smuggling officers raised the alarm at the port of Monrovia when containers arrived 'oozing some odour'. The EPA said the type of plastic bags were banned from being recycled or re-used in Greece. They were sold to a waste dealer who shipped them to Liberia with the consignment being deliberately misregistered. More countries are refusing to take industrial waste from western countries due to anti-pollution polices and local bans on single-use plastics leaving a dilemma for the world's major polluting and excessive consumption nations. Liberia has a 350-mile coastline which is underpatrolled meaning they have to be concerned that toxins will be dumped in its seas polluting the waters and affecting their fishing fleet.

MONEY WORRIES



Neil Woodford – the unacceptable face of pyramid investment and Ponzi schemes © Rex Features

~ FRAUDSTERS 'OPERATE WITH IMPUNITY' IN BRITAIN

A new report by ex-Met Police Deputy Commissioner Sir Craig Mackey has uncovered the extent to which fraudsters "operate with impunity" with fraud now making up a third of all crimes in Britain. Despite a 15% rise in reports to around nearly 2,000 fraud offences being committed daily in England and Wales but only 2% of offences led to prosecutions. That's lower than the woeful record on rape and sexual offences.

Less than 1% of officers investigate fraud and anyone who has had the misfortune to be a victim can testify to the complete indifference shown to pursuing suspects and cases. Around 86% of fraud is committed online and in 78% of cases the suspects and offenders do not live in the same area. Victims of fraud must report it to the Action Fraud call centre and computer systems which are run by private companies, overseen by the City of London Police. The review found that call handlers for Action Fraud had mocked victims and misled people into thinking they were dealing with the police.

An investigation for the Times newspaper published last August found that: Call handlers responsible for recording victims' fraud reports undertook just two weeks' training and were taught to mislead callers into thinking they are talking to police officers; They quickly decide during calls whether or not to categorise victims' reports as crimes, but are told never to reveal this to victims; Staff took fraud calls while distracted, napping or play-fighting; Managers admitted that the police "do absolutely

everything in their power to avoid" investigating fraud. Mackey visited Action Fraud following the newspaper's article and found several staff had been dismissed while others were warned over their unprofessional and unhelpful behaviour.

The frauds are not just being committed by faceless people online but by the confidence tricksters in suits and ties who have mastered the arts of contract fraud which Britain has exported around the world over the past five centuries. The 300,000 investors in supposed 'King Midas' Neil Woodford's range of equity accounts will only receive between 46-59p per share compared with 100p launch price of five years ago after it was closed down last June. The Woodford Equity Income fund was at one point valued at £10bn but suffered when asked for their £200m investment back and found that the fund had been investing in high-risk illiquid funds against Financial Conduct Authority guidelines and did not have access to that level of liquid funds.

The administrators, Link Asset Solutions, said about £2.1bn will be returned to investors. A well-managed fund would expect to gain 31% giving the trading conditions of the past five years. Terry Smith, who has attracted billions into his Fundsmith Equity said: "The most obvious problem at Woodford was the lethal combination of a daily-dealing open-ended fund with significant holdings in unquoted companies and large percentage stakes in small quoted companies which had very limited liquidity."

Hargreaves Lansdown had Woodford Equity Income on its list of favoured investments and has been criticised for either not spotting the problems or covering them up. Woodford funds invested in failing and troubled stocks such as Provident Financial, Kier construction and the outsourcing company Capita. Despite this Woodford and his cronies took dividends of £13m for themselves in the previous year giving the pretence that their funds were well-managed. This is a classic pyramid scheme behaviour where the early investors take their profits from the later investors without adding any actual value. They hope to leave the firm before they are rumbled or else declare various forms of bankruptcy protection at the last minute meaning they have got away with all the money they had been taking out of the firm in the previous years.

This is symptomatic of the British way of doing business with firms racking up unsustainable debts without proper oversight. London Capital and Finance investors have been told that much of their money was not covered by the FCA and Financial Services Compensation Scheme. LC&F sold £236m of mini-bonds that promised strong returns of 8% to 11,400 customers. Only 159 affected customers will receive compensation as although the firm was regulated the bonds weren't. Those who have lost out will have to try and recoup their losses by claiming they were missold. The former high court judge Dame Elizabeth Gloster is looking into how the FCA regulated LC&F before its collapse allowing them to openly solicit funds without saying a word.

M&G's £2.5bn property fund was suspended on 4 Dec 2019 because they are unable to easily sell their illiquid holdings such as retail parks and shopping centres. Investors in the collapsed doorstep lender Wonga will only receive 4.3% of their investment from the administrators. The Thomas Cook airline and package holiday company, which had been around for nearly two centuries, collapsed with debts of £9bn and owing £535m and staff £45m in salaries and pension contributions. Patisserie Valerie is still trading but discovered a massive accounting fraud leading it to close stores. Tesco discovered a £230m 'shortfall' in its accounts. Ted Baker claims it 'overestimated' its stock value by £25m. It sells shirts and ties, how hard is that to count when they all have RFID tags? Debenhams and House of Fraser are closing stores unable to raise capital as prospective investors don't trust their reported accounts and prospects for survival.

Andrew Bailey, who was in charge of the FCA while all these firms were collapsing and misreporting their accounts, has been appointed as the Governor of the Bank of England leading Shadow Chancellor John McDonnell, to observe: "This isn't just about the failure of Woodford. More importantly it's about the failure of the regulatory system and in particular the FCA. I repeat my call for a fully independent inquiry into this debacle including the role of the FCA. Until we have the results of such an inquiry I have recommended to the chancellor that it is only proper that he delays the installation of Mr [Andrew] Bailey as the governor of the Bank of England."

The Bank of England has its own financial scandal after it was revealed that the back-up audio feed from its rate setting meetings was being accessed by high-volume investors six seconds before the live visual feed was released. In these days of computerised trading and calculations taking place at fractions of a second this meant that the Bank had effectively been giving away access to critical information that allowed those in the know to profit by 'gambling' investors money already knowing the outcome. In a firm this would be classed as some form of illegal insider dealing but who regulates the regulators – only their confederates and co-conspirators, if at all.



Big Four accounting firms - EY, PwC, KPMG, Deloitte The Big Four accountancy firms only make a fifth of their revenue from auditing © Alamy, Bloomberg

There have been concerns expressed that most of the FTSE 100 and 250 members are audited and advised by the same 4-6 accounting firms leading to conflicts of interest as firms want to gain the lucrative consultancy fees so don't bother to do rigorous audits or if they do find discrepancies they

use sleight of hand to cover it up. At the end of last year the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy was probing the capital strength and insurance provisions of PwC, Deloitte, EY, KPMG, Grant Thornton and BDO.

Among 19 questions, the letter asked: “Why shouldn’t you be holding additional equity capital given the risks that your audit business faces? What is the extent of [guarantees from the international network and your UK non-audit business] and can they be withdrawn unilaterally such as at times of distress?”

BEIS also asked the firms to share their “contingency planning” for the risk of failure at any large audit firm, which would disrupt the provision of audit services and the overall stability of the UK financial system and explain in detail by what performance measures their auditors are paid and what service lines they believed should sit within an independent audit practice that was separate from its consulting units.

The large audit firms face big regulatory fines and litigation after a raft of flawed audits contributed to the collapse of businesses leaving creditors and investors out of pocket. Grant Thornton lost a £21m negligence lawsuit brought by its former client Assetco, while PwC was fined £10m — reduced to £6.5m after a settlement — for misconduct in its audits of BHS. Over in the US KPMG was ordered to pay \$50m by the Securities and Exchange Commission for “ethical failures” in June. While PwC division paid \$335m in damages for negligence in its audit of Colonial Bank in Alabama.

Unlike banks and insurers, audit firms do not hold minimum levels of capital and each of the six largest firms operates as a limited liability partnership. The firms need to have professional indemnity insurance with a minimum cover of £1.5m, but the scale of the failings and frauds has led to soaring insurance bills.

The current case before the courts concerns whistleblower Amjad Rihan, an EY partner based in the firm’s Dubai office, who is suing the firm over allegations it covered up a money laundering scandal. EY had been engaged by Dubai-based gold bullion company Kaloti Jewellery International to carry out an audit of its adherence with Dubai regulations. The defendants, EY Global, EY Europe, EY EMEIA and EYGS, accepted that the EY report revealed “serious non-compliance” by Kaloti with Dubai Multi Commodities Centre (DMCC) regulations.

EY conceded that in 2013 Kaloti had received large quantities of gold coated in silver from Morocco which had been declared as gold to Dubai authorities but may have been declared as silver to Morocco authorities to evade export restrictions. It has emerged that 40% of Kaloti’s business - \$5.2bn (£4bn) - was conducted in cash. Kaloti accepted two tons of gold from walk-in customers

without carrying out proper know-your-client tests, and also bought gold from Sudan, an armed conflict zone.

In 2013 Rihan fled Dubai and resigned from EY. He published the audit findings in 2014. EY rejected Rihan's claims and accused him of breaking confidentiality between EY and its client. Rihan said: "I believe there is clear evidence that EY, amongst its many failings during the course of this audit, covered up the fact that Kaloti was importing large quantities of silver-coated gold. EY now admits this provided reasonable grounds for knowing or suspecting that Kaloti was engaged in money laundering. The investigations by British and French journalists have now shown that those transactions have facilitated the laundering of proceeds of drug trafficking in the UK and several European countries. This demonstrates the devastating impact on society caused by major international accountancy firms sacrificing their independence and integrity to appease their clients' interests."



Giovanni Ferrero is the richest man in Italy, with a £24bn fortune.

© Giuseppe Cacace / AFP / Getty

~ FERRERO TO PAY £542M DIVIDEND, PAYS ONLY £500,000 TAX IN BRITAIN IN A DECADE

Giovanni Ferrero, from the Italian chocolatier that makes Kinder Surprise, Nutella and Ferrero Rocher, is paying himself and his family a €642m (£542m) annual dividend. The company paid just £110,000 tax in Britain for the year to 2019 despite selling £419m worth of chocolates and other snacks in the country. Ferrero is Italy's richest man with a €29bn (£24bn) fortune and his family has taken more than €2bn in dividends from the firm in the past decade. In that time they have paid less than £500,000 in taxes in Britain. The division paid a £334m 'cost of sales' charge to Ferrero's holding company in low-tax Luxembourg thus recording a pre-tax profit of just £9.7m. Ferrero UK said it had lost so much money in the country that it had stored up "unused tax losses of £22.5m available for offset against future profits".

Ferrero Group's executive chairman Giovanni Ferrero approved the huge dividend after the company made record profits of €928m last year. The dividend is paid to the Ferrero family's private wealth management office FEDESA in Monaco. Rachel Reeves, the Labour MP seeking to re-elected as Chairwoman of the Commons Business Select Committee, said: "British business is broken. We need far more scrutiny and transparency about the tax structures of these increasingly complex companies. At present, the big losers under the current system are British taxpayers, while the

winners are the big firms swelling their profit, boardroom salaries and dividends on the back of some highly questionable tax arrangements.”

Robert Leach, a tax accountant, said: “Ferrero Rocher appears to be shifting its profits overseas to reduce its UK tax liability. The company is shifting the profits to Luxembourg, and shifting that to Monaco – where there are no taxes. The UK company accounts show that Ferrero has not broken even for many years. No parent company would keep a loss-making company going year after year, the fact that Ferrero Group is doing so is in effect an admission that it is exporting profits. Basically, this is chocolate and hazelnut wrapped in some fancy packaging – it should not cost much to make. So I would ask the company, what is costing £334m? I would ask Giovanni Ferrero, ‘Why are you still selling chocolate in the UK, when you don’t make a profit?’”



© Reuters The Sackler family owns
Purdue Pharma maker of OxyContin

~ **SACKLER FAMILY WITHDREW \$10BN FROM PURDUE PHARMA**

Documents filed in court show that the billionaire Sackler family started to take far more money out of Oxycontin-producer Purdue Pharma after the firm and three executives pleaded guilty to misleading marketing about the risks of the powerful opioid painkiller in 2007. The family transferred around \$10.7bn (£8bn) out of Purdue Pharma between 2008 and 2017 distributing the billions among their other trusts and holding companies. This compares to the \$1.3bn withdrawn between 1995 and 2007.

Purdue Pharma, accused of fuelling the US opioid crisis through drugs like OxyContin, filed for bankruptcy protection last year to put thousands of lawsuits on hold in the hope of achieving a £10bn settlement. Daniel Connolly, a lawyer for one branch of the Sackler family, said that more than half of the money outlined in the audit was "paid in taxes and reinvested in businesses that will be sold as part of the proposed settlement."

Lawsuits filed by state and local governments allege Purdue and the Sacklers contributed to the health crisis that has claimed the lives of around 400,000 people since 1999 by aggressively promoting opioids while downplaying the risks of addiction and overdosing. The legal action is backed by over 2,800 plaintiffs, including two dozen US states. The Sackler family members have argued they were passive board members of Purdue Pharma, who approved routine management requests and were not involved with the marketing of OxyContin.



Leonardo DiCaprio as Jordan Belfort
in Scorsese's 'The Wolf of Wall Street'
© Mary Cybulski / Paramount Pictures / AP

~ **'THE WOLF OF WALL STREET' FILM FUNDED BY GLOBAL MONEY LAUNDERING SCAM**

The ongoing 1MDB money-laundering trial in Malaysia has revealed the extent to which multi-billion dollar fraud and money laundering are at the heart of the global financial system. The Malaysian entrepreneur Low Taek Jho, who now co-owns the EMI Group Limited music publishing company, funded the Leonardo DiCaprio film, 'The Wolf of Wall Street', which tells the story of the financial criminal Jordan Belfort. Low and DiCaprio partied together in Vegas and Low gave him the Basquiat 'Red Man' painting worth \$9.2m and a Picasso worth \$3.2m in 2013. Low spent \$3m on a launch party for 'The Wolf of Wall Street' before it was made.

Jordan Belfort's memoir, 'The Wolf of Wall Street', was published in 2007 after he was released from 22 months in jail for securities fraud relating to his activities in the 1980s and 90s with his brokerage firm Stratton Oakmont. He had to pay back more than \$110m to his customers. A second memoir, 'Catching the Wolf of Wall Street', was published in 2009. Belfort is suing the film's financiers £300m for fraud and breach of contract. His lawyer said: "Red Granite and its principals did not disclose to Mr Belfort that they were using funds obtained from engaging in racketeering and other criminal activity ... Had Mr Belfort known those facts, he would have never agreed to enter into this contract."

Two producers of the original 'Dumb and Dumber' were excluded from the sequel and countersued Red Granite, which made both that movie and 'The Wolf of Wall Street'. The veteran producers claimed in their lawsuit: "Red Granite is funded with monies that include proceeds from offenses against a foreign nation that involve bribery of public officials, or misappropriation, theft or embezzlement of public funds by a public official. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that public officials in Asia and the Middle East have taken bribes and/or misappropriated, stolen or embezzled funds, and that those ill-gotten funds have then been invested in Red Granite."

The US government filed a criminal asset forfeiture claim against DeCaprio and demanded he return the artwork and the Oscar that Marlon Brando won for 'On the Waterfront' that DiCaprio had been given as a gift. He was also asked to testify against Low, who had also bought another Basquiat, 'Dust Heads', which cost him \$48.8m, a record at the time for a work by the artist. Low bought a Rothko for \$71.5m and further works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet, Lichtenstein, Diane Arbus, Andy Warhol and more Basquiats as investments.

Low was educated at the Harrow private school in London and his classmates included the sons of kings and top government officials from across the world. Low was good with numbers and sharp-minded and thus became an entrepreneur. He said: "Harrow had lots of children of prominent European, Asian and Middle Eastern families. That's when I met the former King of Jordan's son, among others. ... That's when I felt that I built the core foundation of contacts for the future. That's quite important, because that's when you know them as friends, and you build the trust level for the future as opposed to meeting someone during the course of your business life."

Low then went to the Wharton School of Business where he was known as 'the Asian Great Gatsby.' He was attracted to the blonde daughters of rich and famous American families. He once invited his Wharton classmate Ivanka Trump on a gambling trip to Atlantic City but she declined as she claimed she never went in her father's casinos and he developed a crush on Paris Hilton.

When a much wealthier Low returned to the US in 2009 Jamie Foxx reportedly gave Low a sports car as a birthday present and Megan Fox was flown out to Vegas to hang out with him at Caesar's Palace. Low paid Paris Hilton \$100,000 each time he hung out with her reaching to over \$1m. In the book 'Billion Dollar Whale' by Tom Wright and Bradley Hope, "Between October 2009 and June 2010 — a period of only eight months — Low and his entourage spent \$85 million on alcohol, gambling in Vegas, private jets, renting super yachts and to pay Playmates and Hollywood celebrities to hang out with them."

When Low returned to Malaysia he helped "a Kuwaiti bank purchase a high-rise complex." He then "formed an investment group that included a Malaysian prince, a Kuwaiti sheikh and a friend from the United Arab Emirates who went on to become ambassador to the United States and Mexico." Low then partnered with Riza Aziz, a friend from his schooldays whose stepfather, Najib Razak, would soon become the sixth Prime Minister of Malaysia. The trio created a state-owned development investment program, 1 Malaysian Development Berhad (1MDB). The Malaysian government partnered with a Saudi investment arm called PetroSaudi contributing \$2.5 billion to the 1MDB fund, ostensibly, for new infrastructure and oil development projects. Instead, \$700m was directed into a shell company called Good Star, which was owned and controlled by Low.

Over \$10bn was raised by 1MDB through a series of loans and bonds, with at least \$5bn disappearing. Malaysian investigators found that \$681m was deposited in the personal bank accounts of Prime Minister Najib which he claims was a gift from Saudi Arabia. There were a multitude of bribes to Malaysian officials in order for them to facilitate the fraud and embezzlement.

1MDB paid exorbitant fees to international investment banks with Goldman Sachs, as usual, at the front of the queue. Two of the bank's top executives in Asia, Tim Leissner and Roger Ng, ensured

that the 1MDB scheme would look like it was in compliance with financial regulations. The US Federal Reserve banned both of them from ever working in the banking industry. Goldman Sachs lied and said the money laundering crimes were conducted by rogue employees. The US DoJ is “investigating whether Goldman Sachs violated U.S. banking law in its handling of \$6.5 billion in bond offerings that it carried out for 1MDB. The Wall Street behemoth earned \$593 million in fees for the issue.”

Martin Scorsese, Kanye West, Pharrell, Salt-N-Pepa, Vanilla Ice, Jonah Hill and Bradley Cooper have all been caught up in Low's schemes either in filmmaking, his vanity recordings or playing at his parties. Low bought himself a Manhattan penthouse in the Time Warner Center condominiums, previously owned by Beyoncé and Jay Z, for \$30.55m. In 2014 when Low was dating Australian supermodel Miranda Kerr he ordered a diamond necklace worth \$2m to be created and delivered to her for Valentine's Day. He also gave Kerr an enormous see-thru, 100% translucent grand piano. It's so big the US government doesn't know how to seize it as part of its civil asset forfeiture claim.

Xavier Justo joined PetroSaudi because its co-founder the Saudi national Tarek Obaid was one of Justo's closest friends and business associates. Justo was “running a large financial services firm, Fininfor, and the owner of a Geneva nightspot named the Platinum Club.” He loaned Obaid \$30,000 and let him use a desk at Fininfor to start PetroSaudi with Prince Turki bin Abdullah, one of the sons of the late King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, as a co-founder. The Saudis were to put \$1.5bn into 1MDB and \$1bn was to come from the Malaysians. According to the Department of Justice's 251-page criminal complaint: “Low and his associates caused \$700 million of the \$1 billion that was to be invested in the Joint Venture to be sent to an account at RBS Coutts Bank in Zurich held in the name of Good Star Limited.”

Then “approximately \$330 million in additional funds were wired at the direction of 1MDB officials to the Good Star Account... 1MDB officials represented, including to Deutsche Bank in Malaysia, that Good Star was a wholly-owned subsidiary of PetroSaudi. This was not true. According to banking records, Good Star was a company controlled by Low, and Low was also the Good Star Account's beneficial owner and sole authorized signatory. At the time, Low was a 29-year-old with no official position with 1MDB or PetroSaudi.”

The DoJ case continues: “On or about September 22, 2009, the chief investment officer for PetroSaudi (“PETROSAUDI OFFICER”), a U.K. national, contacted BSI in Geneva to discuss the opening of a bank account for the Joint Venture. [...] In an email dated September 28, 2009, a banker at BSI in Lugano wrote, ‘I don't like the transaction at all! In particular the role and involvement of Mr Low Taek Jho ‘looks and feels’ very suspicious [*sic*] to me.’ The Joint Venture then approached J.P. Morgan (Suisse) about opening an account, without disclosing the same details about the structure of

the investment. The Joint Venture opened an account at J.P. Morgan (Suisse) on or about September 30, 2009.”

When people started asking questions about the missing funds and loan repayments, Najib hid behind his faith posting a letter from Saudi Prince Abdul Aziz Al-Saud, that only mentioned \$100m not the missing billions. The letter claimed the alleged financial improprieties “should not in any event be construed as an act of corruption since this is against the practice of Islam and I personally do not encourage such practices in any manner whatsoever. This is merely a personal token of appreciation of Low’s good work in promoting the Middle East...”

Justo decided to step away from PetroSaudi and the company agreed to pay him \$6.5 million Swiss francs as a severance package. But then, days later PetroSaudi told Justo they would only pay him \$4m Swiss francs. Justo still had access to the PetroSaudi servers with 90 gigabytes of incriminating emails and data on illegal investments and money transfers and threatened to go to the media. The retired British journalist Clare Rewcastle Brown started a blog and reported on the causes of corruption and malfeasance — including the Prime Minister of Malaysia. On 28 Feb, 2015 she published “HEIST OF THE CENTURY!” 1MDB initially claimed the story was false and that it had recouped its initial investment, in full and earned a reported profit of \$488m.

The US government has policies - on paper - discouraging its firms from being involved in fraud and corruption so they took a keen interest in the named entities. Goldman Sachs has been fined \$2bn for its role in the \$4.5bn conspiracy. Low was indicted by the Justice Department in absentia and is in hiding out somewhere in Asia. He still has access to his stolen billions but Kerr did have to return her 11-carat diamond earrings and an 11.7-carat heart-shaped diamond, given to her by Low. He was recently indicted in a second separate DoJ case involving Prakazrel ‘Pras’ Michel from the Fugees. According to the DoJ Pras worked with Elliott Broidy, one of the current US President’s top campaign fundraisers, as part of a criminal conspiracy to wire and distribute millions of dollars to pressurise the DoJ to drop the criminal prosecution. No charges have yet been laid against Pras who claims he’s the ‘innocent owner’ of \$37m seized by the DoJ. Najib, now the former Prime Minister of Malaysia, was arrested and is facing a trial for his part in the criminal enterprise while his assets have been seized. The new Malaysian Prime Minister cancelled many of the dodgy development deals his predecessor had entered into to hide his crimes.



© Getty Images Isabel dos Santos

~ ANGOLA RECOVERS \$5BN OF STOLEN FUNDS AS IT PURSUES DOS SANTOS FAMILY

Angola's Justice Minister Francisco Queiroz says the country recovered over \$5bn (£3.8bn) in funds stolen from the state in 2019 despite countries obstructing efforts to track down the looted funds. This included \$3bn siphoned off from the sovereign wealth fund. Jose Filomeno dos Santos, the son of Angola's former President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and former head of the sovereign wealth fund is on trial for corruption. He denies the charges.

Meanwhile, Jose's sister Isabel dos Santos is facing her own embezzlement and money-laundering allegations. Ms dos Santos, considered to be Afrika's richest woman, has seen her financial dealings exposed in a 750,000 document dump by the Platform to Protect Whistle-blowers in Africa and shared with the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ), a consortium of 37 media organisations across the world. They outline two decades worth of business deals, more than 400 companies in 41 countries linked to her and her husband, including 94 in tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions, as well as the complicity of global consulting companies in allowing Isabel dos Santos build an empire on ill-gotten gains and insider dealings.

They show invoices made out to herself during the year she was in charge of the country's oil firm, Sonangol. Ms Dos Santos was sacked as its head in 2017 by her father's successor, President João Lourenço. Her successor Carlos Saturnino alerted authorities to alleged irregular money transfers. The Angolans say if Ms Dos Santos does not return voluntarily from her homes in either Portugal or London then they will issue an international arrest warrant for her. It also demanded the seizure of her stake in local companies, including telecoms giant Unitel and Bank Fomento de Angola (BFA).

The ICIJ have called the documents 'The Luanda Leaks' and they show how Ms Dos Santos, whose fortune is estimated at \$2.1bn (£1.6bn), got access to lucrative land, oil, diamond and telecoms deals when her father was president. Much of her fortune is based on her ownership of a stake in the Portuguese energy company Galp, which one of her companies bought from Sonangol in 2006. Her stake in Galp is now worth more than €750m. Another of the suspicious deals was run from London through a British subsidiary of Sonangol. Most of the companies involved in the dodgy deals were overseen by accountants working for Price Waterhouse Coopers. It's made millions providing auditing, consultancy and tax advice to her companies and an executive at PWC has left the firm over its links with Ms Dos Santos. Tom Keatinge, director of the Centre for Financial Crime and Security Studies, said: "PWC, if not facilitating the corruption, are providing a veneer of respectability that makes what's happening acceptable or more acceptable than it might otherwise be."

The leaked documents show that as she left Sonangol, Ms Dos Santos approved \$58m of suspicious payments to a consultancy company in Dubai called Matter Business Solutions. She says she has no financial interest in Matter, but the leaked documents reveal it was run by her business manager and

owned by a friend. Matter sent more than 50 invoices to Sonangol in London on the day that she was fired. Ms Dos Santos appears to have approved payments to her friend's company after she was sacked. Although some consultancy work had been carried out by Matter, there's very little detail on the invoices to justify such large bills. One asks for €472,196 for unspecified expenses, another asks for \$928,517 for unspecified legal services. Two of the invoices - each for €676,339.97 - are for exactly the same work on the same date and Ms Dos Santos signed them both off anyway. Her lawyers said: "All invoices paid were in relation to services contracted and agreed between the two parties, under a contract that was approved with the full knowledge and approval of the Sonangol Board of Directors."

Nuno Ribeiro da Cunha, an account manager at EuroBic was recently found dead in Lisbon soon after Angolan prosecutors named both among six suspects. They are seeking to recover \$1bn (£760m) that Ms Dos Santos and her associates are alleged to owe the state. Mr Da Cunha had previously made an attempted to kill himself and had been suffering from depression no doubt linked to the pressure and intrigue of the case. EuroBic has said it would end its business relationship with Ms Dos Santos, the bank's main shareholder through two of her companies. Some of the transfers drained Sonangol's account at EuroBic.

The former president also gave Ms Dos Santos's husband, Sindika Dokolo, the right to buy some of Angola's raw diamonds. The Angolan government says the diamonds were sold at a knockdown price and sources have told Panorama that almost \$1bn may have been lost. Ms Dos Santos said she couldn't comment because she was not a shareholder of De Grisogono. But the leaked documents show that she is described as a shareholder of De Grisogono by her own financial advisers.

Dokolo also signed a one-sided agreement in 2012 with Angolan state diamond company Sodiam. They were supposed to be 50-50 partners in a deal to buy a stake in the Swiss luxury jeweller De Grisogono. But it was funded by the state company. The documents show that 18 months after the deal, Sodiam had put \$79m into the partnership, while Mr Dokolo had only invested \$4m. Sodiam also awarded him a €5m success fee for brokering the deal, so he didn't have to use any of his own money. The documents reveal how Sodiam borrowed all the cash from a private bank in which Ms Dos Santos is the biggest shareholder. Sodiam has to pay 9% interest and the loan was guaranteed by a presidential decree from her father, so Ms Dos Santos's bank cannot lose out. Bravo da Rosa, the new chief executive of Sodiam, said that the Angolan people hadn't got a single dollar back from the deal: "In the end, when we have finished paying back this loan, Sodiam will have lost more than \$200m."

She acquired a 25% stake in the country's biggest mobile phone provider, Unitel, a year after her father granted the firm a telecoms licence in 1999. Unitel has already paid her \$1bn in dividends and her stake is worth another \$1bn. But that's not the only way she got cash from the private company.

She arranged for Unitel to lend €350m to a new company she set up, called Unitel International Holdings. But the company's name was misleading because it wasn't connected to Unitel and Ms Dos Santos was the owner. She thus signed off on the loans as both lender and borrower, which is a blatant conflict of interest. Her lawyers say the loans protected Unitel from currency fluctuations. She said: "This loan had both directors' approval and shareholders' approval, and it's a loan that will generate, and has generated, benefit for Unitel."

Angola in numbers

- **29 million** population
- **27-year** civil war, fought from independence to 2002
- **\$4,170** average income, but this masks big disparities
- **30%** of population live in poverty - less than \$1.90/day
- **2nd** biggest oil producer in Africa. Also major diamond producer

Source: World Bank, Opec



<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/zimbabwe-faces-mining-asset-seizure-083742790.html>

~ ZIMBABWE FACES MINING-ASSET SEIZURE OVER CANCELED JOINT VENTURES

Zimbabwe faces having the assets of its state mining company seized after a final appeal of a 2014 arbitration ruling failed at an International Court of Arbitration hearing in Lusaka, Zambia. Companies linked to British Virgin Islands-based Amari Holdings Ltd won the case worth \$65.9m in compensation for Zimbabwe Mining Development Corp's cancellation of nickel and platinum ventures formed in 2007 and 2008.

The dispute arose over plans Amari had to develop mines in Zimbabwe. The company formed platinum and nickel ventures with ZMDC that were 50% and 45% owned by the state company respectively. Zimbabwe's assertion that the deals weren't appropriately approved by ZMDC officials and the nation's mines minister were rejected by the court. Amari will seek to seize fixed assets owned by Zimbabwe and ZMDC and may also target shipments of diamonds and tobacco. Amari has been approached by Benedict Peters, a Nigerian billionaire who was awarded the platinum prospect initially held by Amari, seeking a settlement.

Amari was founded by Mike Nunn, the South African mining entrepreneur who established Tanzanite One Ltd to exploit the blue precious stone found only in Tanzania. Ian Small-Smith, a

lawyer acting for Amari, said: "We are by law entitled to attach any asset belonging to the ZMDC or their 100% shareholder, the Zimbabwean government. They seemingly still don't appreciate how adversely this will impact the credibility of Zimbabwe as an investment destination."



© AFP / Getty DR Congo produces over 60% of the world's cobalt

~ TECH FIRMS SUED OVER DR CONGO COBALT MINING DEATHS

Apple, Google, Tesla and Microsoft are among firms named in a lawsuit seeking damages for the deaths and injuries of child miners in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The case has been brought by the International Rights Advocates on behalf of 14 Congolese families. They accuse the firms of knowing that cobalt used in their products could be linked to child labour. Other companies listed in the lawsuit are computer manufacturer Dell and two mining companies, Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt and Glencore, who own the minefields where the Congolese families allege their children worked.

The court papers give several examples of child miners buried alive or suffering from injuries after tunnels collapse. The 14 Congolese families want the companies to compensate them for forced labour, emotional distress and negligent supervision. DR Congo supplies 60% of the world's cobalt used to produce lithium-ion batteries in electric cars, laptops and smartphones. However, the extraction comes with illegal mining, human rights abuses and corruption. The lawsuit filed in the US shows that the tech companies had "specific knowledge" that the cobalt used in their products may be linked to child labour. It says the companies failed to regulate their supply chains and instead profited from exploitation.

The International Monetary Fund has approved the release of about \$368m (£277m) to the Democratic Republic of Congo in the first resumption of lending to the country since 2012. The loan programme had been suspended as the government failed to provide sufficient details about the sale of state mining assets.

~ MTN ACCUSED OF PAYING BRIBES TO TALIBAN AND AL-QAEDA

Africa's largest mobile operator MTN has been accused of paying protection money to militant Islamist groups in Afghanistan. The allegations were made in a legal complaint filed in a US federal court on behalf of families of US citizens killed in attacks in Afghanistan. They say the firm and five others violated US anti-terrorism laws by helping to provide "material support to known terrorist

organisations. The complaint alleges MTN paid bribes to al-Qaida and the Taliban to avoid having to invest in expensive security for their transmission towers. The alleged payments helped finance a Taliban-led insurgency in Afghanistan between 2009 and 2017,

The South African telecommunications firm is Afrika's largest mobile operator and the eighth largest in the world, with more than 240 million subscribers. In 2015, they were fined over \$5bn (£3.8bn) by the Nigerian authorities for failing to cut off unregistered sim cards. This was reduced to \$1.7bn after the intervention of South Africa's then President Jacob Zuma. In Feb 2019 a former South African ambassador to Iran was arrested in Pretoria, on charges that he took a bribe to help MTN win a \$31.6bn (£24bn) license to operate in Iran.



Image copyright Getty Images

~ TRAVELEX HELD TO RANSOM BY HACKERS

The money exchange firm Travelex had to take all its computers offline and staff resorted to pen and paper for calculations after its website was hacked on New Year's Eve. The ransomware gang called Sodinokibi said it was behind the cyber attack affecting Travelex operations in 30 countries and wants the firm to pay \$6m (£4.6m). Travelex initially posted on its site that they were down for 'planned maintenance'.

The gang, also known as REvil, claims to have gained access to the company's computer network six months ago and to have downloaded 5GB of sensitive customer data including dates of birth, credit card information and national insurance numbers. The hackers post said: "In the case of payment, we will delete and will not use that [data]base and restore them the entire network. The deadline for doubling the payment is two days. Then another seven days and the sale of the entire base."

The Information Commissioner's Office spokeswoman said: "Organisations must notify the ICO within 72 hours of becoming aware of a personal data breach unless it does not pose a risk to people's rights and freedoms. If an organisation decides that a breach doesn't need to be reported, they should keep their own record of it and be able to explain why it wasn't reported if necessary."

Under General Data Protection Regulation, a company that fails to comply can face a maximum fine of 4% of its global turnover. The hack also affected travelers looking exchange online at Travelex partners such as post offices and supermarkets with many suspending their operations or setting an

impractical low withdrawal limit for people travelling abroad. Virgin Money's site showed an error message. Sainsbury's Bank said customers could still buy travel money in its stores.



~ THE MISSING CRYPTOQUEEN

We've been listening to this fascinating podcast which is a case study in how people try to pass themselves off as credible but in reality all is smoke and mirrors and really all they have is a criminal past, present and future. In 2014, a businesswoman called Dr Ruja Ignatova launched her new OneCoin cryptocurrency that she promised would change money forever. She claimed it was similar to Bitcoin but was easier to use. People could take out their money in a mix of cash into their bank account and OneCoin. Within two years, over 3 million people had joined the OneCoin revolution, and Dr Ruja became rich and famous. But then she suddenly disappeared and hasn't been seen since. This podcast follows her trail over 10 episodes from a highly intelligent schoolgirl, through her business and finance links, failed metallurgic factory in Germany that she left overnight in a moonlight flit to her launch of OneCoin. Is she the mastermind of the scheme / scam or was she just the front woman who's own life is in danger by the real controllers?

Two of the episodes were of particular interest to us: The one where the reporter goes to Uganda and talks to rural people who were recruited by their friends, families and co-workers with promises of faux get-rich-quick schemes. These are often poor communities who can ill-afford to have their money tied up in long-term investigations or litigation. No money has been paid back to them and the recruiters have had to move out of their homes due to the shame and concerns that someone may take physical retribution against them or their family.

Another episode answered a lot of questions concerning the operation of multi-level marketing. This explores how to differentiate between genuine opportunities and pyramid and Ponzi schemes. We all know the likes of Herbalife, Forever Living - who are more reputable - where you can rise up the ranks and have a team underneath you. You get residual income from sales and also when more people are recruited into your team. Here, the early investors in Organo Gold, the coffee and tea sellers, were interviewed about their involvement with OneCoin. They were serial investors in firms so what they do is look for the next big thing then withdraw their money before the base of the pyramid gets too wide or the number of people willing to join at entry level tails off. Early investors are the ones that you are shown or who give those talks in order to recruit you into the club. Taking profits from people who have only paid their initial investment is criminal either in fact, spirit or intent. It is a pyramid or Ponzi scheme when people are taking out more money than is reflected in actual sales of

products or services over a 3-5 year period. The early investors in OrganoGold took out most of their money in OneCoin before Dr Ruja went missing but lost the portion of their investments they were forced to leave in OneCoin so although they are still millionaires they claim to be losers as they did not receive all the returns they were expecting.

On 6 Mar 2019 Dr Ruja's brother, Konstantin, was arrested at Los Angeles International Airport and charged with money laundering and fraud in connection with OneCoin. She was charged in absentia, and the US authorities declared that the OneCoin scheme was a fraud. It does not have the blockchain that the likes of Bitcoin is based on but instead claims it has its own proprietary version of blockchain. It also claims that OneCoin is Sharia-compliant and this was used to recruit lots of Muslims who were looking for such investments. In fact, all OneCoin had was a letter from one Islamic authority in Pakistan that they did not see any obvious problems with the way OneCoin explained their scheme but that was not to be taken as an endorsement to invest.

~ BASIC SUPPORT FOR GENDER ISSUES OFTEN IGNORED BY CAPITALISTS

Having read all the millions and billions floating around let's look at a few of the basic needs of Afrikans that could be addressed if firms paid their taxes and people refused to engage in wholesale corruption and resource theft.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Community Court of Justice has ordered the Sierra Leonean government to drop its ban on pregnant girls going to school or sitting exams. The case was filed by Defence for Children International – Sierra Leone (DCI-SL); Women Against Violence and Exploitation in Society (WAVES); Child Welfare Society- Sierra Leone (CWS-SL); Equality Now; and The Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa (IHRDA) against the Sierra Leone government in May 2018.

Tens of thousands of young women had missed out on the right to finish their education. The Court also ruled that setting up parallel schools for pregnant girls was another form of discrimination by creating sub-optimal (inferior) schools and ordered the schools closed.

The Sierra Leone government was instructed to integrate sexual education classes into the nationwide curriculum to combat teen pregnancies and promote awareness of alternatives. The Court ruled that the government had failed to introduce measures to reduce teenage pregnancies in line with the National Strategy for the Reduction of Teen Pregnancies adopted after the civil war. The government must include social programmes to address increased numbers of teenage pregnancies and sensitise the communities against discrimination.

Sierra Leone's pregnancy ban was adopted in 2015 during the regime of former President Ernest Bai Koroma "in order to protect innocent girls." Teenage pregnancies rose during an Ebola epidemic and

sexual assaults also account for the numbers with 30% of girls pregnant and 40% married by the age of 18. The government claimed that allowing pregnant girls to attend school would tire them out, expose them to ridicule and encourage others to get pregnant. The parallel schools for pregnant girls was considered another form of discrimination as attendees were only taught four subjects for three days a week.

Sierra Leone is a State party particularly to The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa; the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Convention against Torture. The ruling sends a warning to other African governments who operate similar bans or may be contemplating them. Patience Aminata, who was expelled from school at the age of 17, said she hoped to return. "If a girl gets pregnant, she has every right to further her education because it leads to success, not just for her, but for her whole family. This ruling means it's not too late for me either."

Current President Julius Maada Bio declared a State of Emergency over sexual and gender-based violence in Feb 2019. Gender-based campaigns such as Asmaa James' Black Tuesday and the First Lady's Hands off Our Girls movements became more vocal. The number of sexual assault cases reported to the police in 2018 had more than doubled to 8,500, with a third being young girls.

New regulations included new provisions for victims and more severe punishments for offenders. The State of Emergency was revoked in June and a legislative programme passed through parliament in Sep. The new laws increased the minimum sentence for rape from five to fifteen years for adults (with a maximum of life imprisonment) and can potentially allow cases to go directly to the high court without the need for a preliminary investigation at the magistrate court. It includes provisions for new offences such as solicitation by persons in authority (e.g. teachers, religious figures, doctors) and aggravated sexual assault. People under 14 can now be prosecuted for sexual offences. It also criminalises 'compromise', which means that if anyone (be it a family head, religious leader, chief etc.) attempts to settle a case of sexual violence in their community instead of reporting it to the police, they can be fined 10 million Leones (\$1,000) and/or spend 1-10 years in prison.

Provisions for a sex offender register don't include details as to how it will work. There is also a shortage of access to free medical care in relation to their assault. Meanwhile, longer sentences may increase problems at Sierra Leone's already overcrowded correctional centres.

Rwanda's Ministry of Gender has reported that the government has ended its tax on sanitary pads to make them more affordable. They had been subject to 18% value added tax with a pack of ten pads selling for around 1,000 Rwandan Francs (\$1.07; £0.81). Girls in poor families miss school when they are on their periods because they can't afford the pads. Women's activist Saidath Murorunkwere

highlighted the risks of infection from cloth pads and said: “For many girls and women, especially in rural areas, the cost of the pads is too high. Many still rely to reusable cloth pads”

CRIME SCENE UK

‘No person of Afrikan descent is considered to have any rights that a European or government-appointed official feels duty-bound to respect.’



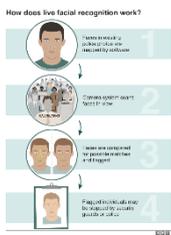
~ GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY RESTARTS AMID CONFLICT OF INTEREST CONCERNS

The second phase of the Grenfell Tower inferno inquiry got underway on Mon 27 Jan amid concerns over the make up of the inquiry panel and a lack of action over renovating towers that either need to have their flammable cladding removed or where it has been taken off with no replacement insulation leading to families spending another winter in cold and damp homes.

Affected Grenfell Tower residents and campaigners had expressed concerns about a potential conflict of interest over Benita Mehra will join chairman Sir Martin Moore-Bick alongside Thouria Istephan, who specialises in construction regulations. Ms Mehra is a former President of the Women's Engineering Society which received £71,000 funding from the Arconic Foundation for an apprentice conference. Ms Mehra was appointed to the Grenfell Tower inquiry panel on the 23 Dec, replacing academic Professor Nabeel Hamdi, who was considered more independent. The government had hoped to bury the news of her appointment in the festive hullabaloo. Arconic supplied the cladding that helped the fire spread leading to the deaths of at least 72 people on 14 June 2017. The first phase of the public inquiry into the fire found that the tower block's cladding did not comply with building regulations and was the "principal" reason for the fire's rapid and "profoundly shocking" spread. The Tory government obviously sought to have Dr Mehra in place to roadblock any criticisms of Tory austerity and privatisation policies and water down or kick any effective reform proposals into the long grass.

In a complete reversal of logic and historical process the first phase considered the events on the night of the fire, while the second phase will look at the refurbishment of the building and its role in the fire, and whether the current building regulations were met and are they sufficient to prevent similar disasters in the future.

We have always maintained that Kensington and Chelsea Council, its housing management division, the building contractors and the police conspired against the local population before the inferno to avoid acting on their legitimate concerns and then after the fire they have sought to delay examination of the core reasons for the disaster which centred around cost-cutting, racism and contempt for people in social housing. The conspiracy includes putting the majority of blame onto the London Fire Brigade who responded on the night of the fire on the assumption that those who owned and maintained Grenfell Tower had acted in compliance with the law and in the interests of the residents. Papers submitted by those involved in cladding and maintenance decisions reveal that none of them take responsibility and repeatedly claim the failings must all be someone else's fault. The real guilty parties hope that more than five years will have passed since the fire when the inquiry ends so they can maintain their cover-up, claim they have moved on from the time of the fire and those responsible will have left the scene with their pensions and reputations intact to oversee another fiasco.



~ METROPOLITAN POLICE TO DEPLOY RACIST FACIAL RECOGNITION CAMERAS

The Metropolitan Police is to use live facial recognition cameras operationally on a regular basis in London despite their proven inaccuracy and racial bias.

The police claim the cameras will be in use for five to six hours at a time and there will be notices and leaflets handed out at the scene they describe as a small, targeted area. They will be fed with bespoke lists of suspects wanted for serious and violent crimes drawn up each time they are used with all the images of non-suspects deleted within 24 hours. Given the British penchant for devising cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment over the last five centuries and that the country already has the highest proportion of surveillance cameras of any country in the world – including those deemed 'repressive regimes' - does anyone really think the police are going to ditch the footage? Especially when it provides them with an opportunity to engage in their favourite tactic of editing, losing and reversing the order of events and manipulating images in order to frame innocent people.

Trials of the cameras have already taken place on 10 occasions in locations such as Stratford's Westfield shopping centre and the West End of London. The police lied and said the cameras identified 70% of suspects while only one in 1,000 people generated a false alert. But an independent review of six of these deployments found that only eight out of 42 matches were "verifiably correct". When they tried to use the cameras at the Notting Hill Carnival identification went down to single figures because the software is loaded with predominantly white faces. Silkie Carlo, the Director of

Big Brother Watch, said: "It flies in the face of the independent review showing the Met's use of facial recognition was likely unlawful, risked harming public rights and was 81% inaccurate."



It is a madness that such a scheme is being brought in by the current Commissioner Cressida Dick who organised the murder of the innocent Brazilian electrician at Stockwell Tube and then tried to sell it to the public as a case of mistaken identity in a so-called 'intelligence-led' operation. If the police think the two people above look the same despite the vast difference in skin shade tones and one of them not having nine-ether afro hair then there is little hope for the rest of us Londoners escaping their harassment and criminalisation while we are going about our legitimate, private business.

Assistant Commissioner Nick Ephgrave claims facial recognition won't just be used to find wanted criminals but also missing children or vulnerable adults. That's called mission creep! The Information Commissioner has already called on the government to introduce a legally binding code of practice without success. This is part of a wide range of repressive policies that have been introduced since Boris Johnson became the Crime Monster. These include more police, more tasers, more police allowed to use tasers and wider use of Section 60 orders to stop-and-search innocent people without a reason to cover whole boroughs when investigating incidents that happened in one side street.

South Wales Police took part in a Home Office-backed trial of the controversial technology and won a court case brought by Liberty opposing blanket random capture of facial images. The force deployed it at the UEFA Champions League Final in Cardiff - where over 2,000 people were wrongly identified as possible criminals - and more than 20 events, including concerts by Ed Sheeran, the Rolling Stones and Beyoncé and Jay-Z, and several Wales rugby games. They claimed that it will easily resolve cases of mistaken identity without having to take suspects to the station or into custody but what if the computer says an innocent man is a suspect or the known cases of prejudiced, paranoid and malicious officers. South Wales Police included photos gathered when someone was found innocent of a crime in their trial, as they decided it was "impracticable at this stage to manually remove unconvicted custody images from AFR Locate watchlists".

Manchester City Football Club were warned against using facial recognition technology in order to let fans enter their Etihad Stadium more quickly. Texas-based Blink Identity claimed its technology can identify people walking at regular speed, so fans would not even need to slow down to show a ticket or use a turnstile. Supporters would opt in by register a selfie taken on their phone. The firm has a history of creating large-scale biometric identification systems in the Middle East for the US

Department of Defense. Live Nation, the owner of Ticketmaster, is an investor in Blink Identity and aims to replace paper tickets with facial recognition.

The plans were described as 'normalising a mass surveillance tool' and Amanda Jacks, a caseworker at the Football Supporters' Association expressed her concerns saying: "Given fans will still have to be searched before entering any stadium, and the technology is apparently only fractionally faster than electronic card readers, it's difficult to see how this is genuinely an improvement on the current system. Notably, and to the best of our knowledge, there is no formal guidance from the Premier League or Sports Ground Safety Authority on the use of this technology."

A man was fined when he covered his face with his hat and jacket while walking past a police camera in Romford, East London. He told police: 'If I want to cover my face, I'll cover my face. Don't push me over when I'm walking down the street.'

To which an officer explained their own reverse logic and lack of acquaintance with the GDPR law: 'The fact that he's walked past clearly masking his face from recognition and covered his face. It gives us grounds to stop him and verify.'

The Information Commissioner Elizabeth Denham launched an investigation into the use of facial recognition at the new shopping development at Kings Cross in central London, while the Parliamentary Science and Technology Committee said authorities should halt trials of facial recognition technology until a legal framework was established.

The Canary Wharf business district in London Docklands has enthusiastically embraced plans for facial recognition and already has 1,750 CCTV cameras on the estate. Stephanie Hare, an independent researcher of facial recognition technologies raised serious concerns: 'What's really worrying is for any worker who doesn't want to participate. This is essentially a geofenced experiment, so I don't see how anybody could opt out of it. You can't opt out of walking around London, or working there. How do they defend it when this technology is the subject of legal action and MPs are calling for a moratorium on it?'

Facial recognition systems have a sordid history of association with fascists and eugenicists stretching back to the 19th century. Oakland City Council in California voted unanimously to ban the use of facial recognition technology by the city, including its police force. It's the third ban of the technology by a US city after San Francisco and Somerville, Massachusetts. The ruling bans the city and any of its staff from obtaining, retaining, requesting, accessing, or using face recognition technology or any information gleaned from this technology.

Brian Hofer, the chair of the city's Privacy Advisory Commission, said: "I really believe facial recognition is the most dangerous technology developed in my lifetime. With cameras already everywhere, the infrastructure is there. This would have been perfect mass surveillance and we would lose the right to be anonymous in public, to freely associate."

Evan Greer, deputy director of the technology advocacy group Fight for the Future, said: "We're at a pivotal moment in human history. Invasive surveillance technology like facial recognition is spreading extremely quickly. It's being marketed as 'convenient' and for 'public safety,' but it's putting us on a path to a totalitarian police state. Backlash to the spread of face surveillance is growing. But if we don't act now, it will soon become ubiquitous, and then it could be too late."

Critics have concluded: "Using scientific language and measurement doesn't prevent a researcher from conducting flawed experiments and drawing wrong conclusions — especially when they confirm preconceptions."



Supt Robyn Williams. Photograph:
Dominic Lipinski / PA

~ MET POLICE BACKS PROBE BY DETECTIVE IN RACISM ROW AGAINST HIS ACCUSERS

As we already know and have repeatedly shown the Metropolitan Police is not just racist in its interactions with the general public but even practices discriminatory behaviour against their own staff. The force has backed DCI Pete Wallis who led the investigation into Supt Robyn Williams, a female officer of Afrikan descent, who was convicted of possessing child abuse images. Wallis had previously been named in allegations brought by Sonia Thompson, another Met detective, alleging race discrimination, harassment and victimisation and Williams had backed her complaint.

Williams was sent an unsolicited video of a child being abused by her sister who wanted the paedophile responsible hunted down and caught. Her sister sent it to 17 people via WhatsApp. The Old Bailey jury convicted Williams of having the video on her phone but the jury unanimously acquitted her of failing to report the video for corrupt reasons. She was sentenced to community service and placed on the sex offender register despite the prosecution accepting she had no sexual interest in children. Williams returned to work on restricted duties and now faces a fast track discipline process where she could be sacked. She has appealed against her conviction. Williams sister, Jennifer Hodge was convicted of distributing an indecent image of a child. That alone should raise

concerns for the public who are sending videos to each other often without even any accompanying explanatory text.

The Met dismissed claims of a potential conflict of interest for the recently exonerated Wallis to be put in charge of carrying out an internal investigation on his accusers. In the racial harassment case the tribunal made no critical finding against any of the Met officers mentioned and the case was then formally brought against the force's commissioner. The claim was settled in Feb 2019 with the Met only admitting one allegation of victimisation made by Thompson. They had pressured her to withdraw 36 other allegations. [Editor's Note: This is typical of police policy to pursue no-fault settlements so that they can maintain a fiction of not being racist. A friend's son who was badly beaten by police during a false arrest was offered over £23,000 as a no-fault settlement once he had pursued the case against the Met to court. When he refused saying he wanted the police to acknowledge their guilt the judge, obviously in league with the police, awarded him only £7,500.]

Williams, who was a co-founder of the National Black Police Association, had received the Queen's Police Medal, was praised for her work after the Grenfell Tower inferno and was one of Britain's most senior female officers of Afrikan descent. She has been in the force for 32 years – that's like she's managed to navigate her way through the maze for over three decades and now the Met wants to destroy her career. Maybe Williams should have taken her watch after 30 years service and gone about her own private business instead of thinking she could reform her lazy, racist, corrupt colleagues. They'll never change!!!



MI5 headquarters. Key arguments at tribunal turned on the exploitation of informants within the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries during the Troubles.

Photograph: Anthony Devlin / PA

~ MI5 POLICY ALLOWING INFORMANTS TO COMMIT SERIOUS CRIMES RULED LAWFUL

British judges have ruled that MI5 policy allowing agents and informants to participate in serious crimes is lawful. The Investigatory Powers Tribunal, which hears legal complaints about the intelligence agencies, said the guidelines do not breach human rights or grant absolute immunity to those who commit offences such as murder or torture. The main focus was the use of informants within the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries during the occupation war in Northern Ireland but the ruling applies to other fields of operation into the future. There is no indication of the limits of the criminality

and incitement that could be overlooked. MI5 guidelines say “In particular, the authorisation process and associated records may form the basis of representations by the service to the prosecuting authorities that prosecution is not in the public interest.”

A coalition of civil liberty groups that brought the challenge – Reprieve, the Pat Finucane Centre, Privacy International and the Committee for the Administration of Justice – announced they would appeal against the ruling arguing the policy was a breach of the European convention on human rights. During the hearing, Ben Jaffey QC, representing the civil liberty groups, pointed out that police have recently recommended that more than 20 people, including senior officials, should be prosecuted for murder, kidnap, torture and perverting the course of justice following an investigation by Operation Kenova into the handling of agents inside the IRA during Northern Ireland’s Troubles.

Maya Foa, Reprieve’s director, said: “The IPT’s knife-edge judgment, with unprecedented published dissenting opinions, shows just how dubious the government’s secret policy is. Our security services play a vital role in keeping this country safe, but history has shown us time and again the need for proper oversight and common sense limits on what agents can do in the public’s name.”

~ DEATH OF ERROL GRAHAM: MAN STARVED TO DEATH AFTER DWP WRONGLY STOPPED HIS BENEFITS

By John Pring on 23rd January 2020

Web: <https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/the-death-of-errol-graham-man-starved-to-death-after-dwp-wrongly-stopped-his-benefits/>

A disabled man starved to death after the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) wrongly stopped his out-of-work benefits, leaving him without any income.

Errol Graham weighed just four-and-a-half stone when his body was found by bailiffs who had knocked down his front door to evict him. He had just a couple of out-of-date tins of fish left in his flat.

DWP civil servants had failed to seek further medical evidence from his GP, just as in many other tragic cases that have sparked repeated calls for an independent inquiry into links between the deaths of claimants and the actions and failings of DWP.

Assistant coroner Dr Elizabeth Didcock, who heard the inquest, was told that DWP stopped Graham’s employment and support allowance (ESA) entitlement – and backdated that decision to the previous month – after making two unsuccessful visits to his home to ask why he had not attended a face-to-face work capability assessment (WCA) on 31 August 2017.

The inquest heard that it was standard DWP procedure to go ahead with stopping the benefits of a

claimant marked on the system as vulnerable after two failed safeguarding visits.

DWP somehow managed to stop an ESA payment that had been due to be credited to his bank account on 17 October, the same day it made the second unsuccessful safeguarding visit.

Its own rules state that it should make both safeguarding visits before stopping the benefits of a vulnerable claimant.

Because Graham lost his ESA entitlement, his housing benefit was also stopped.

His family say he had also been found ineligible for personal independence payment (PIP).

Deprived of all financial support, experiencing significant mental distress and unable or unwilling to seek help, he slowly starved to death. He was 57.

His body was discovered on 20 June 2018 when bailiffs arrived at his Nottingham council flat to evict him for non-payment of rent.

His benefits had been stopped even though he had been receiving incapacity benefit, and then ESA, for many years as a result of enduring mental distress that had led to him being sectioned.

He had also told DWP on an ESA form three years earlier that he could not cope with “unexpected changes”, adding: “Upsets my life completely. Feel under threat and upset...”

He added: “Cannot deal with social situations. Keep myself to myself. Do not engage with strangers. Have no social life. Feel anxiety and panic in new situations.”

DWP told the inquest that because Graham had not seen his GP since 2013, and there was no recent ESA questionnaire explaining his level of impairment, he had been asked to attend a WCA on 31 August 2017, but that he had failed to attend.

But the inquest also heard that he not been asked to complete an ESA questionnaire, even though he had previously completed and returned them – with assistance – for previous claims.

Letters were sent in September and October 2017, asking why he had failed to attend the WCA appointment, followed by a telephone call, a text message, and the two visits, but he failed to respond to any of them.

The assistant coroner said: “There simply is not sufficient evidence as to how he was functioning, however, it is likely that his mental health was poor at this time – he does not appear to be having contact with other people, and he did not seek help from his GP or support agencies as he had done previously.”

She concluded in the narrative verdict, delivered last June, that the “safety net that should surround vulnerable people like Errol in our society had holes within it”.

She said: “He needed the DWP to obtain more evidence [from his GP] at the time his ESA was stopped, to make a more informed decision about him, particularly following the failed safeguarding visits.”

She said that a consultant psychiatrist had told the inquest “that Errol was vulnerable to life stressors” and that it was “likely that this loss of income, and housing, were the final and devastating stressors, that had a significant effect on his mental health”.

But she decided not to write a regulation 28 report demanding changes to DWP’s safeguarding procedures to “prevent future deaths” because the department insisted that it was already completing a review of its safeguarding, which was supposed to finish last autumn.

DWP had promised her it would “listen to clients and to those representing them, and... ensure that the DWP were focused on support and safety for vulnerable people”, she wrote.

Dr Didcock insisted that this commitment “must be converted into robust policy and guidance for DWP staff” and DWP must ensure that “all evidence that can reasonably be gathered is put together about a client, before a benefit is ceased”.

But Disability News Service (DNS) has now contacted Dr Didcock to ask if she was aware of the many previous deaths – including two reported by coroners – that have been linked to similar DWP failings (see separate story). She was not available to comment this week.

Over the last decade, the deaths of disabled people have been linked repeatedly to the failure by DWP to secure further medical evidence, and to check on the welfare of claimants seen as vulnerable before removing their benefits, with at least one other claimant starving to death after being found “fit for work”.

These include the deaths of Stephen Carré, Jodey Whiting, Mark Wood, Paul Donnachie, Michael O’Sullivan, David Barr and a woman known only as Ms DE.

The latest case has only emerged now because DNS was contacted by Alison Turner, the partner of Errol Graham's son, who put questions to DWP at the inquest and has fought for justice for him over the last two years.

Although the family could not afford a lawyer to represent them at the inquest, DWP paid for one of the country's leading barristers to defend its failures.

Turner, who is disabled herself, told DNS: "It's truly shocking what the system does to people.

"I have lived in fear ever since wondering what the future holds for me as a disabled person, and my child who will also rely on the system for support, as her autism amongst other conditions means she is unlikely to be able to live independently.

"I truly fear that the failures that let my father-in-law down will one day fail me and my child."

She added: "I don't know how these people sleep at night. God forbid any of them should need the system one day.

"I can only say I hope it serves them the same way it's failed to serve the vulnerable."

Diana Burton, Errol Graham's ex-partner, who stayed on good terms with him after they split up more than 10 years ago, said she believed DWP and other agencies should be held accountable for what happened to him.

She said: "In this day and age, this shouldn't happen. It's like we have gone back to Victorian times.

"Someone should be held accountable for it. If DWP hadn't stopped his money, he would still be here today. Definitely."

She said DWP had tried to "push it under the carpet" with the evidence it gave at the inquest.

And she backed growing calls for an independent inquiry into deaths linked to DWP, which now date back more than a decade, and said: "It should not be happening."

She said that similar health and safety failings by other organisations would have led to manslaughter charges.

She added: "It is like they are above the law."

The family has yet to receive an apology from DWP, and one senior civil servant who gave evidence to the inquest even insisted that “based on the evidence available, all actions have been taken appropriately and the law and guidelines have been followed correctly”.

The coroner was also critical of Graham’s GP practice, which had not seen him since 2013, or recalled him for vital blood tests or issued prescriptions since 2015, despite his serious medical conditions, including significant, long-term mental distress and hypothyroidism.

She concluded: “Errol needed the GP to try harder to see him, certainly from 2015 onwards.”

A DWP spokesperson refused to confirm that Errol Graham also had a PIP claim refused; refused to provide an update on the safeguarding review; refused to offer a justification for the department’s safeguarding failures; refused to comment on the similarities between his death and that of other disabled benefit claimants; refused to say which senior civil servants and ministers would take responsibility for his death; refused to say if DWP agreed with the senior civil servant who told the inquest the department had acted “appropriately”; refused to justify sending a highly-paid barrister to the inquest; and refused to explain how DWP was able to stop the ESA payment so quickly after the final safeguarding visit.

He also refused to explain why DWP had not apologised to the family of Errol Graham.

Instead, he said in a statement: “This is a tragic, complex case and our sympathies are with Mr Graham’s family.

“We take this very seriously and have referred this to our serious case panel, which includes independent members to help scrutinise and establish any lessons.”

CRIME SCENE USA

‘No person of Afrikan or First Nations descent is considered to have any rights that a European or government-appointed official feels duty-bound to respect.’

~ 2019 US POLICE BODYCOUNT

The complete picture of the number of people killed by police officers each year is obscured by some agencies and news outlets only including shootings, missing out vehicle deaths, those in custody, from beatings or tasers and those committed by off-duty officers abusing their powers often while armed. The number for 2019 was 1,531 — 44 fewer than 2018 although some people who are beaten, tased or shot during the year may subsequently succumb to their injuries. The number included 10 shootings by off-duty cops; 21 vehicular deaths and 31 taserings. The Root worked

alongside D Brian Burghart, the founder of Fatal Encounters, which also includes suicides and people who were killed by suspects during police encounters, but these were removed from the final tally.

Among the findings of the 2019's officer-involved killings were that: A person of Afrikan descent was three-and-a-half times more likely to be killed by a police officer than a white person; while a Hispanic person was one-and-a-half times more likely to be killed; an unarmed Afrikan was three times more likely to be killed by police than a white person with no weapon; an unarmed Afrikan fleeing the scene was six times more likely than a white person to be killed by police. This didn't take into account that where race was unspecified it could be estimated that around half of them would be Afrikan, Asian or Latino thus increasing the ratio.

US police still don't have to admit know how many people die at their hands every year: The police don't have to tell us. In 2014 the FBI carried out a probe on arrest-related deaths but was found to have under-reported the number by an average of 545 deaths per year. One reason for that is that sometimes the police kill people then claim they were not 'under arrest' at the time of their demise. Attempts to introduce the Walter Scott Notification Act requiring every US law enforcement agency to report all police shootings and deaths to the federal government was scuppered for four consecutive years. They would have had to provide: the victim's name, race, age, and sex; the officer's name, race, age, and sex; whether the victim was armed or not; a description of the weapon used by law enforcement; a detailed description of the event; the finding from law enforcement as to whether the shooting was justified or not. Any state which refused to report would face a 10% reduction in federal law enforcement grants and funds.

The FBI did report that 90 police officers died while on work-related activities. Of these 48 were feloniously and 42 accidentally. This is down from 106 in 2018. The 42 would include heart attacks, stroke and other fatalities which did not involve a member of the public. Indicating that the public are around 20 times more likely to die in the presence of a law enforcer.

~ CITY OF DALLAS DISMISSED FROM BOTHAM JEAN'S WRONGFUL DEATH LAWSUIT

US District Judge Barbara Lynn has ruled that the city of Dallas isn't liable for the actions of its off-duty police officers. She thus dismissed the city council from the civil lawsuit brought by Botham Jean's family against his police killer Amber Guyger, who will remain the sole defendant. Guyger entered Jean's home and shot him dead while he was relaxing after a hard day's work, then unbelievably claimed she thought he had broken into her flat.

The filing had accused Guyger of using excessive force on 6 Sept 2018 and accused the Dallas Police Department of failing to adequately train Guyger and other officers on how and when to properly utilise deadly force. Daryl Washington, lawyer for the Jean family, disagreed with the ruling saying: "There are a number of things that Amber Guyger did not do or said she did not recall how to

do. If this stuff was drilled into police officers, we would not have people saying they weren't familiar with de-escalation practices.”

There are suggestions that police officers should have personal 'malpractice' insurance to make them have a financial stake in avoiding paying out for improper actions or brutality as their insurance premiums would continue rising for repeat offences.

~ 20 LAPD OFFICERS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR FALSIFYING GANG LABELS

In another entrant for our 'if you have nothing to hide you have nothing to fear' news at least 20 LAPD officers from the elite Metro Division are under investigation for falsely labeling people as gang members. The investigation began when a mother in San Fernando Valley reported that her son had been misidentified as a gang member. LAPD Officer Mike Lopez, said the inaccurate labeling was part of an effort to boost traffic stop statistics. The officers provided “inconsistencies in information,” and 10 have been suspended or withdrawn inactive. Afrikan-Americans made up 28% of traffic stop statistics despite only being 9% of LA's population with officers regularly falsely marking citizens as gang members or associates. The probe looked over body camera and dashcam footage and reviewed field interview cards completed by multiple officers finding that some of the cards were “blatantly inaccurate.”

~ CEMETERIES AND MONUMENTS NEWS

Forensic archaeologists in Tulsa, Oklahoma, think they have found the site where hundreds of Afrikan-America residents were buried after the 1921 Tulsa Massacre by white supremacists. The researchers said the pit was about 30 x 25 feet, enough to bury up to 100 bodies. Scott Hammerstedt, who worked on the geophysical survey, said at Oaklawn Cemetery, the city's oldest existing cemetery, “there are quite a lot of anomalies here consistent with mass graves” near a part of the cemetery where city records show 18 Afrikans were buried in June 1921. In another section of the cemetery, they discovered “what very much looks like a human-dug pit. This is very likely a candidate to be a mass burial. We may need to investigate further.”

In the Tulsa Massacre up to 300 Afrikan-Americans were murdered in a concerted assault on their prosperous neighborhood of Greenwood, known at the time as “the Negro Wall Street.” The violence was sparked by a white mob who wanted to lynch an Afrikan shoeshine boy who was unjustly arrested and accused of assaulting a white woman. A group of armed Afrikan men gathered around him to protect him. The 2001 Tulsa Race Riot Commission Report showed that 35 square blocks of Greenwood were destroyed — including more than a thousand homes, businesses, churches, and schools. As the centenary anniversary of the massacre approaches Tulsa is having to face its historical demons. There are calls for any remains found to be moved to Vernon A.M.E. Church as part of a memorial as the church's basement was one of the few sites that survived the massacre.

Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum announced that he would open an investigation into the city's mass graves. "If you get murdered in Tulsa, we have a contract with you that we will do everything we can to find out what happened and render justice. That's why we are treating this as a homicide investigation for Tulsans who we believe were murdered in 1921."

News has come in that the seventh fairway of the Capital City Country Club golf course in Tallahassee, Florida, was built over at least 40 graves of victims of US slavery. Park service archaeologist Jeffrey Shanks uncovered the gravesite location and Delaitre Hollinger, the former President of the Tallahassee chapter of the NAACP, researched the plot of land amid longstanding rumours that the manicured lawns covered up a nasty secret. Talks are underway about how to possibly identify and commemorate the Afrikan-Americans laid to rest there. Some of those confederates won't want their golfing interrupted and the club has been part of the plantation heritage circuit. There are still more undiscovered war crime sites such as cemeteries across the US.

Meanwhile, over at the University of North Carolina System Sons of Confederate Veterans has received \$2.5m for transporting, repairing and maintaining the "Silent Sam" statue, a symbol of white supremacy and privilege. The SCV had already been granted a separate \$74,999 to stop them flying Confederate flags, banners or signs at the system's 17 campuses for the next five years. Conveniently, that second figure is just one dollar below the amount that would require Attorney General Josh Stein to approve the UNC's use of state funds.

The Andrew W Mellon Foundation withdrew a \$1.5m grant it pledged to Chapel Hill after hearing of the murky dealings. UNC-Chapel Hill history professor W Fitzhugh Brundage said the board was "subsidizing a version of history that is not accepted by historians at major American universities."

Undergraduate student William Holland wrote in an affidavit filed by Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: "It disgusts me that the university I attend would shirk its basic academic and moral responsibility to work toward an honest reckoning with the past, and instead would pay reparations to white supremacists."

Tamia Sanders, a UNC Senior and leader in the Black Congress, told demonstrators: "We're protesting the fact that UNC has given Neo-confederates \$2.5 million to protect and preserve a statue dedicated to white supremacy, dedicated to the enslavement of black people and threatening black students, when UNC has failed to protect and preserve their own student body."



Iranian General Qassem Soleimani and the aftermath of the drone strike

~ WAR, LIES AND DIRTY TRICKS

'Trust' - Buju Banton

Me nuh trust phone, me nuh own, me nuh like it / Pictures ah go 'round, seh Simone, ah mi wifey / Bare fuzzy picture weh suggest me ah knife it / All over Instagram ah mess wid mi psyche/.../Me nuh trust man weh switch don fi a Nike / Six was him general, and now him seh ah Mikey / Can't trust no man weh claim dem ah strikey / An' dem inna video and a show people/.../ Dem will sell you out, dem will sell you out / Di so call friends dem me ah tell you 'bout / Dem will sell you out, dem will sell you out / Cah nuff ah dem a real turncoat.

Anyone expecting a quiet start to the Gregorian New Year were soon disabused out of their naivete when the unholy triumvirate of the US President, MBS and the genocidaire Netanyahu called in the top Iranian General in charge of foreign policy for peace talks then blew up his car with a drone as he left the diplomatic check-in at the Baghdad International Airport. The Saudis had told the Iraqis that Qassem Soleimani should fly in from Damascus to discuss easing tensions with Iraqi PM Adel Mahdi after protestors threatened to overrun the US Embassy in the Green Zone and raze it to the ground. The Iranians and Iraqi militias had already got the protestors to start leaving the area around the embassy compound and were rewarded by the appointment assassination of two of the most influential players in the region. Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the second-in-command of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units was assassinated alongside Soleimani.

The world waited to see how high the tensions were going to go. Eventually the Iranians dropped a few replies on the Ein al-Asad base and another site in Iraqi Kurdistan. Iranian state media reported that 80 US personnel were killed or injured and secretly flown from the base. The US claimed that no one had been injured and that the Iranians had failed. Hours after the base was hit a passenger plane flying from Iran to Ukraine was downed by two missiles soon after take-off and all 176 people on board perished.

This is where the story starts to get murky and highlights the dangerous world we are living in. Given the number of cyber attacks that have been conducted against Iran by the US and Israel over the years it has not yet been established whether the missiles were rogues being remotely controlled by the US or Israelis having installed hacking software on Iranian computers as they have already done,

especially in the nuclear sector. It almost certainly was an end of Chanukah 'present' for the beleaguered Netanyahu, who has been unable to form a government despite repeated failed elections and is facing corruption charges in Israel. The fact that MBS made the call for Soleimani to come to Iraq means it is safe to assume that he was part of a conspiracy on that hit as with Jamal Khashoggi's appointment assassination in Turkey. We are now hearing how MBS has been hacking phones of people such as Amazon's Jeff Bezos and other people trying to do business with him alongside those of his political opponents.

An Israeli firm called Check Point Research found a security flaw in WhatsApp in 2018 which meant that people could edit someone's reply, similar to 'altering an email' to make it look like something a person never wrote. The Facebook-owned messaging app with over 1.5 billion users worldwide took over a year to fix the bug which could use the 'quote' feature in a group conversation to change the identity of the sender, alter the text of a person's reply, send a private message that actually appears as a public message or create a new 'non-existent' member. It was demonstrated at the Black Hat conference in Las Vegas.

The problems are added to by Google hoovering up all data in its Cloud storage which overrides the supposed end-to-end encryption that makes WhatsApp so popular. As they say if you are getting something for free in the world of tech or contracts then you and your personal data are the product. Not a good place to be for people who have already experienced chattel slavery - this time it is voluntary slavery of people who have deluded themselves over how easy and convenient computers will make their lives.

The US meanwhile said the Iranians had deliberately not hit anything significant in their base as they were supposedly cowards and all bluster. Three weeks later it started dribbling out that 11 US personnel had been injured with 'headaches'. This number then rose to 34 injured with many being transferred out of Iraq to Germany and Kuwait with concussion or traumatic brain injury as they were still not well enough to continue operations making the Iranian claim of a major strike on the base look more plausible. Some Americans War Veterans are surprised to find out that their President is not a close relative of anything approaching the truth and doesn't understand that in his role of 'Commander-in-Chief' he should follow a chain of command and seek advice from advisers on the ground in foreign conflicts. After the back and forth the Iraqis on whose soil the adventuring has been taking place decided that all US troops had to leave the country as they were contributing more to the destabilisation and sectarian fissures rather than bringing peace. To which the US replied that they wouldn't leave unless the Iraqis paid them for the bases they had built. Yankees never being ones to miss out on a cynical payday.

For several years now we have been complaining that the current US President has no consistent strategy on any issues and is incapable of outlining his thoughts in a properly organised press

conference. We now accept that his entire policy portfolio can be set out within the Twitter character limit as: “More money, more oil. Promote Israel regardless. Stop the Russians from releasing ‘those hotel pictures’!!!” We have now seen his Yehudi son-in-law’s so-called deal of the century offer to the Palestinians which they have rejected while the mass killings continue, more of their land is stolen, they are further impoverished and restricted from movement across their indigenous homeland by a colonial oppressor regime. The ICC is probing Israeli-Palestinian war crimes. Interestingly, Israel’s first response was that the ICC had no jurisdiction in the matter not to deny they knew they had been violating the human rights of the indigenous Palestinians since the days of Theodore Herzl.

The Palestinians can’t expect any support from the Saudis under MBS as Israel has announced that he is on their side in any dispute regionally or globally abandoning even a façade of Arab solidarity. General Soleimani had actually been central in the defeat of the Islamic State caliphate declared in Syria and Iraq and had worked alongside the US as far back as 2001 when he helped in the removal of the Taliban from Afghanistan after the attack on the Twin Towers. It truly is a world where many people have no friends only interests. Iran had been complying with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action even after the US walked away from the treaty because it was going so well and had meant that Israel had no reason to attack Iran in words or deeds.

OBITUARIES



~ **Barbara Campbell (- 28 Dec 2019). Journalist. Publisher. Editor. Mentor.** The well-known journalist and publisher Barbara Campbell has sadly passed away while suffering from dementia.

Barbara’s career began in 1994 at The Voice newspaper while she was studying journalism at Lambeth College in south London, the year after we finished the same course. “I did work placement at The Voice newspaper. I was still a student but within weeks was doing front page stories. I was offered a job as a journalist immediately when my studies ended and became editor of ‘The Journal’ broadsheet, a sister paper to The Voice, within two years of working with the company.”

She also freelanced with several mainstream publications including the Independent on Sunday. At the turn of the millennium Barbara founded and launched her Barb Wire Enterprises publishing house which produced the ‘Live Listings’, ‘The Official Guide to International Women’s Month’ and ‘Black Heritage Today’ magazines. The latter became the go-to publication for information about the annual Black History Month events across Britain. She cashed in her life insurance policy to

launch 'Live Listings' which provided details of events for Afrikan people whose interest were ignored by other publications such as 'Time Out. At one point Barb Wire Enterprises had up to 15 employees.

Barbara was a knowledgeable workshop facilitator on various aspects of the media and women's entrepreneurship, inspiring many people with her stories of starting and operating successful, quality businesses on a shoestring.

She is recorded as saying: "I started my companies because I saw the gap in the market for a multicultural *Time Out* and decided to go for it. I cashed in my insurance policy to fund it. The other subsidiary companies came about later when I realised there were other niche gaps I could fill, along with publishing seminars teaching those who wish to publish magazines how to do so on a shoe string, with their magazine still looking great!"

She was a beacon for those of us who were dedicated to promoting the self-publication of books and periodicals. She headed Barbara Campbell Inc which offered contract publishing to a variety of organisations and individuals. The social enterprise arm of the company, Assist2, provided the Media Education 2 Enterprise Challenge seminar programme for teenagers.

Most people of Afrikan descent in Britain have crossed paths with Barbara by either providing articles for her, reading her own writing, advertising in her publications, attending her lectures or just seeking advice and support from her. This is testified to by the outpouring of memories from people who knew Barbara's work and who remember her as inspirational, focused, hard-working and self-motivated with a great sense of humour. Barbara Campbell is survived by her two daughters.



© Reuters Kobe Bryant

~ Kobe Bean Bryant (23 Aug 1978 - 26 Jan 2020). Basketball star. Coach. Filmmaker.

Motivational speaker. Basketball legend Kobe Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were among nine people killed in a helicopter crash in the city of Calabasas, California. The aircraft went down and burst into flames in a remote field off Las Virgenes at 9.47am. Conditions were foggy, and local police had grounded their helicopters due to the poor weather.

The other people who died on the flight with Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter were: Orange Coast College baseball coach John Altobelli, his wife Keri, and their teenage daughter Alyssa; Payton

Chester, who played basketball with Gianna “Gigi” Bryant and Alyssa Altobelli, alongside her mother, Sarah Chester; Assistant girls basketball coach from the girls’ school Christina Mauser; and the pilot Ara Zobayan, who had held a commercial pilot’s license since 2007 and was qualified to fly in bad weather conditions and teach people how to fly in weather requiring instrument flight rules.

Bryant was the son of former NBA player, Joe ‘Jellybean’ Bryant and Pamela Cox Bryant. He entered the NBA leagues straight out of Lower Merion High School without going to college when he was just 17 as he had showed so much talent. The five-time NBA champion, was widely considered one of the greatest players in the game's history. He retired in April 2016 after career achievements including being the 2008 NBA Most Valuable Player and two-time NBA Finals MVP, an NBA scoring champion twice and a two-time Olympic champion. He scored 81 points against the Toronto Raptors in 2006, the second-highest single-game total in NBA history. An NBA statement said it was "devastated by the tragic passing of Kobe Bryant and his daughter, Gianna. For 20 seasons, Kobe showed us what is possible when remarkable talent blends with an absolute devotion to winning."



© Getty Images Mourners left flowers and wrote tributes to Bryant on the wall of the new hall

Moments of silence were observed at basketball games across the US. Bryant was also remembered at the Grammy Awards which were held at the Los Angeles Lakers' stadium later that day, where the player spent his entire career. After Lizzo’s performance, host Alicia Keys stepped to the stage to address the loss of Kobe Bryant and the effect it had on everyone. “Earlier today, Los Angeles, America and the whole wide world lost a hero. And we’re literally standing here heartbroken in the house that Kobe Bryant built. Right now, Kobe and his daughter Gianna and all of those that have been tragically lost today are in our spirit, they’re in our hearts, they’re in our prayers, they’re in this building, and I would like to ask everybody to take a moment and just hold them inside of you, hold them inside of you and share our strength and our support with their families. We wanted to do something that could describe a tiny bit how we all feel right now.”

Boyz II Men then joined Keys on stage to sing an a capella version of ‘It’s So Hard to Say Goodbye’ as the camera panned up to show Kobe’s retired jersey being illuminated.

Shaquille O'Neal, who played alongside Bryant at the Lakers between 1996 and 2004, wrote on Instagram alongside a photo of the pair in their Lakers kits that there were "no words to express the pain I'm going through. I love you and you will be missed."

He was the NBA's third all-time top scorers until being superseded the day before the crash by LeBron James who wore sneakers inscribed with "Mamba 4 Life" and "8/24 KB" in gold marker honoring Kobe's nickname "Black Mamba" and the jersey numbers he wore, 8 and 24, during his days with the Lakers. There have been tributes from as far away as the Philippines - where a new basketball centre named after Bryant opened just hours before his death - and Italy. Luca Vecchi, the Mayor of Reggio Emilia where Bryant spent part of his childhood, said that the city will remember him forever.



© Reuters Kobe Bryant

In December 2018, Bryant partnered with Sports Academy to rebrand the 100,000 square foot venue to the Mamba Sports Academy to "provide effective, safe and transparent overall human performance training to develop athletes to the peak of their potential."

Bryant was accused of sexual assault in 2003 by a 19-year-old woman working at a Colorado resort. He denied the allegation, saying the two had consensual sex and the case was dropped after his accuser refused to testify in court after her name and previous sexual history was publicised. A subsequent civil suit was settled out of court.

Bryant won an Oscar for best short animated film in 2018 as the producer-screenwriter of 'Dear Basketball', a five-minute film based on a love letter to the sport he had written in 2015. Bryant is survived by his wife, Vanessa and three other daughters - Natalia, Bianka and Capri, who was born just seven months ago.



Kenny Lynch performed alongside the Beatles on their first British tour

~ **Kenneth Lynch, OBE (18 Mar 1938 – 18 Dec 2019). Singer. Songwriter. Entertainer. Actor. Nightclub owner. Events promoter.** The multi-talented and mercurial Kenny Lynch, who was a fixture in the lives and culture of people growing up in Britain in the 1960s and 1970s, has passed away.

Kenny Lynch grew up in Stepney, in east London, as one of 13 children from a Barbadian father and Jamaican mother. After leaving school he did his national service in the Royal Army Service Corps where he was the regimental featherweight boxing champion. While his sister Gladys was a noted jazz singer under the stage name Maxine Daniels Kenny would join the industry as a more mainstream pop singer and songwriter having developed a taste for entertainment while at Peggy O'Farrell's stage school. In the mid-1960s he owned, the Kenny Lynch Record Centre a shop in London's Soho district. Most of his tracks were self-published and he was also an artistic manager and a restaurateur.

Lynch released several singles from 1960 onwards, including two Top Ten hits – 'Up on the Roof' in January 1963, and 'You Can Never Stop Me Loving You' in August 1963. He became the first person to ever cover a song by The Beatles with his single release of 'Misery', and that relationship endured until his passing. He was on The Beatles first-ever British tour and appears on the cover of the 1973 'Band on the Run' album by Paul McCartney and Wings.

As well as writing his own material he also covered songs by writers of the infamous Brill Building hit factory in New York. Lynch also wrote songs for others including actress Linda Thorson, The Small Faces' British hit 'Sha-La-La-La-Lee' and Cilla Black's hit 'Love's Just A Broken Heart', in collaboration with the American songwriter Mort Shuman. He also co-wrote 'You'd Better Believe It' and 'Sorry She's Mine' for the Small Faces' 1966 debut album and tracks for Dusty Springfield, the Drifters and the Everly Brothers.

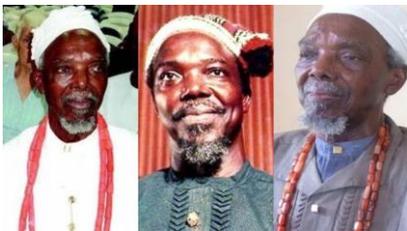
Lynch's songwriting for the 'A Song For Europe' contest went back to 1962 with the song 'There's Never Been A Girl', which failed to be chosen for the 'Eurovision Song Contest'. In 1978 he was the writer and producer of Midnight's 'Don't Bother To Knock', which came second in the contest. That same year he wrote 'Love Crazy', the theme used for the film 'Carry On Emmanuelle', and 'You Can't Fight It', the vocal version of the theme to the John Carpenter film 'Assault on Precinct 13'. Lynch oversaw the production for Hylda Baker and Arthur Mullard's comedy version of 'You're the One That I Want' which reached number 22 in the British Singles Chart in September 1978. In the early 1980s, Lynch formed a songwriting partnership with the former tennis player Buster Mottram, who at the time was a white nationalist activist. Lynch recorded less as time went on but he did release a Christmas single in 1996 with his good friends Bruce Forsyth and Jimmy Tarbuck. He

performed as a double act with Tarbuck in summer seasons at places such as Bournemouth and the Isle of Wight. They also appeared together at Royal Variety Performances in 1981 and 1987.

Lynch appeared in at least nine films and among his TV appearances were: 'Celebrity Squares', 'Mooncat & Co', 'Room at the Bottom', 'Bullseye' and 'Curry and Chips', 'Z-Cars', 'The Sweeney', 'Till Death Us Do Part' and 'Treasure Hunt'. He performed at Ronnie Scott's jazz club in 2011 and toured in 2015 with 'The Rat Pack', a tribute show to Frank Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. In many ways Lynch's career trajectory can be seen as similar to that of Sammy Davis Jnr in the US, being considered by many in the entertainment industry as the acceptable face of Afrikan life, with his cheeky Cockney persona, boxing history and East End links to the mobsters around the Kray twins who were becoming influential in the West End nightlife scene.

Among Lynch's last public appearances was in 2018 when he took part in a concert tour with his golfing buddy Jimmy Tarbuck and Anita Harris, and also appeared in ITV's 'Last Laugh in Vegas'. Lynch was given his OBE for services to entertainment in 1971 and was interviewed for the 1000 Londoners project. He was well known for his fundraising efforts completing the London Marathon in 1982, playing in several charity football matches and taking part in Michael Parkinson's 'Celebrity Cricket' events.

Kenny Lynch is survived by his two daughters, Amy and Bobby.



~ **Vincent Chukwuemeka Ike (28 Apr 1931 – 8 Jan 2020). Chief. Writer. Academic.** The Nigerian writer Chukwuemeka Ike, known for his writings which mixed humour and satire, has passed away.

Chukwuemeka Ike was born in Nigeria's Anambra state, and was given the Christian name of Vincent but later chose to be known by his Igbo name, Chukwuemeka - God has done great. His father was a king and civic leader who impressed on his son the necessity of civic duties and education. He studied further education at Ife-Mbaise before attending Government College Umuahia, where he wrote for the school magazine, The Umuahian. Writers of the caliber of Chinua Achebe, Christopher Okigbo and Ken Saro Wiwa attended the school around the same time.

After completing his secondary education Chukwuemeka studied History, English and Religious Studies at the University of Ibadan and earned a Master's Degree at Stanford University. Among his most popular works was 'Expo '77', a critical look at academic examination abuses in West Africa

gleaned from his time as a former registrar of the West African Examinations Council. Ike believed the corruption of the nation's leaders had permeated the society and led to widescale unethical practises. 'Expo' would become the slang word in Nigeria for academic cheating.

Chukwuemeka Ike was a king, Eze Ndikelionwu of the great Aro town Ndikelionwu in eastern Nigeria, with the title Ikelionwu XI. His hometown featured regularly in much of his works, such as 'Potter's Wheel', 'Toads for Supper' and 'The Bottled Leopard', which reflected Igbo people and their culture.



© Journal du Cameroun

~ **Francisco Brennand / Francisco de Paula de Almeida Brennand (11 June 1927 – 19 Dec 2019)**. Sculptor. The Brazilian artist Francisco Brennand has passed away from respiratory problems.

Francisco Brennand worked in several different media, but was best known for his monumental ceramic sculptures. He was inspired by the works of Pablo Picasso, Joan Miro, Paul Gauguin and the Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi during a trip to France. In 1971, Brennand set up a workshop in the ruins of his father's ceramics factory, where he gave free rein to his art. Today, it is a sprawling showcase of his work with more than 2,000 pieces on display. His most emblematic work is the Parque das Esculturas (Sculptures Park) in Recife, where visitors can admire more than 90 monumental sculptures facing the city's port. The city commissioned the park in 2000 to mark 500 years since the European colonial invasion of what became Brazil.

Many of Brennand's works elaborate on abstract beings that are sensuous symbols. Several anatomic parts are in his studies, mainly from the female body. He also used ceramics to create floor and wall tiles for construction. His works were exhibited across Brazil, in Europe and the United States. The governor of Pernambuco state, whose capital is Recife, decreed three days of mourning, while the city's mayor lamented Brennand's death as an 'irreparable loss.'

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

~ **CODE OF DELIVERANCE: VOL. 1 ISSUE 1 (THE CURE) - Von Mozar (Author) & Nicholas L Harrison (Editor) [IPNM / Harrick Media Ltd. ISBN: 978-1093594201]** Von Mozar has asked us to point out that he did not personally work on the 'Dubplate Drama' TV series but alongside those who had been involved in its production. You can check out his work at: <https://www.vonmozar.com/>

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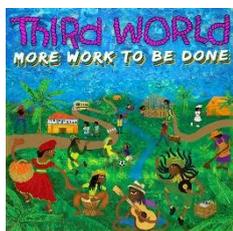
~ **'SLY & ROBBIE VS. ROOTS RADICS - THE FINAL BATTLE' – Various Artists [Serious Reggae – Out Now]** When we first saw the title we thought we were going to get some rarities dug out of the vaults from those early 1980s rub-a-dub dancehall sessions but these are all new tracks with a heap of top-notch veterans all present and correct. The rhythm tracks alternate between the Taxi Gang and a much-diminished Roots Radics with only Flabba Holt from the Volcano glory days left anchoring things here. The peerless Bingy Bunny, Style Scott and Steely Johnson are laying down riddims with Nambo on horns and Gladdy on organ for heaven's choir while Dwight Pickney is still around on terra firma but fronts his own outfit.

The 12-track compilation was produced by percussionist Hernan 'Don Camel' Sforzini, recording mainly at his Afro Studio in Buenos Aires and Tuff Gong in Kingston. However, there were vocals, horns and keyboards recorded at other studios such as Living Room Records, Penthouse, Big Ship Mixing Lab and Grafton Studios in Jamaica. Overseas production means the sound veers more towards roots riddims as Jamaica has only really fallen back in love with that style in the last five years. There is solid backing from the likes of Earl 'Chinna' Smith, Franklyn 'Bubbler' Waul', Henry 'Buttons' Tenyue', members of Steel Pulse, SOJA and former members of Groundation hoisting up the flag.

The album opens with the original Grammy kid Mykal Rose backed by Sly 'n' Robbie on 'This Morning'. Just the thought of it gets diehard fans all misty eyed reminiscing. Mykal Rose could wake up and chant his shopping list and it would still beat most contenders while here he's having to deal with another curfew. Brinsley Forde, long solo from Aswad, is next up delivering 'Uterior Motives' in a similar stream of consciousness-style backed by the Roots Radics with the evergreen Bongo Herman on writing and arranging duties for all their tracks. Look through your record collection and see how far back Bongo Herman's recording career goes – he's played with them all, even sung with many!

The Mighty Diamonds sweetly drop 'Change My Mind' with Dean Fraser, the other stalwart of the Radication Squad horns section, in evidence. 'Glory' sees a turn for Freddie McGregor praising H.I.M. This is followed by Horace Andy advising people to 'Mind Your Own' business. We're not even half-way through the album and its like one of those 'superstar touchdown' releases from back in the day with no-filler. Pablo Moses condemns those who 'Gwan Run up Yuh Mouth' while Lee 'Scratch' Perry himself advises 'Full Moon, Plant a Tree', with Addis Pablo adding sweet melodic in a way his father would appreciate. Scratch even played percussion on the opening track and if he is around then his buddy Max Romeo is often never far away here condemning the wicked for opening up 'The Gates of Hell' with a rocking accompanying trumpet.

The silky tones of Ken Boothe pays tribute to the homeland of the production team extolling his love for Argentina and the vibes he got on his visit. Ken has been working with the Inna di Yard crew in recent years as have The Congos who plead that 'Things Must Get Better'. Sly 'n' Robbie, The Congos, Max Romeo and Scratch on the same album is really like getting the old Black Ark gang back together again. Luciano rounds up the last Taxi Gang offering extolling us to 'Make a Change'. You think you've heard it all when in walks Toots and his Maytals dedicating the closer 'To You' in a ska fashion ensuring we all go out on a high. The album was Grammy nominated but lost out to Koffee, making her the first solo woman and the youngest artist to attain such an accolade. Big things are expected of her.



~ **'MORE WORK TO BE DONE' – Third World [Ghetto Youths International – Out Now]** Another Grammy contender produced by Junior Gong alongside his musical 'uncles' celebrating their 45 years as a group, although before that many of the original Third World members were part of Inner Circle. Stephen Marley and Third World's guitarist and cellist Cat Coore combine to ensure the band's identity is stamped all over the album. As is their trademark the 11-track 'More Work to Be Done' brings together sounds from every corner of the globe ranging from traditional to contemporary roots-reggae, lovers rock, jazzy stylings and heavy hitting dancehall.

The album opens with 'YimMasGan' to anchor the whole project in memories of those early albums. 'Third World Keeps Turning' is a self-referential namecheck to let the listeners and doubters know that despite the passing years and personnel changes they're always on the right track. 'Loving You Is Easy' is a nice slice piece of yard lovers. Pressure Busspipe shows up on 'People of a Different Color', the plea for an end to white supremacy. Chronixx steps in for the cool roots of 'Na Na Na',

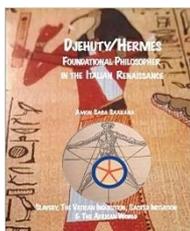
while Busy Signal puts in another faultless shift on 'Feel Good'. Tessanne Chin and Tarrus Riley sign in for the gentle 'Island Dreams'.

'A shepherd never give up on his flock / A shepherd guard his sheep no matter what / A shepherd find his sheep when they are lost / A shepherd guard his sheep at any cost' – 'Sheep in Meadows'

'You're Not the Only One', a song of solidarity and upliftment, is the single from the album that has been getting a lot of heavy rotation and features Junior Gong in full lyrical flow. 'More Work to Be Done' indicates that Third World don't intend to rest on their laurels and this is confirmed by the album's closer 'Hear Us Out' letting all and sundry know they still have more messages to spread. For those unsure or of little faith stick with it cos it's a grower!

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We will only review books we have read and DVDs we have seen and that are available at reasonable prices online or in shops or libraries. However, given the nature and current state of Afrikan publishing and film production there may be books and films on this list that are worth the extra effort to track down.



~ **'DJEHUTY/HERMES: FOUNDATIONAL PHILOSOPHER IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE (SLAVERY, THE VATICAN INQUISITION, SACRED INITIATION & THE AFRICAN WORLD)' - Amon Saba Saakana [Karnak House / Per Rekh Mdw Press. ISBN: 978-1-872596-31-0]**

"For the human is a godlike living thing, not comparable to the other living things of the earth but to those in heaven above, who are called gods [ntru]" (Copenhaver, Tractate X/24:36) (p103)

'Djehuty/Hermes, Foundational Philosopher in the Italian Renaissance', reviews the current state of research on the inspiration from the Kmt/ Ancient Egypt priest-philosophy behind the Italian Renaissance. Djehuty was translated into Greek as Thoth and was also called Hermes in honour of his own wisdom. The Greeks came across the writings of Djehuty when they colonised Kmt in 332 BCE. They considered him as Kmt's greatest philosopher and the inventor of writing, magic and ecclesiastical architecture. Writing in Kmt was established by 3,500BCE. Books attributed to Djehuty may not have been written by him but they were compiled under his supervision, approval or inspiration. This was a common practice also used in the Torah / Talmud. Djehuty had many names

including 'Scribe of the divine book', 'Bull of Heaven', 'Strong one of the gods', 'lion of the South, mighty in strength', 'reckoner of time, he that came into being in the beginning' and 'guide of heaven, earth and the netherworld'. Djehuty was represented in Greek alchemical texts as a snake with its tail in its mouth for Kmt and eternity. Thoth was depicted with two ibises indicating writing, wisdom and architecture. His philosophy passed through the Latin Mercurius, Arabic Idris and Iranian Hoshang.

This book is dedicated to Theophile Obenga, Cheikh Anta Diop, Jacob H Carruthers and John Amenechukwu Umeh. These are leading scholars in the exposition of the Afrikan worldview despite the fact they face ongoing opposition in much of academia to scholarly work challenging the Eurocentric orthodoxy. Diop had to submit his thesis three times before it was passed and when he was appointed Director of IFAN back in Dakar he was instructed by his own government not to teach history. This shows how much Afrikan governments are in thrall to the western canon despite Diop and Obenga's presentation to the United Nations in 1974 which easily outclassed the foremost so-called 'egyptologists' of the day to a point where the Moderator of the sessions declared that the combined scholarship of their 22 opponents was not of sufficient quality to continue being presented.

The legacy of Diop and Obenga was passed on to Aboubacry Moussa Lam, Youssef ben-Jochanan, John Henrik Clarke, Ivan van Sertima, Jacob Carruthers, Alain Anselin, Chancellor Williams (maa kheru), Charles S Finch, Ama Mazama, Molefe Kete Asante, Maulana Karenga, linguist Mario Beatty, Abdul Salau, Soy Keita, Jean-Philippe Gouridine, Anthony Browder, Chukwunyere Kamalu, Yoporeka Somet and Andrew Jaggs. Obenga's 'African Philosophy during the Period of the Pharaohs' was the first book to really expound on Kmtan philosophy translating both Kmtan and Greek texts.

George James in 'Stolen Legacy' points out that Greek philosophy was stolen from Kmt. The society of Thrales, Pythagoras, Socrates and Plato was one of slavery despite their own experiences of Kmt where the likes of Solon had spent 12 years. The latter's allies turned against him when he tried to reform the slave state and sought to bring in new laws on debt. Women like Pandora and Athene are represented as vengeful, spurned lovers, vehicles of evil. Greek gods indulge in excess jealousy lacking the capacity to improve the behaviour or morals of their fellow gods. In this culture the stranger was seen as an interloper, an enemy. Bertrand Russell was horrified by Greek behaviour and the moral bankruptcy of their Gods. He points out that Greek gods claimed to have conquered the world not created it like the lore of indigenous peoples thus they ruled while living off the wealth created by others. Schwab observed: 'They did not know the art of quarrying and cutting stones, of burning bricks from clay, of carving out beams from the trees they hewed in the forest, or of building houses with all these materials.' (p15)

Constitutional slavery was enshrined in Sparta and Athens restricting dissent and the concept of a fair and egalitarian society with Plato enunciating his support for a benign despotism. Those who came after the Graeco-Romans and claimed to be the inheritors of their political and cultural output were

thus imbibing elements of the Kmtan worldview but refracted through inferior morality and aesthetics with logic, argument and reason opposed to the Kemt concept of rekh or 'Knowing'. 'Knowledge must be gained only through secret learning at the feet of a morally uplifting master; alternative routes produce vulgar methods and are impure acts to be rewarded only by death.' (p11)

Greek philosophers learned about faith in the written texts and literary traditions of the past through studying in Kmt. But the deepest knowledge was also transmitted orally. The Greeks expanded due to population explosion and poor agricultural lands in the mountains by conquering settled communities such as the cities of Sicily - Naxos, Syracuse, Akragas (Agrigento), etc. The Phoenicians fleeing Assyrian attacks did not resort to enslaving the population they encountered but instead set up trade and settlement posts. They worshipped Imhotep and had introduced writing to Greece, based on the Canaanite alphabet derived from Kmtan writing. The Phoenicians were eventually overrun by the more aggressive Greeks, who had five classes of 'voting rights' with property being the main criteria just as it was in Europe until the middle of the 19th Century. Money not policies decided votes with seats being bought by the monied and slave-owning class.

Pythagoras (570-495BCE) studied under Kmtan priests, including Psenophis of Iunu (Heliopolis) and Senchis of Sais, for 21 years and had to flee to southern Italy when he tried to expound the moral philosophy he had learned in Kmt and eventually died in Metapontum. The impact of conquest and enslavement on life was stark. In Attica nobles were taking one-sixth of the produce from other landowners' farms. While the Spartans were taking half of their neighbours produce. The Assyrians moved in their own settlers and Babylonians in land they conquered. Under the Athenian Constitution a Royal Proclamation of 12 Nov 198BCE legalised the enslavement of Egyptians captured during rebellions in Upper Egypt, etc. Demetrius of Phalerum found that the population of Attica consisted of 21,000 Athenians, 10,000 Metics with 400,000 (forty myriads) servants. Slaves had no rights to compensation if they were injured or recourse if a family member was murdered. Both Aristotle and Socrates argued in favour of this arrangement.

A sage in Ancient Greece was considered to be a politician who surrounded himself with philosophers able to argue either side of an argument. Today we have these people such as the British PM Boris Johnson who can spout mindless rhetoric assuming most people are not as well read as him or will be impressed by his use of excerpts of Latin and Greek. His sidekicks include Michael Gove who infamously said people don't want to hear from experts in their manufactured 'post-truth' world. Other rhetoricians lacking a moral code who are currently running nations include Brazil's Bolsonaro, Duterte in the Philippines, Israel's Netanyahu and Victor Orban in Hungary. Greek philosophy is thus considered to be the noise of arguments while the Kmtan worldview has no arguments but instead sounds full of efficacy. The western socio-political structure results in proposed 'solutions' creating more problems and the justification for nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction. This is also reflected in the western allopathic medical model where the

synthesised 'cures' all come with a long list of so-called 'side effects', often including death, which are actually effects as something either affects you or it doesn't.

Plato was aware of the laws of Draco and the governance of Lycurgus which were based on the use of force. He advocated a 'benevolent dictatorship': "...it will be by turns a despotism, an oligarchy and a democracy – and those who hold power in it will not endure to hear a just and fair constitution so much as mentioned." (p29)

Socrates is quoted as saying: "These capitalists...keep prying after their own interests...whenever one of the remainder yields them opportunity, they would him by infusing poisonous money, and then recover interest many times as great as the parent sum, and thus make the drone and the beggar multiply in the state." (p30)

Adding: "...democracy, and only democracy lays the foundation of despotism; - that is to say, the most intense freedom lays the foundation for the heaviest and fiercest slavery." (p31)

Today this is seen in the works of the likes of the Global Restructuring Group deliberately impoverishing then acquiring businesses they were meant to be advising. At an international level the whole fiction of capitalism is outlined in detail in the 'Confessions of an Economic Hitman'. In truth there has never been 'Free trade' as capitalists and adventurers exist in a political and economic climate that lets them accumulate vast profits through lying, bribery, contract fraud and mass expropriation while seeking government bailouts and tax concessions to fund their debauched lifestyles. The tyranny of excessive choice has been developed to encourage people to expend more of their time contemplating their consumerist options and the mind-numbing drudgery and poor wages they have to endure to participate. Just like how people were deluded into believing they are living for the better good of society and Sparta.



Maat, ntret of law, order,
reciprocity and balance; central
to legal and ethical behaviour

The Kmtn concept of the Gods (ntrs) coming out of the chaotic water or the primeval mound is found in Islam – 'the creator is the one and only god, the creator is eternal and absolute, he begets and is not begotten and there is none like unto him.' Which is from: "He begetteth, but was not begotten: he bringeth forth, but was not brought forth; he begat himself and gave birth to himself. He created, but

was not created, he made his own form and body He himself is existence...(Budge 1973 (1911): 357)" (p36)

Poimandres is named as the teacher of Hermes / Djehuty. Poiman = shepherd of men (andres). Resis is related to Re. Oima in the Latin translation of Coptic rendering of Kmtan is eime which means 'has the spread of meaning not just knowledge but also of understanding, intelligence and the faculties of perception and recognition'. Therefore P-oima-ndres means 'The Understanding / intelligence / knowledge of Re. Similarly, Husia is the command or authority of understanding and intelligence. Sia is on the right hand side of Ra thus the right hand man representing Ra's intelligence as his messenger.

Kmtan knowledge is still living on the Afrikan continent among the Dogon, Ifa/Yoruba, Sarakolle, Igbo, Bamana, Islam (Sufism), Christianity (The Copts) and the Ethiopian Orthodox Church who still use Ge'ez as a liturgical language. However, in many cases it has fossilised as the technology has not kept pace and where once technology propelled society forward the indigenous people have been dispossessed of their land and forced to migrate to less economically viable territories or abroad. The Dogon from west Afrika say the beginning of creation of the universe is based on the principle of vibration with the movement of their smallest, cultivated seed, fonio / kize uzi, which exploded in its casing to arrive at the outer universe.

Kmtan cosmological traditions include a calendar which was in existence by 4,200BCE. They were aware that the tilt of the earth's axis is one degree in 6-7,000 years for temples oriented to the sun. With Manetho saying the Kmtans were studying cosmology for 25,000 years with dynasties existing before Narmer, the Unifier which is set at 3,150 BCE in the western canon. The Khufu Akhet monument (Sphinx) is aged at 7,500-9,000BP for the base construction. It had been weathered by rainfall before it ceased in Kmt. The Nabta Playa (Nubian) megalithic structures linked to the pyramids reveal knowledge of the galactic centre - not known until the 18th Century in Europe - back in 11,782BCE. Aligned to a vernal equinox sunrise they are a clock marking the Zodiac's passage.

Ani, the deceased scribe, is the subject of 'The Book of Coming Forth by Day'. You needed to know the gatekeepers name and answer god's mysterious question with a cryptic answer alluding to obscure events in the mythological past. Knowledge to pass through in the Underworld was gained during life. Sirius measured calendrical time – 365.25 years; tropical year – 365.24219 days; year calculated at $365 + 10/39 = 365.25641$. Sidereal year – 365.25636 days. The final number invalidated the Sirius cycle of 1461 as the epoch varied between 1,450-1,460 years. The Djoser step pyramid masterminded by Imhotep had 1,459 panels on the eastern wall and 1,461 panels on the western wall. The latter represented public knowledge of the heliacal rising of Sothis, the former was esoteric knowledge known only to initiates.

Saakana outlines the first creations of Atum as male-female divine couples covering air, moisture, earth and sky (space and time) which were essential for breath, cooking, cleaning and agriculture. Kmt had a governor (tjaty) for every city, tax collectors, jurists and three courts – lower, higher and appeals to the nsw, who was unlikely to exercise power negatively. The nsw 'possessed' all the land but had no power to block anyone from occupying and settling. Likewise, Yoruba traditional chiefs could not accumulate wealth or pass on their title or power to their immediate children. Cash crops and European political institutions undermined the structures and allowed people to accumulate personal wealth without any societal obligations. When Kmt was conquered by the Mesopotamian Ptolemies people were taxed to the hilt and ruled despotically with wealth moving into the hands of a few by making the country the private of the Roman emperor. There was complementarity in the divine pair with the woman portrayed with admiration, devotion and love. Kmt was ruled by the nsw with divine female companions. The woman was prominent in her own home and the per aa. Woman had the right to choose their husband and follow whatever career they chose. 'She could leave wills and legacies, conduct business in her own name, and divorce her husband if she were mistreated or unhappy.' (p45)

The universe is ever-expanding and its growth can't be computed but the world was One (wa) and became many (Asha) – sun, moon, stars, planets, earth and sky, water, air, terrestrial beings, etc – equally parts of the one world. The One (wa), The Supreme Being (Ntr), the Divine Ones (ntru) and all living organisms all share the same ultimate source of all energy. Amadou Hampate Ba, author of 'Aspects of African Civilization (Person, Culture, Religion), was initiated into several knowledges of Islam by Tierno Bokar / Boubacar, the sage of Bandiagara. The Sufi perished in 1944 and is now a saint – Tierno Bokar Salif Fall. Tierno Bokar belonged to the Futanke, a royal Fulani entity, which advocated oral not written traditions with Fulani not Arabic as the language of instruction. Ba wrote: "The great History of life is made up of sections which are, for example, the history of soils and waters (geography), the history of plants (botany and pharmacopoeia), the history of the "threads in the bowels of the earth" (mineralogy), the history of the stars (astronomy, astrology), the history of waters, etc...It is therefore possible to speak of a single "science of life" conceived as a whole, in which everything is related, interdependent and interactive." (p43)

Maat represented adherence to these qualities while their transgression, conflict and disharmony was Isfit. Mdw Ntr, divine word or speech, was called hieroglyphics by the Greeks with the highly developed written word becoming the expression of permanence. Amenemope considered a virtuous man as 'silent' and a belligerent one as 'loud'. His words aim to guide people away from drinking, borrowing, evildoing, cheating, lying, etc. 'The Instructions of Amenemope':

Beware of stealing from a miserable man
And of raging against the cripple...
Do not be greedy for a plot of land
Nor overturn the boundaries of the widow...

Better is the bushel which God gives you
Than five thousand deceitfully gotten...
Do not set your heart upon seeking riches
For there is no one who can escape Destiny and Fortune
God loves him who cares for the poor
More than him who respects the wealthy...
(Simpson 1973: p242-265) (p52)

Carruthers says that a staff or cane is an object of authority in traditional Afrika in personal, lineage, titular professional and institutional contexts. Ejizu adds that the ofo staff of the Igbo is the principal object of prayer used to invoke divine blessings on an individual but also that words uttered at the shrine reach god through the ofo. For Kmtans the word is the foundation of origin encapsulating the whole universe which came in to being possibly through sonic waves or electromagnetic vibrations. "Therefore, each word uttered in a ritualistic, ceremonial or philosophical context is iridescent of light, of will, that brings the unborn into creation, that communicates with divine forces and The One and calls into manifestation the intangible. Compare this notion with that of the Bamana, "...the word, Kuma, is a fundamental force emanating from the Supreme Being himself...it is the instrument of creation" (Ba 1981: 168) (p98)

The Dogon have eight ancestors generated by Amma/Ntr, from his first two creations. The eight is replicated in methods of cultivation and weaving. The Goddess Neith represents the crossing warp and weft with crossed arrows personifying knowledge and science – the left and rights sides of the brain constantly cross and recross the perception and interpretation of information. Thus Ntr's hand in the souls of the eight is replicated in the principal symbols of life and work meaning blessings are continuously received, renewed and regenerated.

The Jewish Kabbala and Christian humanism were derived from Kmt. Kabbala is not a Hebrew word but comes from the Kmtan Ka-ba-Ra - energy and consciousness of God / Ra (the sun). Baw-Ra – the emanations of Ra. However, the Old Testament sanctioned inequality, slavery, genocide and is the foundation of the Hebrew and Christian religions. The last Kmtan temple closed at Elephantine in the 4th Century and the cult of Isata / Isis was banned. Property was seized and turned into churches. Constantine originally extolled solar worship and the cosmography of Kmtu. The laws against unacceptable magical practices were the maleficium against sorcery and fraud but magic had been accepted if it came from the upper classes. Witches were being killed as early as 200CE when 5,000 Romans were executed. Cosmic celebrations were incorporated into Christianity with Christ's birth moved to 25 Dec to coincide with the Winter Solstice.

Islam invigorated Europe through Moorish Spain and within it were kernels of Kmtan knowledge gained from Afrikan intellectuals who switched to Islam under a barrage of colonial attacks. Sufism

and Shia'ahism were receptive to Kmtan traditions and the word Sufi derives from *sufa*, a Kmtan term meaning cultured, urbane and civilised. The Spanish created concentration camps for Moors and other Muslims after the reconquest. Money and possessions were expropriated from those to be sold into slavery. Torture was meted out to apostate Christians. The Knights Templars rose up in the 12th Century and bloodily pursued booty by plunder and theft. Having relinquished individual wealth to live in monasteries they found the wealth accumulated from bequests and philanthropy more lucrative. Convicted murderers and other such types were recruited by being told their sins would be absolved in the eyes of God. The Knights Templars sacked Constantinople in 1204 when it was the seat of the Christian Empire. New Christian Orders rose up and were destroyed with adherents burnt at the stake or banished for denouncing Church corruption.

The Vatican promoted ruthlessness, murder and conquest codified in the Papal Bulls decreed by Nicholas V and Alexander VI in which all non-Christians were to be subjugated and brought to the faith with the overthrow of 'barbarous nations'. The Doctrine of Discovery promoted the right to colonise indigenous people. In the 15th century, the priest-philosopher Marsilio Ficino, who was translating the works of Plato into Latin under the patronage of the Venetian Cosimo de Medici, was tasked with translating *Picatrix* & the *Corpus Hermeticum* which portrayed Djehuty's high moral attributes allied to a vast knowledge. Ficino wanted an initiatic tradition claiming Mercurius Djehuty was the teacher of Greek philosophers. He moved towards the Kmtan model of *sema* (unity) with the Creator as the ultimate goal believing philosophy to be a route to becoming Godlike.

Giovanni Pico Della Mirandola (1463-1494), son of the Count of Mirandola, studied Hebrew, Latin, Greek and philosophy. He came into conflict with Pope Innocent VIII who considered seven of his theses heretical and six others bordering on heresy. He was arrested and then released after writing an Apology. Lorenzo de Medici, Cosimo's brother, offered Mirandola a villa to pursue more orthodox theological studies. He synchronized traditional, non-Christian science and philosophy with Biblical cognates and envisaged the Creator as one and everything else as many/multiple, created by the One. He proposed a trilogy of intelligences – the angelic world, the heavenly realm and corruptible humanity with a limited lifespan in which consciousness can be graded. This is similar to the trinitarian concepts of Kmt – the Creator, elemental Divinities and the people.

History is full of people who were forced to recant the truth after being bribed or tortured while others stood by the kmtan-derived wisdom they had gained and paid the price of exile or ultimately being executed. Giordano Bruno (1548–1600) was burnt at the stake. He studied in Naples, which was under the influence of the Spanish Inquisition. He came to London staying with the mixed-race French Ambassador Michel de Castelnau, painted with an afro in a portrait his son sent to the publishers of his memoirs. Bruno was arrested for criticising an Aristotlean professor in Geneva and made to apologise and destroy his critical leaflet. Bruno was a Pythagorean who saw the sun as central to our universe at the same time as Galileo was arrested and punished for his books in Rome.



Persian King Darius 1
(521-486 BCE) making
offering to Inkpu & Isata.
Brit. Mus. A37496.

Persians revered the ntr Atum invoking Apis and Atum as the granter of 'all life'. Darius I claimed he was 'the son of Re born of Atum'. Cambyses also linked himself to the Kmtan tradition. The Persians called Hermes Hoshang – the Righteous. In the tradition that when a society is colonised its learned intelligentsia is put at the service of the coloniser Kmtan artists worked on projects in Persepolis and at Susa. Likewise, Plutarch told how the Ethiopian philosopher Aesop was fought over as a royal adviser, working for both the Persians and the Greeks. He transmitted knowledge through fables, stories and poetry. The enslaved elite were often castrated so that knowledge could not be transmitted to their offspring. This brain drain thus enhanced other societies. The Sultan of Turkey castrated his Ethiopian second-in-command who he had as a financial director and harem supervisor. Ethiopian Guardians of the Muslim prophet at his tomb, Al Masjid Al-Nabawi or the Prophet's Mosque in Medina were castrated. The eunuchs still guard the graveside after 800 years. They usually lived aesthetically but were instructed in 2014 by the Governor of Medina to reveal their experiences in the Letters and Illumination exhibition where they were photographed by Adel Quraishi.

Islam has three gradations of knowledge – general introduction, deeper knowledge of precepts of knowing and then the highest form of knowledge. The Dogon have four gradations starting with the introductory giri so (fore word) up to the final so dayi (clear word). It takes 21 years to attain the final stage then there was travel to other countries to learn other methods. Three degrees of knowledge are a fundamental tenet of Freemasonry. On this subject it is indicative to hear Dr Ben speak to the Black Freemasons telling them they are only 33-degree masons while he is a 360-degree mason as he follows the original Afrikan traditions.

Bokar said the spiritual shepherd must ensure the sheep do not drag people into the moral abyss, the valley where neither the soul nor spirit can survive. The symbol of the nsw's sovereignty in Kmt is the shepherd's staff. The shepherd is in control and balanced if he is not angry or making hasty judgment. 'The Eloquent Peasant' called by Carruthers 'The Nine Petitions of the Farmer Whose Speech is Good' tells of a petition to the Governor by a farmer who was robbed, beaten and dispossessed of his merchandise. Carruthers uses numerology to calculate the number of petitions,

9, and the number of goods taken, 27, highlighting the esoteric teaching available to an initiate. The farmer demands moral behaviour, maat, in a form indicating he knows the textbook.

Wehemu Mesu / Repetition of the Birth / continuous Renaissance shows how the family and ancestors provided a model for emulation and veneration. It was the family's duty to train up members to maintain the values and idealism of their traditions with compulsory training of especially the male sons. 'In "The Instructions of Ptahhotep," according to Miriam Lichtheim (1975: 62), "The cardinal virtues are self-control, moderation, kindness, generosity, justice, and truthfulness, tempered by discretion... No martial virtues are mentioned. The ideal is a man of peace."' (p124)



Nineteenth century procession of the Abakua. (Courtesy Pedro Sarduy)

Afrikan retentions are also found in the western hemisphere manifesting as Candomble, Orisha, Rada, Voodoo, Santeria. Princes and priests were captured during the Slave Holocaust and they remade and remoulded their lives in the Caribbean. The Abakua of Cuba maintained their secret guilds and languages to transmit a worldview opposed philosophically to that of the European upper class, both Christian and Jew. Abakua initiates wear a hat and non-initiates were called ofeke or ndisimi. Abakua were suspended or banished from their lodges for giving info to non-Abakua. Crowning of the paramount chief must be sacralised to the Ndem female deity (not the Ekpe male). Thus the male society is represented by a female. Water is regarded as ancestral and symbolical regeneration and Ekpe was a female water divinity. 'Some of the first lodges of the Abakua were founded outside Old Havana in 1840, Efori Ekomon and Ekle Ntati Machechere, and we learn that water was fundamental to foundational ceremony because the Mother Goddess, Ndem, is water based and is sometimes represented as a mermaid.' (p131)

The Abakua established their first lodge on a 'beachhead', a body of water with a serpent as a central figure. In Calabar shrines are situated facing water to honour the deity and evoke her presence through prayers and chants. Sikan emerged from the water with a fish in her hand and was entangled at her feet by an enormous serpent, which represents guardianship of the 'oracle and the healing arts'. The serpent / python is on the forehead of the peraa / nsw and is portrayed on the boat of Ra as a protector. It represents eternity with its tail in its mouth and rebirth and healing. Among the Igbo Prof Umeh's 'After God is Dibia' shows that the priest comes after God. Abakua say 'God is in Heaven and the Abakua are on earth.' Calabari say 'God [is] in the sky, but Ekpe [is] on the land.'

Freemasonry lodges in Cuba were linked to the Abakua who provided revolutionary leadership – Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, initiator of the first revolutionary war in 1868; Antonio Maceo, Cuban war hero; Jose Marti, advocate of Cuban independence. Antonio Maceo and Quitin Badera were initiates of Palo Monte, a Congolese secret society. Abakua were also in the leadership of the Mambi revolutionary army. Andres Petit, the Bakoko in the Bakoko Efa lodge (Abakua) was also a Kimbisa initiate, who opened a new lodge that would not discriminate based on ethnicity or heritage. He initiated several Europeans and used their fees to buy the freedom of several enslaved Afrikans.

The book ends with a reference to Dr Gabriel Oyibo who developed the God Almighty Grand Unified Theorem (GAGUT) linking the ancient Kmtan cosmological perspective coming out of the abysmal water Nunu (chaos, turbulence = khepera, becoming, birthing of a child) to the current state of scientific knowledge. A final thought, BBC Radio 4 recently broadcast a series called 'Could an Ancient Athenian Fix Britain?' For all the shows western broadcasters make about ancient Kmt they would never let anyone make a primetime series with a similar title but replacing Athenian with Egyptian or Kmtan as they never want to publicly acknowledge Afrikans as the source of truth and knowledge-based solutions.

NUBIART DIARY

We welcome feedback on any event you have attended that was listed in Nubiart Diary. It helps us with the selection of future listings and is also info we can pass on to the event organisers where appropriate. NB: We will no longer endorse any events related to Marvel Comics, such as the Black Panther franchise, as their company profits are funding and promoting the racist, sexist and Afriphobic attacks by the current US President.



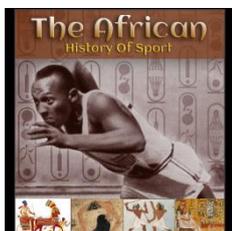
~ SHANTI-CHI

- 'The Griot Way Training: Learn Afrakan Storytelling the Griot Way'. Every Wed at 6pm-9pm from 11 Mar to 24 Jun at Pink Palace, Frankham Street, Deptford, London, SE8 4RL. Adm: £360. Web: <https://www.shanti-chi.com/griot-training>

- 'Free Spirit Night Walk Meditation'. Meet on third Fri of month at 7pm outside Lewisham DLR Station. Tel: 07582 228 967. E-mail: info@shanti-chi.com Web: www.shanti-chi.com The

expedition walk leader Griot Chinyere said: 'During these rambles we walk at a pace slow enough to be present to each breath, each action, each movement as we take each step.'

~ BLACK HISTORY STUDIES EVENTS



- 'African History of Sport Family Course'. On Sat 1, 8 & 15 Feb at 10.30am-12.30pm at New Chances, 399 High Road, Tottenham, London, N17 6QN. Web: <https://blackhistorystudies.com/our-courses-2/families-courses/childrens-workshops/> Make History come to life with an 'African History of Sport' workshop led by Charmaine Simpson of Black History Studies. Children will experience learning about different areas of sporting history; and will be able to explore the evidence of sports played in Ancient Egypt, and other Nile Valley Civilisations. Children will be able to use different learning styles to solve problems, as they work in teams, enjoy themselves, AND learn African History. The workshops are based on 'The African History of Sport' documentary, produced by the Institute of Black Culture, Media and Sport, in 2017. You don't need to have seen the film to attend this course. The course consists of three workshops covering different areas of sport and is aimed at young people from 6 years – 16 years. If you book onto this course, you will receive one adult ticket for the screening on Fri 31 Jan.



- Black History Tour of the British Museum. On Sun 16 Feb at 10.30am–1pm or 2pm-4.30pm at the British Museum, Great Russell St, Bloomsbury, London, WC1B 3DG. Adm: £10 / £5 for Children (7–17 years).

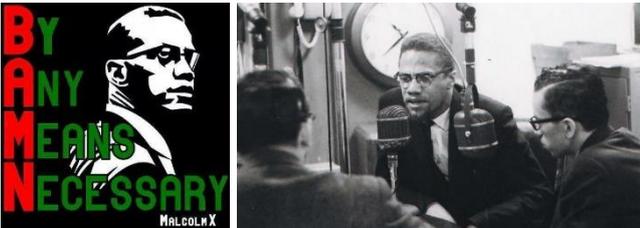
The British Museum has extensive collections from historic societies of Africa. Some of the highlights of the tour are the Bronzes of Benin and artefacts in the Egyptian Gallery.



- 'Cashflow 101 Workshop'. On Tues 18 Feb at 6.30-9pm at Pimlico Academy, Lupus Street, London, SW1V 3AT. Adm: £15. Book via Eventbrite:

<https://cashflow101workshop5.eventbrite.co.uk> or Jus-tickets: 1 <https://jusstickets.com/events/cashflow-101-workshop/>

Investing is a skill most can't learn from a book. The alternative of learning in the 'real world' could prove costly. You need to first understand your own behaviour. The CASHFLOW 101 game was created by Robert and Kim Kiyosaki, the founders of the Rich Dad Company. Robert Kiyoski is the author of the best-ever selling personal finance book of all times, 'Rich Dad Poor Dad', which has been on the New York Times Bestseller list for over 7 years, translated into over 30 languages.



- 'Malcolm X: An Overwhelming Influence on the Black Power Movement'. On Thurs 27 Feb at 6.30pm at the Lexi Cinema, 194b Chamberlayne Road, Kensal Rise, London, NW10 3JU. Web:

<https://thelexicinema.co.uk/film/bhs-malcolm-x> An enlightening look at Malcolm's early life and at the legacy of his powerful work in the historic struggles of freedom, justice and equality for Black people in America through the eyes of family, comrades and major civil rights figures. Many people in the film have never been publicly interviewed before and share very close, intimate and critical moments of their work with Malcolm from the ups and downs to the very last moments of his life.



- Black Market & Film Festival. On Sat 4 Apr at 12-9pm at West Green Learning Centre, Parkview Academy, West Green Road, London, N15 3QR. Adm: £5 / MOTD. Web:

www.blackmarketfilmfestival18.eventbrite.co.uk The Black Market & Film Festival will include stalls showcasing Afrikan arts & crafts, jewellery, fashion, skincare, hair care, food, books, DVDs, toys and more. There will be educational and interactive presentation on Black Economic

Empowerment and film screenings for all the family. There will be some workshops on the day as well as children activities.



- **Black History Study Tours In Partnership With Black History Studies Presents ‘Black History of Brussels Tour: Uncovering The Hidden Black History In Brussels, Belgium’.** On Fri 17–Sun 19 April. Cost: £399pp. Tel: 0208 881 0660 or 07951 234 233. E-mail: info@bhstours.com This new and exciting tour designed by Black History Study Tours explores the rich heritage of Afrikans in Brussels, Belgium and their connection to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With two nights’ accommodation included and an expert guide to accompany you, the tour highlights the contributions of the Afrikan Diaspora to Belgium society from the 19th century to the present, visiting several historically and culturally significant landmarks and communities in Brussels.

For all info on Black History Studies Tel / Fax: 0208 881 0660. Mobile: 07951 234 233. E-mail: info@blackhistorystudies.com Web: www.blackhistorystudies.com



~ TAYO ALUKO & FRIENDS FORTHCOMING PERFORMANCES

- ‘Call Mr Robeson’. On Sat 1 Feb at Bishop Center for Performing Arts, Aberdeen, WA, USA.
- ‘Solo Concert’. On Sun 2 Feb at First A.M.E. Church, Seattle, Washington.
- ‘Call Mr Robeson’. On Sat 29 Feb at St Andrews Sports and Community Centre, Handsworth, Birmingham.
- ‘Call Mr Robeson’. On Tues 3 Mar at The Miners Theatre, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire, Wales.

For full details of times, venues and prices tel: +44 (0)151 707 8187. Web: www.callmrrobeson.co.uk / www.justanordinarylawyer.com



~ **FILM MERTON & JOHMDARD LYME PRESENTS 'THE REELTIME FOR BLACK LOVE'**. Film Merton was Awarded funding from the Mayor Of London to bring films to the borough throughout 2019, up to Spring 2020. Pop up cinemas with curators and guest speakers allow communities to see a range of rare, short and popular films for free. The films will be screened as part of a collaboration with Johmard Lyme, an intergenerational initiative in Colliers Wood. After each film you will have the chance to Lyme, including taking part in line dancing, dominoes and cards games, with adult refreshments available to purchase in a safe, warm and inviting space.

- **'Eve's Bayou'**. **On Sat 1 Feb 2020 at 7pm**. Kasi Lemmon's directorial debut of 1997 stars Samuel L Jackson, who also helped produce the film. It explores family love, loyalty and betrayal.

- **'If Beale Street Could Talk'**. **On Sat 29 Feb 2020 at 7pm**. A stunning portrait of young love in this powerful adaptation of a James Baldwin classic novel of 1987. Directed by Barry Jenkins with awesome cast, including Oscar Winner Regina King.

All screenings at the Johmard Community Centre, 65-67 High Street, Colliers Wood, London, SW19 2JF. Adm: Free. Tel: 07950 308 033.



~ **AFRICAN ODYSSEYS PRESENTS 'MY FRIEND FELA' + Q&A. Dir Joel Zito Araújo**. An engaging, award-winning documentary about the influential and outspoken musician Fela Kuti, creator of the all-conquering Afrobeat. On Sat 8 Feb at 2pm at BFI, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 9XT. Adm: £6.50. Web: www.bfi.org.uk

~ **AFRISTORICALS EVENTS**

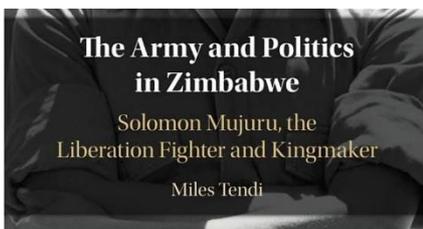


- **THE 'ANCIENT AFRICANS' TOUR.** On Sun 9 Feb at British Museum, Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG. Adm: £10 (adv) / £15. Tel: +44 (0)20 7323 8181. E-mail: info@umojapp.com / info@britishmuseum.org Discover the evidence of Ancient Africans in Europe, Asia and America at the British Museum.



- **'African Evolution at the Natural History Museum'.** On Fri 28 Feb at the Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL. Adm: £10 (adv) / £15. Tel: +44 (0)20 7323 8181. E-mail: info@umojapp.com Unlock the racist iconology that persistently depicts the earliest humans in Africa as APELIKE (but early Neanderthals as HUMANLIKE) to make Darwin's theory a reality and African Humanity a myth!

~ RAS EVENTS

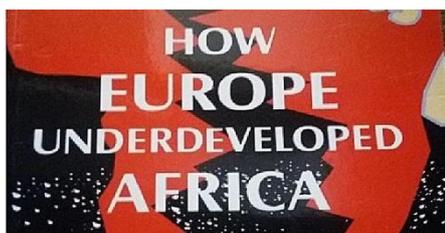


- **'The Army and Politics in Zimbabwe: Solomon Mujuru, the Liberation Fighter and Kingmaker'** book launch with author Professor Miles Tendi, Associate Professor in the Politics of Africa, Oxford University, chaired by Dr Nick Westcott, Director of the Royal African Society. On Mon 17 Feb at 5pm-7pm at Djam Lecture Theatre (DLT), SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Bloomsbury, London, WC1H 0XG. Adm: Free. This full-length biography of the first Afrikan commander of independent Zimbabwe's national army General Solomon Mujuru or Rex Nhongo throws much needed light onto the opaque elite politics of the 1970s liberation struggle, post-independence army and ZANU PF. He was an illustrious Afrikan liberation fighter in the 1970s and, until his suspicious death in 2011, an important figure in the ruling ZANU PF party in Zimbabwe, Based on the interviews with informants in the army, intelligence services, police and ZANU PF.



- **'African Solutions, Global Challenges: The role of the Diaspora.'** On Wed 4 Mar at 6pm-8pm at Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Thornhaugh St, Bloomsbury, London, WC1H 0XG. Adm: Free. Conference organised in conjunction with SOAS University of London, the African Foundation for Development, the MIT Legatum Center for Development and Entrepreneurship, and the IE Africa Center focussing on the ways in which Afrikan executives and entrepreneurs in the diaspora are shaping the continent's economic and cultural future through investment, technology and, art. Does the Afrikan market represent an ideal market for a technology entrepreneur? How can Afrikans in the diaspora build a new narrative for the continent and its people?

~ BLACK HISTORY WALKS EVENTS



- **'Secrets of Soho Black History Walk'.** On Sat 29 Feb. This special walk delves into an amazing depth of Afrikan-Caribbean history between Soho Square and Russell Square. It features: Ancient Afrikan civilisations, female entrepreneurs, the Marcus Garvey connection, Academia and more.



- **'Black History River Cruise'.** On Sat 7 Mar from Temple Pier, London. A three-hour cruise along the Thames from Temple to Vauxhall to Greenwich and back highlighting the hidden Afrikan-Caribbean history on display, which in some areas goes back 3500 years.



- **'Black History Bus Tour'. On Sun 8 Mar.** A three-hour drive showing London's top tourist attractions from an Afrikan-Caribbean perspective. There is at least 2000 years of Black history to be uncovered!



- **'How to move to the Caribbean and Live Good'. On Sun 15 Mar at Holiday Inn London, Kensington Forum, London. Tickets: www.eventbrite.co.uk** With an increase in racism due to Brexit as well as the illegal Windrush deportations, some Afrikan people are considering their options to relocate to the Caribbean, but how easy is it?



- **'Black Films and White Power: 13 years of African Odysseys'. On Tues 17 Mar at University of Westminster, London.**



- **'Jim Kelly, Kung Fu and Black British Civil Rights'. On Sun 29 Mar at Harris Westminster Sixth Form, London.**



What was the Windrush?

The Empire Windrush's voyage from the Caribbean to Tilbury dockplace in 1948. Believe it or not, very few of the migrants intended to stay in Britain for more than a few years.

If it hadn't been for the Second World War, the Windrush and her passengers might not have made the voyage at all. During the war, thousands of Caribbean men and women had been recruited to serve in the armed forces.

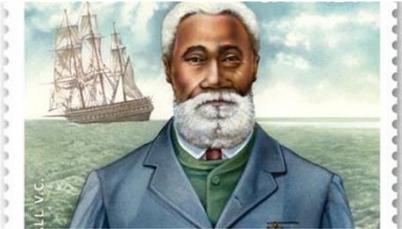
When the Windrush stopped in Jamaica to pick up servicemen who were on leave from their units, many of their former comrades decided to make the trip in order to rejoin the RAF.

More adventurous spirits, mostly young men, who had heard about the voyage and simply

- **'Elephant & Castle' Black History Walk.** This walk links the Imperial War Museum with the Cuming Museum of Ancient Egypt. It illustrates more than 200 years of Afrikan history with tales of the Will Smith of 1800's London, the strategic planning of the Windrush generation, Afrikan soldiers and more...



- **'St Paul's / Bank Black History Walk'**. Your guide will take you through hundreds of years of the Afrikan presence and contribution to London's way of life. Discover secret alleyways and enormous buildings all connected to Afrika and the Caribbean.



- **Heroic Black Sailors of the 1800s**. This special talk takes place on board a replica of Francis Drakes 16th century ship the Golden Hinde. The talk starts at 7.30pm but the boat will be open for exploration to ticket holders from 6.30pm.



- **The Black Image Part 1 of 2**. A very revealing presentation and film which shows how the image of Afrikan people has been deliberately altered by Europeans to show negativity. In the 15th century Afrikan people were portrayed in European art as noble, sophisticated and wealthy.



- **'The Black Image Part 2 of 2'**. A very revealing presentation and film which shows how the image of Afrikan people has been deliberately altered by Europeans to show negativity. In the 15th century Afrikan people were portrayed in European art as noble, sophisticated and wealthy.



**Queen of Sheba and Andromeda:
The African female image in European art**

- **'Queen of Sheba + Andromeda: The African female image in European Art'**. An illustrated presentation on the (replaced) Afrikan female image of the Queen of Sheba and other Afrikan women from canonical western art.



- **'Tutankhamun's Hidden History'**. Discover Tutankhamun as you never knew him before! Experience the real history around ancient Afrikan kings and queens in a dynamic storyboard exhibition, three interactive presentations, film clips and spectacular Egyptian inspired jewellery.



- **Trafalgar Square Black History Walk**. Millions of people walk through Trafalgar Square every day and have no idea of the centuries of Afrikan history under their feet and in front of their eyes. In two hours your guide will expose the links between Britain and Afrika, India and the Caribbean.



- **Notting Hill Black History Walk**. There is much more to Notting Hill than Carnival but even that history is often mis-represented. Find out about pioneering Afrikan/Caribbean people who literally fought for equality and laid the foundation for modern multi-cultural London.



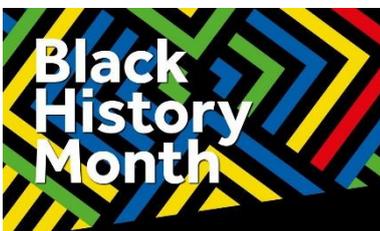
- **'Black Power Women of Brixton Walk'**. Web: www.eventbrite.co.uk Afrikans in Britain fought for civil/equal rights as hard as their American counterparts. The role of women in this struggle has been severely marginalised. This walk will show the life, times, and activities of numerous Afrikan-Caribbeans in the area.

- **'Clapham Common Walk'**. A special walk around Clapham Common to expose the Afrikan resistance and presence in the area.

For information on all Black History Walks events e-mail: info@blackhistorywalks.co.uk Web: www.blackhistorywalks.co.uk



~ **SENYACUM (EDUTAINMENT) PRESENTS 'POETRY IN MOTION'**. A day of music, dance, comedy, story telling, fashion and poetry with Yasus Afari, Dr Leahcim Semaj, Prof Edward Baugh, Dr Michael Abraham, Kabu, Marjorie Whyllie, Mik, El Jones, Dr Ann-Marie Wilmot and Denise Brown. On Sun 23 Feb at 2-5pm (African Bazaar) and 6pm (Showtime) at Manchester Golf Club, Brumalia Road, Mandeville. Adm: J\$1500 (adv) / J\$2000 (OTD) – adult / J\$800 (adv) J\$1000 (OTD) – children. Tel: 962-2403 / 398-8616 / 398-8982.



~ **HARINGEY BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

- **'We Made It! Haringey's BAME Creators and Innovators'** exhibition. Until Sun 1 Mar 2020 in the East Wing Gallery. 'We Made It!' salutes past and present-day BAME creativity and innovation – all from Haringey. Exploring the collections from Bruce Castle Museum and Haringey Archive, this exhibition celebrates the more recent artistic excellence of portraitist Kelvin Okafor and the creative

storytelling of visual artist Agenda Brown, alongside the early work of internationally significant photographers David A. Bailey, Dave Lewis, Ingrid Pollard and Suzanne Roden. Emerging talent Marquel Williams from Tottenham shows his new fashion designs, reflecting on the Windrush Generation and influenced by renowned textile designer Althea McNish, with made examples using her beautiful fabric. The award-winning 'Sewn Together' Afrikan and Caribbean commemorative quilt made by Sonja Camara and the Haringey community will also be on show, made in 2019. The collection of artists includes Gary March, Melonie Stennett, Bernette Hall, Antony Paul Maina, Adjoa Wiredu, Tony Wolliston and Tania Pascoal, amongst many others. Enjoy, explore and be inspired.



- **'Windrush Legends and Legacies'**. **Until Sun 1 March 2020 in the Old Kitchen.** Opening on Windrush Day in 2019, this exhibition shows stories from the Bruce Castle collections and the local community, celebrating the presence, the significant contribution and the lasting impact of Haringey's Windrush Generation.

All exhibitions at 1-5pm (Wed-Sun) at Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU. Adm: Free. Tel: 020 8808 8772. E-mail: museum.services@haringey.gov.uk



Zaï, Batodi, Tajaé, Nigeria (June 2012).

~ **THE SOCIETY OF AFRICAN EARTH SCIENTISTS PRESENTS THE MAN WHO STOPPED THE DESERT' SCREENING.** Yacouba Sawadogo is a farmer from Burkina Faso who has been successfully using traditional farming techniques to restore soils damaged by desertification and drought. Together with Mathieu Ouédraogo, another local farm innovator, Yacouba Sawadogo began experimenting with the cordons pierreux and zaï holes techniques for rehabilitating damaged soil in the 1970s. Sawadogo introduced the innovation of filling zai holes with manure and other biodegradable waste, in order to provide a source of nutrients for plant life. Zaï holes have been used to help cultivate trees, sorghum, and millet and have led to the water table levels rising by an average of 5 metres. Yacouba Sawadogo holds bi-yearly "Market Days" at his farm in the village of Gourga. Attendees from over a hundred regional villages come to share seed samples, swap tips, and learn

from one another. In 2018, he was awarded the Right Livelihood Award. On Thurs 5 Mar at 7pm at 29-31 Hampstead Road, London NW1 3JA.



~ **BRUNEI GALLERY PRESENTS 'EMBODIED LIBERATION: THE TEXTUAL, ETHNOGRAPHIC & HISTORICAL RESEARCH OF THE HATHA YOGA PROJECT'**. An exhibition of the most recent research discoveries in the field of Yoga Studies as identified by the Hatha Yoga Project, SOAS. Until Sat 21 March at 10.30am–5pm (Tues – Sat) and 10.30am-8pm (Thurs) at The Brunei Gallery, SOAS, The University of London, Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London, WC1H 0XG. Web: <https://www.soas.ac.uk/gallery>

~ **V&A EVENTS**

- **'Talawa Theatre Company Archive'**. Until Mar 2020 at 10am-5.30pm at the Theatre & Performance Gallery, Room 103, V&A South Kensington, London, SW7 2RL. Adm: Free. Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 2000. Talawa Theatre Company was founded in 1986 by Yvonne Brewster, Carmen Munroe, Mona Hammond and Inigo Espejel to address the lack of creative opportunities for Afrikan practitioners in the performing arts. Taking their name from a Jamaican patois term meaning gutsy and strong, Talawa are now considered the leading Afrikan theatre company in the UK. Their work covers a broad range of theatre, from Oscar Wilde to African classics, as well as championing new writing through initiatives such as the annual Talawa Firsts Festival. The archive documents all aspects of the company's work and includes scripts, photographs, letters, publicity material and production records.

- **'Laughing Matters: The State of a Nation'**. until Sun 29 Mar 2020 at 10am-5.30pm in the British Galleries Room 55, Clore Study Area, V&A South Kensington, London, SW7 2RL. Adm: Free. Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 2000. This display reflects on the role of humour in debates around identity, empire and power over the past 200 years providing an insight into what it means to be British today.

- **'Cairo Streets'**. Until Sat 25 Apr 2020 at 10am-5.30pm at Islamic Middle East, Room 42, The Jameel Gallery, V&A South Kensington, London, SW7 2RL. Adm: Free. Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 2000. Web: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/APKKIqPJ/cairo-streets> This exhibition gives visitors an insight into everyday life in Cairo in the 19th century, through historic photographs of local people

going about their daily lives. It also features examples of turned wood window screens, called mashrabiyyah, which gave a characteristic visual flavour to Cairo's streets.



Antelope, Brass, Asante (Ashanti),
1850–74, Museum no. 5-1875

- **'Asante Goldweights'**. Until Sun 31 Oct 2021 at 10am-5.30pm at Metalware, Room 116, The Belinda Gentle Gallery, V&A South Kensington, London, SW7 2RL. Adm: Free. Tel: +44 (0)20 7942 2000. Web: <https://www.vam.ac.uk/blog/design-and-society/asante-goldweights-a-new-display-highlighting-contested-heritage-in-museums> An exhibition marking Ghana's 2019 'Year of Return' reassesses the V&A Museum's collection of 18th and 19th Century Asante goldweights. African Artists and Curators challenge contested histories, suppression, colonial practices and explore the increasing discussions in museums around decolonisation and collecting history. Some of the items exhibited here were looted by British troops when they raided the Asante capital, Kumasi, in 1874. The objects represent the symbols of beliefs and practices within the Asante Kingdom, where the economy was centred on the gold trade. Small brass goldweights were shaped to express proverbs encouraging honesty, integrity and the need to leave a legacy of good deeds. The extended horns on this antelope refer to the Asante saying, 'Had I known' or, 'If I'd known my horns would grow so long I might not have started'. A visual pun on the benefit of hindsight, this is an appeal for thought before action. The museum bought this weight for 4s in April 1874 from a Sergeant Pearce, two months after the raid on Kumasi. Advice on content and language has been provided by: Professor Olivette Otele, Professor of History at Bath Spa University and Vice-President of the Royal Historical Society; S I Martin, independent historian and author of 'Britain and the Slave Trade'; the artist and musician Dr Peter Adjaye (AJ Kwame); and Janet Browne in V&A Learning.



Peter the Great with
Black Page, Baron
Gustav Von Mardefeld,
1720, V&A London

- **‘The African Gaze: The African Presence in 17th And 18th European Art’**. On first, second and third Fri (at 7.30pm) and Sat (at 3pm) of the month at the Meeting Point in the Grand Entrance, V&A Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL. Adm: Free. V&A African Heritage tours revealing the extraordinary Afrikan-European narratives within the V&A’s Europe 1600–1815 Galleries! The specially researched tour gives an overview of the Afrikan presence in 17th and 18th Century Europe as represented in a number of high quality artistic works. From blackamoors to rebel leaders - visitors will look at the experiences and achievements of individuals of Afrikan descent in European history at a time when the Afrikan body would become symbolic of degradation.

- **‘Historical and Hidden Caribbean: A View of Life Through Art and Design’ Tour**. On first Sun of the month at 3pm at the Meeting Point in the Grand Entrance, V&A Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 2RL. Adm: Free. Examine the narrative of a Caribbean past. Scrutinize the V&A collection across four significant tours that examine the narratives of a Caribbean past. Appreciate the distinct traditions and dynamic culture of the Caribbean. Discover the stories of selected objects in our collection and embrace the pursuit for freedom, the challenges of migration, the movement of people and the impact of creolisation.



The Krios of Sierra Leone display

~ **TOWER HAMLETS AFRIKAN HISTORY MONTH PRESENTS ‘THE KRIOS OF SIERRA LEONE’**. A new display exploring the unique and largely untold history, heritage and culture of the Krio people of Sierra Leone. It covers their dress, architecture, language, lifestyle and tradition. ‘The Krios of Sierra Leone’ includes contemporary objects from the collections of Krio Londoners as well as 19th century objects related to British colonial rule in Sierra Leone from the museum’s collections. Together, this will highlight the diversity of cultures brought to Sierra Leone that became uniquely Krio. Today’s Krios descend from the first settlers sent to Sierra Leone in the late 18th & 19th century by the British including London’s Black Poor, Black Loyalists freed during the American revolution, Jamaican Maroons and Africans freed from illegal slave ships after the abolition of the slave trade in 1807. Curated by Iyamide Thomas of The Krios Dot Com. Until Sun 27 Sep 2020 at 10am-6pm at Museum of London Docklands, No.1 Warehouse, West India Quay, London, EC2Y 5HN. Adm: Free. Tel: 020 7030 3300. Web: www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands

~ **BBM/BMC EVENTS.** These are held on a regular basis at Harrow Mencap, 1st Floor, 3 Jardine House, Harrovia Business Village, Bessborough Rd, Harrow HA1 3EX. Adm: Free. E-mail: btwsc@hotmail.com / bbmbmc@gmail.com Web: www.BBM.eventbrite.com



~ **CARIBBEAN LABOUR SOLIDARITY MONTHLY MEETING – ‘LATIN AMERICA ON FIRE’.**

Speaker Francisco Dominguez followed by a report back from CLS General secretary, Cauline Brathwaite on the recent international meeting in Venezuela. On Sun 2 Feb at 12-2pm at Islington Pensioners Forum, 1A Providence Court, Providence Place, London, N1 0RN. E-mail: info@cls-uk.org.uk Web: <http://www.cls-uk.org.uk>

~ **CASILDART OPEN CALL FOR ARTISTS.** An open call to artists for an exhibition being curated in May. Contact: Sukai Eccleston, Director, CasildART. Tel: 0797 1000 129. Web: www.propertystylistlondon.com Twitter: @casildart Facebook: @africanartsourcingservice Instagram: #africanartfinder

~ **ALKEBU-LAN REVIVALIST MOVEMENT PRESENTS**



- **‘Shumira’.** On first Sun of the month at 12-6pm at Chestnuts Community Centre, 280 St Ann's Road, London, N15 5BN. Tel: 020 8539 2154 / 07908 814 152. E-mail: info@alkebulan.org Web: www.alkebulan.org/SHUMIRA The birth of the Alkebu-Lan Revivalist Movement in Jan 1987 was signalled by the opening of their "Fellowship". The aim was to re-institutionalise Afrikan-Spirituality and Afrikan Centred modes of worship and ritual for the Afrika Community UK, as well as to provide a focal point for culturally appropriate community development and Nation Building. Fellowship will be open to the Afrikan Community as Shumira! A Shona word meaning "Worship". Shumira is the process through which they ritualise harmony with MWARI Nyakusika (The Creator, Universal Life Force, All in All), Mudzimu Mukuru (Our Great Ancestors), and the forces of Mother Nature.

- 'Nommo Sessions'. On last Fri of each month at 7-11pm at Mama Afrika Kulcha Shap, 282 High Road Leyton, London, E10 5PW. Adm: £3 / U-21 – Free. Tel: 020 8539 2154 / 07908 814 152. E-mail: info@alkebulan.org Web: www.alkebulan.org

- 'Vimbo Verenga'. On Tues at 7.30pm at Mama Afrika Kulcha Shap, 282 High Road Leyton, London, E10 5PW. Tel: 020 8539 2154 / 07908 814 152. E-mail: info@alkebulan.org Web: www.alkebulan.org

- 'Rise of the Griots'. On second Fri of each month at 6-10pm at the Maat Temple, 366a High Rd, Tottenham, London, N17 9HT. Adm: £10 / MOTD. E-mail: theword@ShakaRaSpeaks.com Web: <http://www.shakaraspooks.com/riseofthegriots/>

~ **PASCF WORKSHOPS**. On Fri at 6.30pm at 336 Brixton Road, London, SW9 7AA. Adm: Free.



~ **JAZZMO'THOLOGY LIVE PRESENTS THE TONY RÉMY BAND**. With Tony Remy – guitar; Nick Cohen – bass; Anders Olinder – keyboards; and Mark Mondesir - drums. On last Fri of the month at 7-11pm at Prince of Peckham, 1 Clayton Road, London, SE15 5JA. Adm: £15. Tel: 020 7635 8844. Web: www.princeofpeckham.co.uk



~ **PACM UMOJA SESSIONS**. On the first and third Sun of the month at 4-7pm at Maa Maat Centre, 366a High Rd, Tottenham, London, N17 9HT. Adm: Free. Tel: 07415 482 167 / 07956 052 821.

 <p>Nyeusi Self-Defence</p> <p>An effective and straightforward self-defence system for men and women.</p> <p>Boost your self-defence, self-confidence, fitness and health.</p> <p>Age: 14 years and over.</p> <p>Fee: £2 per session (per person).</p> <p>Equipment needed: None. Working under supervision, suitable for training, 100% guaranteed.</p> <p>Sessions: Starting 18 Jan - 12.30pm (English) 189 Bayswater Road.</p> <p>Notes: The Temple of the Divine of Bayswater (189 Bayswater Road, London, W11 2JL) 020 7222 1000.</p> <p>Book: <i>Self-Defence for Men</i> (London, 2011) £10.</p> <p>Book: <i>Self-Defence for Women</i> (London, 2011) £10.</p> <p>Book: <i>Self-Defence for Children</i> (London, 2011) £10.</p> <p>For more information call: 079 56 28820.</p>	<p>Nyeusi Self-Defence</p> <p>Nyeusi Self-Defence is an effective and straightforward self-defence system for men and women 14 years and over.</p> <p>Other than having their DNA sequenced to participate in genetic testing, high quality personal safety devices are available for men and women. Each device is designed to be used in a variety of situations.</p> <p>Our courses are available in various languages and are suitable for men and women. We provide a comprehensive self-defence training to ensure you are confident and ready to defend yourself in any situation.</p> <p>Nyeusi Self-Defence has led to the development of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system, which is the only self-defence system in the world that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system.</p> <p>Nyeusi Self-Defence is a system based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system. It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system. It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system.</p> <p>The right eye of Nyeusi is a system based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system. It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system. It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system.</p> <p>It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system. It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system. It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system.</p> <p>It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system. It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system. It is a system that is based on the principles of the Nyeusi Self-Defence system.</p>
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~ **NYEUSI SELF DEFENCE CLASSES.** Nyeusi means 'Black' in Kiswahili and black is the spiritual colour for protection. Classes suitable for 18+. On Suns at 10-11.30am at Maa Maat Centre, 366a High Rd, Tottenham, London, N17 9HT. Adm: £3. Tel: 07510 249 828.

~ **BRIXTON WINDRUSH LEGAL CLINICS.** All sessions at Black Cultural Archives, 1 Windrush Square, Brixton, London, SW2 1EF. Adm: Free. Tel: 020 3757 8500. E-mail: info@bcaheritage.org.uk
Web: <https://blackculturalarchives.org/visit-us/>



~ **THE HEBREW ISRAELITES OF JERUSALEM, BRITISH ISLES, PRESENTS THE INSTITUTE OF REGENERATIVE TRUTH.** Based on the teachings Ben Ammi Ben Israel the IRT curriculum treats a new regenerative genre of intellectual attainment. On the second and fourth Sat of each month at 2-4pm at the Harris Academy Peckham, Peckham Road, London, SE15 5DZ. Tel: 07916 172 651 / 07960 648 902 / 07799 320 256.



~ **GOLD ONYX CHILDREN'S CULTURAL FILM CLUB PRESENTS TOYS FOR OUR AFRICAN CHILDREN.** Toys and games that promote Afrikan heritage. On the second Sat of the month at 2-4pm at The Exquisite Lounge, 117 Bruce Grove, Tottenham, London, N17 6UR. Adm: £5 – Adults (Free when accompanied by a child) / £4 – Under-18s. Tel: 07946 670 949. E-mail: Gold.onyx@yahoo.co.uk Web: www.goldonyx.co.uk

~ **BUNDU DIA KONGO WEEKLY ZIKUA.** Come and learn about the promise and prophecies for Afrikans and the authenticity of a history grounded in spiritual practices. On Sun at 12-3pm at Maa Maat Cultural Centre, 366A High Road, Tottenham, N17 9HT. Tel: 07376 613 745 (Yaya Makaba) / 07448 479 388 (Mbuta Pambu).

~ **JENGBA MEETINGS.** JENGBa campaigners can deliver lectures to Law, Criminology, Media, Sociology, Youth Studies departments as well as school children. On the second Tues of every month at 7pm at Edward Woods Community Centre, London, W11 4TX. Tel: 07709 115 793 / 07725

727 520 (Media Enquiries). New office: Office A, Norland House, Queensdale Crescent, London, W11 4TL. E-mail: JointEnterpriseInfo@Gmail.com / JengbaMedia@Gmail.com

~ **THE AUSAR AUSET SOCIETY NU SHU RA CLASSES.** Every Wed at 7.30–9pm at Hazel Road Community Centre, Hazel Road, Kensal Green, London, NW10 5PP. Adm: £5 per class. Tel: 07951-252-427. E-mail: Tauinetwork.europe@gmail.com

Contact: Kubara Zamani, Afrikan Quest International, PO Box 35165, London, SE5 8WU. E-mail: afrikanquest1@hotmail.com Twitter: @nubiartdiary

‘TALK SENSE OR IT DON’T MAKE SENSE YOU TALK’