

Sean “Diddy” Combs tells Hon. Shyne to “cease and desist”



(l-r) Hon. Moses “Shyne” Barrow and Sean “Diddy” Combs

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024
The Hulu documentary telling the rags-to-riches life story of *The Honorable Shyne* premiered to critics’

acclaim last Monday, November 18, but former Bad Boy rapper Moses “Shyne” Barrow’s claim that he was set up to be the fall guy for an infamous 1999

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34-year-old man convicted of sexual assault and rape of minor

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024

Tonight, Robert Usher, 34, the man who took advantage of a child from the age of 8 until she was 17, taking every opportunity he could to sexually abuse her over a ten-year period, is spending his first night on remand, pending sentencing set for January 6, 2025.

In the meantime, Justice Candace Nanton will be contemplating from now until after the Christmas holidays an appropriate sentence to hand down to Usher for sexually assaulting the minor, repeatedly, despite the child telling her mother.

The child testified that when she cried for help, her cry went unheard by her own mother, who she said didn’t believe her; and so, she kept quiet until she had been raped not once, not twice, but three times by Usher. And



Robert Usher, convicted

that’s when she told her aunt, and the police got involved and investigated the

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Two dead in separate weekend RTAs, one involving a motorbike

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024
Two separate traffic accidents that occurred over the weekend claimed the lives of two persons.

The first accident happened in northern Belize, where a man from Carmelita Village, Orange Walk District was struck from behind by a car and was left for dead on Saturday, November 23.

After 6:00 p.m. that evening, 67-year-old Fabio Chan was riding a bicycle between Miles 57 and 58 on the Philip Goldson Highway, heading to Orange Walk Town, when he was hit from behind.

When authorities arrived at the scene, they witnessed a motionless Chan on the shoulder of the highway in a facedown position in a puddle of water with his damaged bicycle nearby. Initial inspection of Chan

determined that he received a large cut wound to the head, a broken right foot, and abrasions to the back.

He was taken to the Northern Regional Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The driver who hit Chan did not stop to assist and immediately fled the scene. Police are searching for a vehicle that matches the description of the car.

The other fatal accident involved a motorcycle and took place out west shortly before 10:00 p.m. on the same day at Mile 45 on the George Price Highway. 20-year-old Roy De Jesus Martinez and 26-year-old Kenny Garcia were traveling on a motorcycle but lost control of the bike, which fell on the pavement.

They were transported to the Western Regional Hospital, where Martinez died from his injuries and Garcia is in stable condition.

Belize celebrates Children’s Day

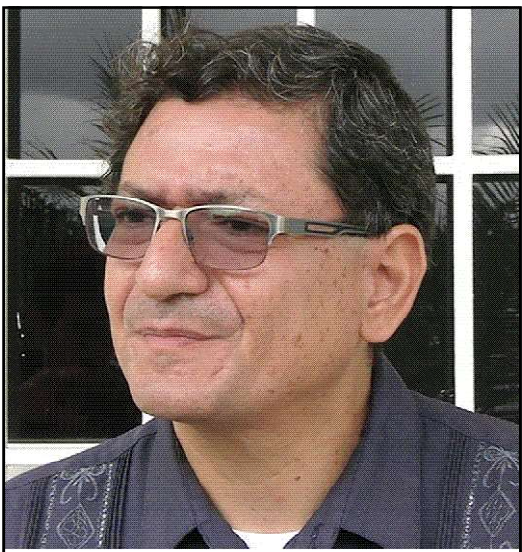
by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024

Belize joined other nations worldwide in celebrating World Children’s Day on Friday, November 22, led by the United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF).

The International Day was initially celebrated on 1st June in many countries, following the suggestion from the Women’s International Democratic Federation. However, in 1959, the celebration was changed to its current date of November 20, to commemorate the Declaration of the Rights of the Child by the UN General Assembly.

This year’s activities, which fall under



Dr. Louis Zabaneh, Minister of State at the Ministry of Education

the theme, “Listen to the Future, Stand Up for Children’s Rights,” focus on encouraging adults to listen to children’s hopes, dreams, and visions for the future, and promote children’s right to participation. Children should be empowered to voice their opinions about the world they want to live in, and it’s

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San Pedro woman charged for arson



by Charles Gladden

SAN PEDRO, Ambergris Caye, Fri. Nov. 22, 2024

A woman from San Pedro Town who police believe set a fire that eventually consumed a number of buildings on Tuesday, November 19, has been charged with arson.

The flames erupted around 2:30 p.m. that day in the San Pablo area of the island near the Ambergris Caye Stadium. Among the buildings destroyed were a two-story home, a four-bedroom house, and a small shop with a bedroom—with total damages estimated at \$200,000.

When firefighters arrived at the scene, the flames had already spread and the homes were unsalvageable. The National Fire Service confirmed that the fire started in a structure belonging to 47-year-old Sandra Catzim, and that someone intentionally started the blaze, which then spread to the other buildings.

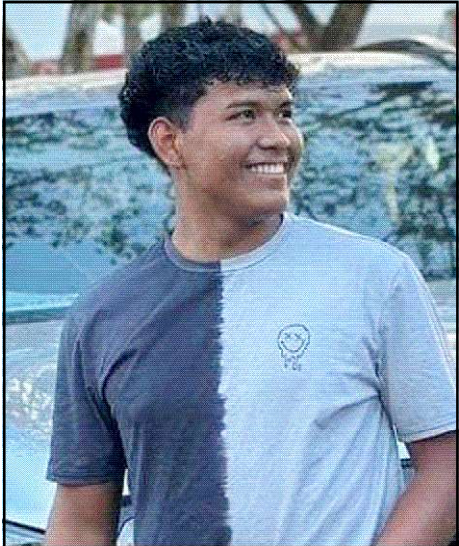
Following an investigation, police



Isela Catzim, charged

arrested 28-year-old Isela Catzim, the daughter of Sandra Catzim. She was charged with five counts of arson. According to information received by *Amandala*, the accused started the fire after having an argument with her mother, Sandra Catzim.

Man charged for killing teen



Jonathan Leonardo, deceased

by Charles Gladden

Police have captured a man accused of fatally shooting 18-year-old Johnathan Leonardo, a driver of Duck Run 2, Cayo District, after he had exited Divinas Restaurant and Bar at Mile 47 in Roaring Creek Village on Wednesday night, November 20.

According to reports, around 10:30 p.m. that Wednesday, Leonardo was with two friends at the night-time establishment when he was approached by the accused, 33-year-old Abraham



Abraham Shal, charged with murder

Shal, a storekeeper of Belmopan, and an argument began.

Leonardo attempted to leave the establishment in a car with his companions to diffuse the situation, but before they left the premises, Shal followed them with a firearm, and fired a single gunshot at Leonardo at point-blank range, killing him instantly.

A 9mm shell was found at the scene, which was linked to Shal's weapon, and he was later detained by police. He was charged with murder on Saturday, November 23.

Dead frog found in Crystal 5-gal water bottle

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024

A resident of Esperanza Village, Cayo District, took to social media on Friday, November 25, after discovering a lifeless frog inside a 5-gallon container of Crystal water that he had purchased.

The social media post indicated that the individual went to purchase the water from a nearby store to ensure sufficient supply for the week, and later discovered the dead frog floating around inside the sealed plastic container.

“Definitely for us, it was not expected. That’s something highly unusual for us. A strange occurrence to say the least,” said Rosanna Villanueva, Corporate Relations Manager at Bowen & Bowen Ltd., which sells the bottled water.

“... It is highly unusual. For us we found it strange. Crystal is a brand that has been around for decades, and is a brand that Belizeans trust. We want to assure our customers and consumers that they can continue feeling confident drinking Crystal water, and that is why we are putting our efforts into trying to identify what could have possibly happened,” she further stated.

Villanueva explained that Bowen & Bowen produces bottled water in four locations in the country, and that the water undergoes an extensive and rigorous purification process, and the specific bottle was distributed from the company’s plant in Esperanza.

“All our plants are subjected to the same protocols and procedures. The water is processed the same way as in our other locations. So, for us, we did find it highly unusual. Our Crystal water goes through an 11-step process to be purified, and it’s a closed process; so, from the water enters the system to when it goes into a bottle, that’s a closed process, so there’s no opportunity along



the way to get in there,” she mentioned.

While this discovery is unusual for the company, Villanueva noted that Bowen’s quality control team is carrying out an investigation to determine what may have happened.

“At this point, we don’t know as yet. As I said, we’re looking into it. We have an entire quality control team that ensures all our facilities are producing and operating to the same standards, so they’re currently looking into it. As soon as we know anything, we will share it; but for right now, we are still in the process of looking as to what may have happened ... It’s been something that we’ve been going through, and we’re doing all our processes and going through the steps one by one. No definite timeline for when we will have a response,” she explained.

Belize celebrates Children’s Day

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our responsibility to listen and support their visions.

“We must celebrate our young people,” said Minister of State at the Ministry of Education, Hon. Dr. Louis Zabaneh.

“We must remember the times we’re working to make their future better. So, that gives us more motivation to do the best that we can, so that they can have even better opportunities than we did in our time; and that’s the measure of our success at the end of the day. What we can do for children is to give them the right environment, so that they can flourish and become the best they can become,” he added.

In Belize, World Children’s Day was celebrated among the lower-level

children on various days throughout the week. Those children participated in an array of activities which were conducted by the schools.

St. John Vianney in Belize City divided their students into three groups—the standard 1 and 5 classes went to DIGI Park for various activities; Standard 2 students attended the opening ceremonies for 16 Days of Activism at the House of Culture; and the remaining students stayed at school and participated in the activities hosted by their respective classrooms.

While the majority of schools in the country took part in the International Day on Friday last, schools in the Cayo District postponed the event for this upcoming Friday, November 29. The postponement was due to the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Sara.



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Belize starts 16 Days of Activism



Thea Garcia Ramirez,
Chairperson of NWC

by Charles Gladden

BELIZE CITY, Fri. Nov. 22, 2024

The National Women’s Commission (NWC) held an opening ceremony on Friday, November 22, to mark the start of “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence”, which is a yearly global activity aimed at disrupting the cycle of violence that affects women and girls.

The theme of this year’s “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” is “No Excuse for Violence Against Women and Girls”, and although the official start of the set of events is November 25, Belize launched the more-than-two weeks of activities a few days early in order to ensure the participation of students of the various high schools in the city.

“Technically, it starts on Monday; but



we wanted to include the schools and nearby schools downtown that have participated with us. I think this is the second year they’ve done so, and it’s a lot easier on a Friday to get them out; and then we have the municipalities doing their launches on Monday. So, we do an overall national launch today, and then we follow up with the municipalities on Monday,” said Thea Garcia-Ramirez, Chairperson of the NWC.

At Friday’s event, Garcia-Ramirez drew attention to the fact that violence is embedded within the homes of many Belizeans, with young girls being taught by their mothers and elderly women to view physical violence as a natural part of relationships between men and women.

“I think all of us have heard these seemingly innocuous comments growing up like, you know, ‘if ih nuh beat me, ih nuh love me’, or ‘ih beat me but no left me’, and we kind of say it in jest and so; but it’s things that we’ve heard, and it’s sort of normalized when we’re growing up. I remember people [around] my grandma’s age group [would] say to us as little girls—and I’m talking about ages 10 and, or so—and saying if we don’t know how to cook or if we don’t learn to cook – some women have no interest in cooking; and that’s just a fact that we don’t have to have an interest in cooking – but if you don’t know how to knead, and if that tortilla did not come out round, or if that fry jack no puff, and they beat you, da cah yo look for it, because you need to know these things,” she said.

“... So, it’s ingrained; and then when it happens to you when you are an adult in a union or a marriage, well, my grandma tells me this may happen anyway, so it sort-of gets normalized. Or when you have a boyfriend and they say, ‘Well, you know, you pick your man.’ And if something wrong just, you

know, that you have to go and tek yo lick, because that’s the way you ask for that; the way you look for ... as if that it’s okay, and you just have to suffer and close your mouth, shut your eye and suffer through domestic violence; and it’s just a fact of life,” Garcia-Ramirez went on to say.

Garcia-Ramirez further explained that due to traditional gender roles, many women bear the brunt of the load at home after working a regular job, and she classified this phenomenon as economic violence.

“For instance, women who work a regular eight-to-five job, and have to come home and do unpaid work at home for at least five or six hours every day; and the man – if she has a husband or a partner – comes home, does a regular eight to five, but comes home tired and can watch TV and does nothing to help around the house; and that is normalized, and that is violence that is economic violence. We normalize that. So, you can see where tradition, upbringing, and the way we are socialized tie into our gender roles, and how these same gender roles play an important part in us accepting gender-based violence as a norm; and it has to stop,” she noted.

After the opening ceremonies, several high schools within Belize City marched downtown from the House of Culture on Regent Street onto Albert Street, then returned to the start point.

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34-year-old man convicted of sexual assault and rape of minor

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assault/rape, which led to Usher being arrested and charged criminally.

The presiding judge told the court that allegations of such nature being relived in a trial over a decade later had its challenges, where in this case the victim’s memory was a bit faded about precise dates and times. But in the end, the court believed the victim, who testified at age 22 about her ugly childhood trauma, and her evidence and testimony could not be shaken or disbelieved, hence Usher being found

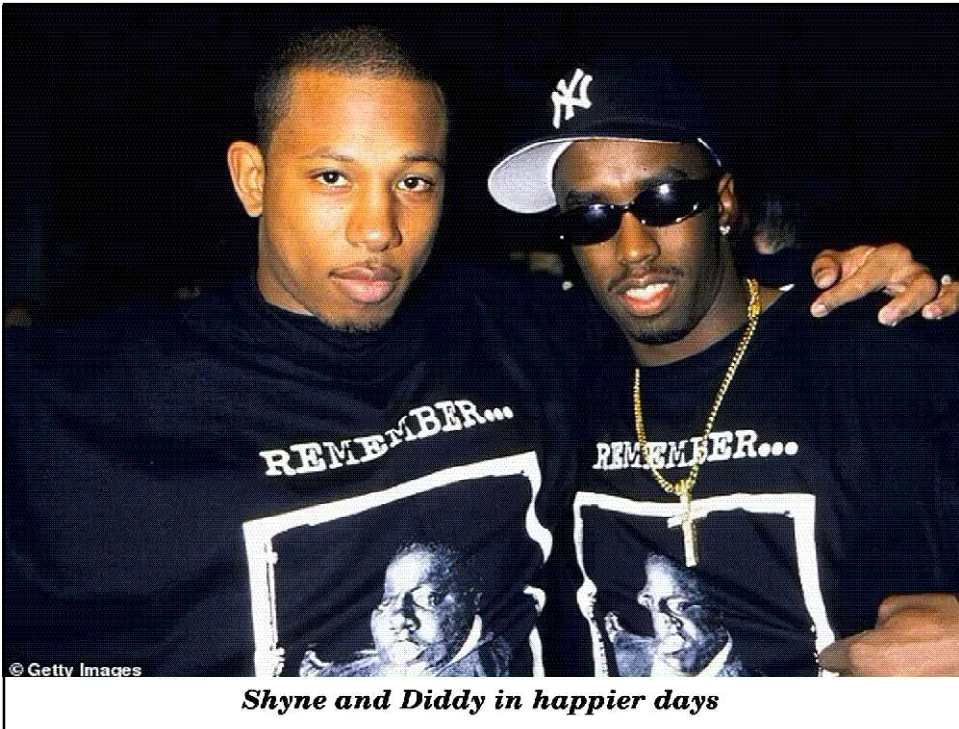
guilty of all 5 counts.

The charges were of aggravated assault of an indecent nature - count 1; indecent assault - count 2; and counts 3, 4 and 5 were for rape of a child which occurred in the period between September 2010 in Belize City until the age of 17 when she moved from the neighborhood where she was being sexually abused and raped continuously.

It was not until October 2024 that the decade-old case came to trial where the victim, now 22, testified “In camera”

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Sean “Diddy” Combs tells Hon. Shyne to “cease and desist”



Shyne and Diddy in happier days

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Manhattan nightclub shooting has drawn sharp rebuke from his former mentor, Sean “Diddy” Combs.

Now behind bars on charges of sex trafficking, racketeering and transportation to engage in prostitution in New York City, for which he was indicted in September, rap mogul Combs of Bad Boy Entertainment has reportedly written to Shyne to caution him to “cease and desist” from the accusation that he was made the patsy for the 1999 shooting during an outing that included Jennifer Lopez. Combs said that Barrow’s suggestion that he arranged for him to “take the fall” or that he sacrificed Shyne are “unequivocally false”.

In a recent interview on *News5*, Grammy award winner Shyne said he has moved on and has forgiven Combs, although he alleged that Combs, “pretty much sent me to prison ... everyone was partying and having a great time with Diddy while I was left to rot in prison.” Combs escaped the consequences of the shooting incident that left three persons injured. Shyne said he takes no pleasure in Combs’ present woes.

Shyne spent months in the United States prior to the film’s release promoting the film. He invited viewers to hear from his father himself, and from his mother, that he did not grow up with even a bronze spoon in his mouth. “Coming from a single parent household and everything that I have, I had to endure great suffering and sacrifice to

get there”, he recalled.

Shyne was only 21 when he was sentenced to 10 years in a state penitentiary after he was found guilty of five charges, including assault, reckless endangerment and criminal possession of a pistol. Shyne served eight, almost nine years of his sentence before he was paroled and deported to Belize in October 2009. The film also examines Shyne’s path after he was released from prison, his soul-searching pilgrimage to Israel after he had converted to Orthodox Judaism behind bars, and his entry into Belizean politics upon his return to Belize in 2013, under the mentorship of his uncle, Hon. Michael Finnegan, whose parliament seat he sort of inherited when Finnegan retired from politics.

Last Friday, a “source” close to Combs said he was not trying to block the film’s release, but rather to “ensure its accuracy”. Combs’ former bodyguard, Gene Deal, also appeared in the film, describing a strange good luck ritual that Combs performed in Central Park on the way to court before the 2001 verdict on the shooting, which sent Shyne to jail while Combs walked free. Deal said Combs rendezvoused with a man holding a caged bird. He said Puff (Diddy) dropped to his knees when he got close to the man who held a Bible, as he prayed and touched Combs before telling him to let the bird out of the cage. Deal said that when Combs threw the bird into the air, it fell straight to the ground like a brick!

34-year-old man convicted of sexual assault and rape of minor

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where, embarrassed by what happened to her and still in fear of her abuser, a screen was placed between her and Usher.

The victim told the court that at age 8, on September 28, 2011, until 2019 Usher touched her inappropriately on more than three occasions when other children were not around, and she told him not to do it, but he continued.

The child testified that when she would not allow him to do what he wanted, he would cover her mouth, or threaten to hurt her.

She said at the age of 13 he raped

her for the first time, and then two more times after that.

The child told the court that whenever Usher touched her inappropriately, she told her mother but she didn’t believe her.

Usher, who was represented in the trial by attorney Lynden Jones of Corozal, gave an unsworn testimony from the dock, where he denied the allegations, saying he was working at the time the child claimed, so he could not do what the victim said occurred over a ten-year period. However, on a number of occasions during that period, the child would have been left in his care with other children, noted Justice Candace.

The story of Chinweuba Onumba — a great Dibia of the Igbo

by Marie-Therese Belisle Nweke

Monday, November 25, 2024 at 5:43 AM
AN INCIDENT IN IGBO HISTORY

You may not have heard about Chinweuba Onumba—the famous Afa divination Dibia who was given a Certificate of Merit in the Science of Divination by the British colonial administration.

Ozoemena Nsugbe sang about his feat in one of his songs. However, aside from Ozoemena Nsugbe, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Akwaeke Nwafor Orizu, the second Senate president of Nigeria and a one-time acting president, in his autobiography, *Liberty or Chains, Africa Must Be Free*, wrote about how Chinweuba accurately prophesied his birth through Afa divination.

This great divination Dibia from Nando in Aguleri, Anambra State, was called by Ezeugboyamba to make inquiries about his pregnant wife. It was a common practice in the olden days to make inquiries about the future of a newly born child, or a child still in the womb.

Chinweuba, via divination, stated:

1. The child will be born on an Afo day. (Afo is one of the four market days of the Igbo).
2. An attempt will be made to kill him immediately.
3. He will grow up to be an illustrious son of his people.

All these prophecies came to pass as the great Dibia had predicted. Dr. Akwaeke Nwafor Orizu was born on Afo day. On the day he was born, a pot of poison, Udu Nsi, was found where he was born. He later became one of the finest Igbo statesmen of his generation.

Now, the real feat that made Chinweuba popular was when he was arrested and brought to court by some clients for whom he had done a divination. Some members of a family had come to him to ascertain whether the sick patriarch of their family would survive. But he told them to go home, because he whom they had come to enquire about was dead.

On arriving home, they found that it was true. The mind being deceitful, they believed Chinweuba may have used sorcery to kill the patriarch of their family. So they had him arrested.

In court, the white colonial judge brought out a pod and suggested to Chinweuba that, since he claimed it was through Afa he knew that the man had

In finding him guilty Justice Nanton noted that, while the medical evidence could only show that sexual intercourse had occurred, and that it could not say who the culprit was, it’s the evidence of the virtual complainant who testified that Usher was the man who molested her for those years and raped her.

Justice Nanton told the court prior to handing down her guilty verdict on all



Chinweuba Onumba — Afa divination Dibia of the Igbo

died, he should use the same Afa to tell the court how many seeds would be found in the pod once it was broken.

A tense Chinweuba brought out his Afa. He began to call on all his ancestors who did Afa before him. He called on his Ezumezu. He reminded them that they were the ones on trial, not him. He then threw his Afa down, and asked them to open the pod, and that they would bring out six seeds.

Lo and behold! When the pod was opened in the court, they saw only six seeds. The English judge then commanded that a Certificate of Merit be immediately issued to Chinweuba Onumba. The judge stated that this was not magic, but a finely-honed tradition of the Igbo. And, that was how Chinweuba Onumba became the first Dibia to receive a licence to practice the art of divination during Nigeria’s colonial era. (Report @Dshaikhism)

* This is the kind of story I tell my grandchildren, born and growing up in Britain, about their Igbo grandfather’s people and culture.

I grew up in colonial Belize knowing the Grimm and Hans Andersen tales; those of the former slave - Aesop; of the Norsemen; those of the ancient Greeks; as well as the Egyptians; and the exploits of King Arthur and his knights of the Round Table in Camelot, of ancient Britain.

I also knew the stories about the cunning feats of Brer Anancy -- the wily spider of Ghanaian folklore, known in Ghana as Kweku Ananse — who had stowed away on the ships with the slaves coming from West Africa to the British Caribbean and Belize. Anancy and his exploits are now enshrined in the memories of these descendants. I knew of Tata Duhendy, another towering figure of Belizean folklore. Much, much later, I began immersing myself in the legends of Sundiata of the great Malian empire.

Our African and Belizean stories are truly fascinating, stimulating and valid, exactly like those of other great cultures, and we owe our children the gift of telling them.

counts, that the court is satisfied that the medical report is consistent with what the victim said had happened to her; and while there were inconsistencies found in her testimony, she found her account plausible.

Members of Usher’s family who were outside the court were outraged with the guilty verdict and say they will appeal the conviction.



The “myths” of September 10th and October 7th

Just as in Belize there has been for years a debate over the facts and the significance of the events on September 10, 1798; so, in the past year there has been a raging debate about the facts and also the significance of the events that occurred on October 7, 2023, in Israel, where Hamas terrorists from Gaza reportedly committed atrocities against Israeli soldiers as well as civilians, including women and children—with 1,200 of those victims dying and 250 being taken as hostages. Since that terrible event, the initial bombastic claims of wanton rape of women in the streets, and babies being beheaded and burned in ovens, have been debunked. But, nevertheless, first impressions are sometimes lasting, and those who are inclined for whatever reasons to believe the worst, will make their decisions going forward based on their beliefs.

A peculiar situation then developed in American politics, where such convictions and beliefs had apparently merged into a perfect storm of positive energy for the Trump campaign, and simultaneously negative energy toward the Harris/Biden campaign. Indeed, among our own Belizean people at home and in the U.S., this dilemma has also manifested itself, where the religious right stood solidly behind their candidate, not just for his professed pro-life stand, but just as much for his pro-Israel commitment, despite the much publicized genocide in Gaza; meanwhile, many would-be Democrat voters who were pro-choice, found themselves conflicted and emotionally turned off by their party’s “iron-clad” continued support and financing of Israel’s genocidal campaign in Gaza. The problem for the Democrats, was that the incumbent, Joe Biden, was apparently sincerely and completely “sold” and galvanized by the reported October 7th unprovoked atrocities against innocent Israeli civilians, women and children, by Hamas terrorists; but his and Israel’s prime minister’s reaction to October 7th, and their continued year-long vengeful onslaught in Gaza, had turned the stomachs of many of Biden’s own Democrat voters, starting with university students across the nation, and that revulsion has been shared by people across the globe, including many in Belize.

So, what happened on September 10, 1798, that has led the descendants of those settlers in the Bay to continue to feel that the day’s events played a major role in earning them and subsequent generations the right to this Jewel called Belize? And what happened on October 7, 2023, that would make the Zionist leaders of Israel, with the support of the US president, feel justified and righteous, despite almost the whole world feeling otherwise, about their continuing murderous onslaught and destruction that has persisted for the past thirteen months and counting in Gaza?

September 10, 1798, was real; it is documented in both English and Spanish history books; but indeed, it was often overblown in regard to the extent of supposed action, the enthusiasm of the slaves, and alleged casualties in patriotic songs sponsored by the colonial British rulers. And it did not of itself give the people of the Bay ownership of this territory either, which was still claimed by the Spanish crown, having been given it by a declaration from the Pope of Rome whose word was law in those times among Europeans of the Catholic faith. But, nevertheless, it provided the evidence of history that these people were here, occupying this land, and persisted in such occupation and administration for over a century, and were never again, since September 10, 1798, displaced from this territory,

eventually becoming a British colony in 1862, and a Crown Colony in 1871. Plus, there was a treaty signed in 1859.

October 7th was a glaring and momentous attack against the Israelis by a Palestinian military group called Hamas; but October 7th was not unprovoked, and it did not happen in a vacuum. And therein lies the myth.

While September 10th marked an attack by the forces of Spain to uproot the settlers in the Bay from this area, that attack failed completely in its objective. And that is a fact.

The circumstances in Israel were completely different on October 7th. For many decades before October 7, 2023, the Palestinians were an occupied people being subjugated by Israeli forces, since 1967. Nowadays, slave rebellions in history are not condemned, because slavery was such an abhorrent and brutal institution that every slave is now considered justified to try and break free “by any means necessary”. Discussing and considering the fantastical and terrible atrocities allegedly committed by Hamas on October 7th, which have permanently motivated the actions and stance of many, including US president Biden, is fruitless if one does not understand what were the conditions of the Palestinian people in the days and years before and up to October 7, 2023. And if one wishes to debate whether the efforts of Hamas were successful in achieving their objective, it must be admitted that, though it has turned out to be a humongous price levied upon the Palestinian people by Israel; nevertheless, today, November 24, 2024, the vast majority of nations of the world, including now even many European allies of the US, are stating their support for Palestine, and their agreement with the verdict of the International Criminal Court, that Israel’s prime minister and defense minister are to be arrested for crimes against humanity committed against the Palestinian people. If not for October 7th, this development would not have occurred.

So, what was life like for the Palestinians including Hamas in Gaza before October 7th?


We refer to a Jewish expert on the Holocaust and the Israeli occupation of Palestine, professor Norman Finkelstein, who gave a 36-minute lecture at the GPU (Global Peace Unity) Festival, October 2024 in London. (Google: “Dr. Norman Finkelstein Confronts Cancel Culture and Exposes Truths on Palestine at GPU 2024”.)

Here are just a few transcribed quotes (to the best of our ability) from a recording of Finkelstein’s speech, which will hopefully spark your curiosity to listen to the whole speech:

Time doesn’t allow to describe in detail what life looked like in Gaza on October 6th. But one image keeps springing to mind, with when anyone visits Gaza. So, the main U.N. official working in Gaza – this was when Gaza was under Egyptian administrative detention in 1955 – the main U.N. official there is a fellow named E.L.N. Burns. And he’s asked to describe Gaza. How does he describe it? He said Gaza resembles a concentration camp. Right after the June 1967 war, the father of our well-known senator, Al Gore, who ran for president at some point, his father visited Gaza. And in a speech, how did he describe? He said Gaza is a concentration camp. In 2004, the head of Israel’s National Security Council, his name is Giora Eiland, he had to describe Gaza. And Mr. Eiland is not a peacenik; he’s not the liberal. Mr. Eiland is the individual who in more recent months has been advocating the spreading of epidemics in Gaza to achieve Israel’s aims. So, he’s not exactly what you would call a nice guy. How did he describe Gaza? In March, 2004, he described Gaza as, quote, ‘a huge concentration camp’. One of Israel’s senior sociologists at the Hebrew university, he wrote a little book, and he had to describe Gaza. He described Gaza as ‘the biggest concentration camp ever to exist’. Israel’s most authoritative journalist on Gaza is a woman named Amira Haas; and once, she had to confront the question, and it was a personal question for her, because her parents passed through the Nazi Holocaust. And she had to describe, or she was asked the question, ‘How would you describe Gaza?’ She said, ‘A concentration camp.’

“So, on October 7th, a large portion of that population, a large portion had been born into a concentration camp. From the first day of their birth to the last breath of their life, they were confined in a concentration camp. But it wasn’t just a concentration camp, because periodically, Israel went into Gaza to, what it called, ‘mow the lawn in Gaza’.”

Our Belizean patriots have made great efforts to tell the story of our peaceful, constructive Belizean revolution to the world, and gain their support for our right to self-determination and independence; and, thankfully, we got the ear of the great U.S. president Jimmy Carter in 1979, and the rest is history. Unfortunately for the people of Palestine, their full story may have escaped the ear of those who have the veto power at the U.N. However, with the changing tide of support from some Western nations for Palestine, the horrendous events of October 7th may yet prove pivotal in the Palestinians’ quest for nationhood.



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Los “mitos” del 10 de septiembre y el 7 de octubre

Así como en Belize ha habido durante años un debate sobre los hechos y la importancia de los acontecimientos del 10 de septiembre de 1798, así también en el último año ha habido un acalorado debate sobre los hechos y también sobre la importancia de los acontecimientos que ocurrieron el 7 de octubre de 2023 en Israel, donde los terroristas de Hamás de Gaza supuestamente cometieron atrocidades contra soldados israelíes y civiles, incluidos mujeres y niños, con 1.200 de esas víctimas muriendo y 250 siendo tomadas como rehenes. Desde ese terrible evento, las grandilocuentes afirmaciones iniciales de violaciones deliberadas de mujeres en las calles y bebés decapitados y quemados en hornos han sido desacreditadas. Pero, sin embargo, las primeras impresiones a veces son duraderas, y aquellos que se inclinan por cualquier razón a creer lo peor, tomarán sus decisiones en el futuro basándose en sus creencias.

Luego se desarrolló en la política estadounidense una situación peculiar, en la que esas convicciones y creencias aparentemente se habían fusionado en una tormenta perfecta de energía positiva para la campaña de Trump y, al mismo tiempo, energía negativa hacia la campaña de Harris/Biden. De hecho, entre nuestro propio pueblo beliceño, tanto en nuestro país como en los Estados Unidos, este dilema también se ha manifestado, en el que la derecha religiosa apoyó firmemente a su candidato, no solo por su declarada postura pro vida, sino también por su compromiso pro Israel, a pesar del genocidio muy publicitado en Gaza; mientras tanto, muchos posibles votantes demócratas que eran pro elección se sintieron conflictivos y emocionalmente desanimados por el continuo apoyo y financiación “férrea” de su partido a la campaña genocida de Israel en Gaza. El problema para los demócratas fue que el titular, Joe Biden, aparentemente estaba sincera y completamente “vendido” y galvanizado por las atrocidades no provocadas del 7 de octubre contra inocentes civiles israelíes, mujeres y niños, por parte de terroristas de Hamás; Pero su reacción y la del primer ministro israelí al 7 de octubre, y su continua arremetida vengativa durante un año en Gaza, han revuelto el estómago de muchos de los propios votantes demócratas de Biden, empezando por los estudiantes universitarios de todo el país, y esa repulsión ha sido compartida por personas de todo el mundo, incluidos muchos en Belize.

Entonces, ¿qué sucedió el 10 de septiembre de 1798, que ha llevado a los descendientes de aquellos colonos en la Bahía a seguir sintiendo que los eventos de ese día jugaron un papel importante en ganarles a ellos y a las generaciones posteriores el derecho a esta Joya llamada Belize? ¿Y qué sucedió el 7 de octubre de 2023, que haría que los líderes sionistas de Israel, con el apoyo del presidente de los EE.UU., se sintieran justificados y justos, a pesar de que casi todo el mundo siente lo contrario, sobre su continuo ataque asesino y destrucción que ha persistido durante los últimos trece meses y contando en Gaza?

El 10 de septiembre de 1798 fue real; está documentado en libros de historia tanto ingleses como españoles; pero, de hecho, a menudo se exageró con respecto al alcance de la supuesta acción, el entusiasmo de los esclavos y las supuestas bajas en canciones patrióticas patrocinadas por los gobernantes coloniales británicos. Y tampoco le dio por sí mismo al pueblo de la Bahía la propiedad de este territorio, que todavía era reclamado por la corona española, habiéndosele otorgado mediante una declaración del Papa de Roma cuya palabra era ley en aquellos tiempos entre los europeos de fe católica. Pero, sin embargo, proporcionó la evidencia de la historia de que estas personas estaban aquí, ocupando esta tierra, y persistieron en tal ocupación y administración durante más de un siglo, y nunca más, desde el 10 de septiembre de 1798, fueron desplazadas de este territorio, convirtiéndose finalmente en una colonia británica en 1862, y una colonia de la Corona en 1871. Además, hubo un tratado firmado en 1859.

El 7 de octubre fue un flagrante y trascendental ataque contra los israelíes por parte de un grupo militar palestino llamado Hamás; pero el 7 de octubre no fue un ataque no provocado y no ocurrió en un vacío. Y ahí radica el mito.

Si bien el 10 de septiembre marcó un ataque de las fuerzas de España para desarraigar a los colonos de la Bahía de esta área, ese ataque fracasó completamente en su objetivo. Y eso es un hecho.

Las circunstancias en Israel eran completamente diferentes el 7 de octubre. Durante muchas décadas antes del 7 de octubre de 2023, los palestinos fueron un pueblo ocupado subyugado por las fuerzas israelíes, desde 1967. Hoy en día, las rebeliones de esclavos en la historia no se condenan, porque la esclavitud era una institución tan aborrecible y brutal que ahora se considera

justificado que cada esclavo intente liberarse “por cualquier medio necesario”. Debatir y considerar las atrocidades fantásticas y terribles que supuestamente cometió Hamás el 7 de octubre, que han motivado permanentemente las acciones y la postura de muchos, incluido el presidente estadounidense Biden, es inútil si no se entiende cuáles eran las condiciones del pueblo palestino en los días y años anteriores y hasta el 7 de octubre de 2023. Y si se desea debatir si los esfuerzos de Hamás tuvieron éxito en la consecución de su objetivo, hay que admitir que, aunque ha resultado ser un precio enorme impuesto al pueblo palestino por Israel, sin embargo, hoy, 24 de noviembre de 2024, la gran mayoría de las naciones del mundo, incluidos ahora muchos aliados europeos de los EE.UU., están declarando su apoyo a Palestina y su acuerdo con el veredicto de la Corte Penal Internacional, de que el primer ministro y el ministro de defensa de Israel deben ser arrestados por crímenes contra la humanidad cometidos contra el pueblo palestino. Si no fuera por el 7 de octubre, este acontecimiento no habría ocurrido.

Entonces, ¿cómo era la vida de los palestinos, incluido Hamás, en Gaza antes del 7 de octubre?

Nos referimos a un experto judío en el Holocausto y la ocupación israelí de Palestina, el profesor Norman Finkelstein, que dio una conferencia de 36 minutos en el Festival GPU (Global Peace Unity), octubre de 2024 en Londres. (Google: “El Dr. Norman Finkelstein confronta la cultura de la cancelación y expone verdades sobre Palestina en la GPU 2024”).

A continuación, se incluyen algunas citas transcritas (según nuestra mejor capacidad) de una grabación del discurso de Finkelstein, que esperamos despierten su curiosidad para escuchar el discurso completo:

“El tiempo no permite describir en detalle cómo era la vida en Gaza el 6 de octubre. Pero una imagen sigue viniendo a la mente, cuando alguien visita Gaza. Entonces, el principal funcionario de la ONU trabajando en Gaza -esto fue cuando Gaza estaba bajo detención administrativa egipcia en 1955- el principal funcionario de la ONU allí es un tipo llamado E.L.N. Burns. Y se le pide que describa Gaza. ¿Cómo lo describe? Dijo que Gaza se parece a un campo de concentración. Justo después de la guerra de junio de 1967, el padre de nuestro conocido senador, Al Gore, que se postuló para presidente en algún momento, su padre visitó Gaza. Y en un discurso, ¿cómo lo describió? Dijo que Gaza es un campo de concentración. En 2004, el jefe del Consejo de Seguridad Nacional de Israel, su nombre es Giora Eiland, tuvo que describir Gaza. Y el Sr. Eiland no es un pacifista; no es el liberal. El Sr. Eiland es el individuo que en los meses más recientes ha estado abogando por la propagación de epidemias en Gaza para lograr los objetivos de Israel. Así que no es exactamente lo que llamarías un buen tipo. ¿Cómo describió Gaza? En marzo de 2004, describió Gaza como, cito, “un enorme campo de concentración”. Uno de los sociólogos de alto rango de Israel en la universidad hebrea, escribió un pequeño libro, y tuvo que describir Gaza. Describió Gaza como “el mayor campo de concentración que jamás haya existido”. La periodista israelí más autorizada sobre Gaza es una mujer llamada Amira Haas. En una ocasión, tuvo que enfrentarse a esta pregunta, que era una pregunta personal para ella, porque sus padres pasaron por el Holocausto nazi. Y tuvo que describirla, o le hicieron la pregunta: “¿Cómo describirías Gaza?”. Ella dijo: “Un campo de concentración”.

“Así, el 7 de octubre, una gran parte de esa población, una gran parte había nacido en un campo de concentración. Desde el primer día de su nacimiento hasta el último aliento de su vida, estuvieron confinados en un campo de concentración. Pero no era sólo un campo de concentración, porque periódicamente, Israel entraba en Gaza para, lo que llamaban, ‘cortar el césped en Gaza’”.

Nuestros patriotas beliceños han hecho grandes esfuerzos para contar la historia de nuestra pacífica y constructiva revolución beliceña al mundo, y ganar su apoyo para nuestro derecho a la autodeterminación y la independencia; y, afortunadamente, conseguimos la atención del gran presidente estadounidense Jimmy Carter en 1979, y el resto es historia. Desafortunadamente para el pueblo palestino, su historia completa puede haber escapado a los oídos de quienes tienen el poder de veto en la ONU. Sin embargo, con la marea cambiante de apoyo de algunas naciones occidentales a Palestina, los horrendos eventos del 7 de octubre aún pueden resultar cruciales en la búsqueda de la soberanía nacional palestina.

What a disappointment if Miss Nigeria had won

by Colin Hyde

I got mildly interested in the recent international beauty pageant when Diane Hall, my Santa Maria Street and *Compre* sister, posted on fb that since our Miss Belize was no longer in contention for the top prize, she was riding with Miss Nigeria. It’s kind of natural to get a little interest when you hear that a black girl – I assumed she was black – was doing well in the Europeans’ beauty contest. Yap, that Miss World or Miss Universe is a European thing. And you know beauty is in the eyes of the beholder, and you don’t have to ask how the European ancestor defines beauty, because they are in our face day and night, night and day, since 1492.

The most beautiful girls of every tribe are a special treat to the eyes, and I was an occasional viewer of the beauty show until the bikini segment wore me down. Like most of my gender, I like to see girls in the bikini, but something’s wrong with the environment. I bet most of those girls don’t like that part of the show. Iffn yu aks me, I think the men behind these pageants aren’t my kind of guys.

It’s important to face facts: a bikini is underthings in heavy material. I have never seen a girl walking downtown in underthings. I bet if one did, the police would arrest her! Girls wear bikinis at

the beach. “Reserved” girls wear some kind of wrap when they are out of the sea. I’m not done yet flogging this horse. Whenever you see these documentaries with young women at the beach in bikinis, their audience is their peer group. Whenever I see a girl strutting about, all over the beach, mingling in bikini, I think she is a little high I’ll leave off there to say that I, me, if I had anything to do with these pageants, I’d never put a girl under cold, bright lights as scantily clad as it gets. No, man!

I know I am not alone when I say, shorts are modest and very sexy; and midriff blouses, my, while modest, ooh, so what—the guy sang about the girl with the Coca Cola bottle shape. That bikini is very adult; it’s a suit made for ogling.

Ah, Miss Nigeria. I wasn’t enthused enough to watch the show, but next morning I went immediately to the Google to see the results and her pictures from the show. The title of the piece said she came in second. I then saw her pic. I saw that she had a long, flowing mane. It’s possible that’s her hair type. The odds are it isn’t. I recognize the girl was a contestant in a competition to decide on European beauty.

My maternal grandma had a mane all the way down to her behind. My maternal grandpa had curly hair. My

paternal grandma had curly hair. My paternal grandpa could have worn a ponytail if that was his game.

In a little research I did on curly hair, I read the comments of one lady who said the reason why she straightens her hair is for manageability. Indeed, straight hair is easier to manage. I think I told you about my cousin Landy. One morning I stopped by his house before school and hollered and told him we were running late. He leaned out a window, sprinkled some water on his hair, took out his comb — zup, zup, zup, and then he threw his head backward to set a “shock” at the front of his head into place. We were ready to go. I marveled at how easy and QUICK that was.

If I am allowed, if I am allowed, I don’t care for straightened hair. I like hair that’s alive. From the point of sex, if I’m allowed, the main story about hair is how it smells.

An awesome song that got cultured out needs to be revived

There are some songs that should not be encouraged during the daytime. There are double entendre songs, many. Because of this negative/positive world design, it is so that most everything has possible, ehm, impurities. Those songs that leave little to the imagination deserve the machete without the benefit of a review.

Okay, getting on with it, when I write of roots Belizeans, I’m back in the 1800s and prior with the Kriols, the Maya, the Garinagu, the Mestizo, and the East Indians. All these tribes had names that were considered derogatory. One of our newer tribes, from the Middle East, they got one too, which of itself wasn’t derogatory, but was deemed so because it rubbed a wound. Our tribes from the Middle East were referred to by the name of their cruel colonizer, from whom they ran to find a better life here. Most of us were unaware that we were in folly, until Ms. Lisa Shoman gave us a history lesson.

There’s a Belizean song, an absolute gem of a song that doesn’t get playing time anymore because of a culture change, and I’m here with a plea, again, for the owner of Ms. Leela’s collection of songs to hire someone to do a little engineering on *Two K uhman*.

The man for discipline in the Hyde clan on West Canal was my paternal grandfather. There’s a version of a little ditty written in 1715 by a man named Isaac Watts that my grampa used as a tool to discipline his descendants, on down the line. In the yard where I grew up, whenever we young ones got into scraps, the older ones would raise their “talons” and break into this chant: *Let dogs delight to bark and bite; ‘tis God who made them so. Bears and lions*

growl and fight; it is their nature too. But children you should never let such angry passions rise. Your little hands were never made to tear each other’s eyes. Well bifo a dehn get to the second line, fight done an pikni run di baal!

You see those uhman who think they have license to fight on the streets? Well, everyone who gathers around should break into song: *Two fooli uhman ...* I say, that song has utility. But I’m for the beat and the passion. They are sweet Belize, as sweet as it gets. That song’s got the joos!

A “like” for Adisa

I give “likes” to less than 10% of the contributions of Adisa Heru Myrhh, a faamli of mine whom I encounter frequently on Facebook. No, no, I’m not saying the brother won’t go to heaven; he might very well end up there and I elsewhere. Remember, Abou has as much right to heaven as Christians because an Abou or an Adisa can be more in step with Christ than we Christians are. I will say, though, that if the reward was based on trying and I didn’t get mine, I would say to, ehm, certain people to go and get dehn eyes check. I failed, yes, but dammit, I tried hard to make the grade.

Because I couldn’t survive a day in jail, I am always taken aback when I hear or read news of someone before the court for bail for matters not involving violence, and their case is put off and they are put in remand until it is called up. Quién sabe, maybe the judge knows the one before him/her is a miscreant, one weh deserve fu get laas da back. I don’t know, I don’t know, I don’t know. It’s spontaneous; I am stirred to compassion whenever I hear about the delayed bail hearing.

Noh mek no laaya fool yu, we know why people facing a murder charge used to be on remand for long periods. It’s because our justice system had become a pushover for the defense lawyers. Some of the most drawn out cases are the lawsuits. Drawn out becomes forever when one with long pockets is in the game. Then it’s low court, high court, CCJ. Getting on with it, the other day Adisa posted a humorous poem from the great continent that tells of the plight of one in the grip of the law. This one being a rare post that doesn’t assault followers of the “white” Jesus, I’m sure I gave him a like:

An antelope was running like mad. An elephant asked him: “Antelope, why are you running like that?” She replied, “The police are arresting all the goats in the village.” The elephant retorted: “But you are not a goat!” The antelope replied, “With our current judiciary system it will take me 20 years to prove that I am not a goat.” And the elephant also started running.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2024 (DIVORCE)

ACTION NO. 66 of 2023

(BERNARD REYES	PETITIONER
(
(AND	
(
(ARETHA ELENA ZUNIGA REYES	RESPONDENT

To: ARETHA ELENA ZUNIGA REYES

TAKE NOTICE that an action has been commenced against you in the High Court of Belize, Action No. 66 of 2023, by Bernard Reyes of #87 Antelope Street extension, Belize City, Belize in which the Petitioner has applied for dissolution of his marriage and for any other Order the Honorable Court deems just.

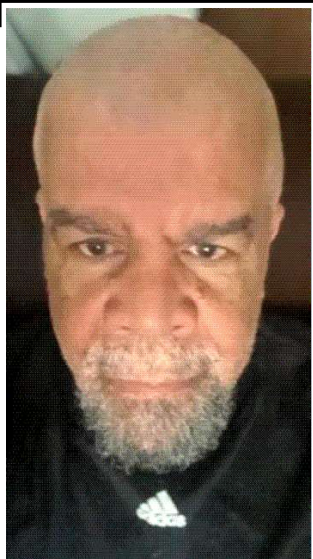
And that it has been ordered that service of the Divorce Petition in the said action on you be effected by this advertisement. If you desire to defend the said action you must within fourteen (14) days from date of publication of this advertisement, inclusive of the day of such publication, enter an appearance at the office of the High Court of Belize. In default of such, the High Court may pronounce such order(s) in your absence.

DATED the 18th day of November, 2024

Mikhail Arguelles & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law for the
Petitioner
35 New Road
Belize City, Belize

Our email address for business & advertising is
amandalapress@gmail.com

Abuse!



Saturday, November 23, 2024 at 5:43 PM

When we talk about abuse, it is usually about the abuse of women or children. There is nothing more disgusting, or cowardly, than anyone taking advantage of a defenseless human being. Sometimes the police take these reports seriously, depending on who the abused person is, which in my opinion is totally unfair. There is a lot of bias on their part, especially if it is a male being abused by his wife or partner; and in a way, I can understand that, but that does not mean that abuse is not taking place.

Child abuse has to be the worst form of violence, and is very prevalent everywhere, even in our precious Jewel, leading up to the deaths of far too many innocents! But to me, elder abuse is as bad as child abuse. Imagine paying and trusting someone to take care of your loved one, only to discover by accident that they are being abused in the most horrific ways. Not only can't they fight back, but sometimes they're threatened with more violence if they speak out; and sometimes it's because they can't talk, or are in a vegetative or semi-

vegetative state!

Imagine your mom or your dad living in terror and not being able to tell you what they are going through when you come home from work, or when you visit them at an elder care facility. Imagine yourself being proud of your choice of a caregiver, trusting them and paying them to make your parent comfortable in their final days! Gives you peace of mind, doesn't it? You love your parent; you want to do everything possible to make them exist with dignity, and die knowing that you care for him or her.

Now, imagine walking in on that caregiver beating your parent, going so far as to disfigure his, or her face. What would you do? Me, I'd kill the son of a b-tch; but that's me. My rage would be uncontrollable! How does one delete something like that from one's mind, seeing your helpless parent being slapped in the face so hard that you can hear it from the other room? And what kind of animal does that to a helpless child, or an aging human being?

If you have a babysitter or a caregiver responsible for your child or your parent while you go to work, make sure you have cameras everywhere in your home. I don't care how great the cost: deny yourselves trivialities and protect your loved one. Nothing is more important than that, in my opinion!

And if you do not take matters into your own hands, then report them, first to the police, and then to the agency that they came from. Sue the f*** out of them; and never again put your trust or your blind faith in anyone who comes to you like sheep, but are really wolves in sheep's clothing! WTF?

Glen

The Honorable Shyne!

Saturday, November 23, at 8:33 PM

I must say that I learned a lot watching the movie or documentary about Shyne. He gained a lot of respect from me with his resilience, his tenacity, his exuberance in his drive to be better, to become more than was expected of him, considering where he started from. He overcame a lot to get to where he is now, although that in itself is questionable—his title as Leader of the Opposition. This man did not go to college, and yet he's very conversant in the English language, which he uses differently, from ghetto to the most erudite, depending on where he is at the given moment. He went to Israel, learned Hebrew, a very difficult language to learn, or to read or write! He always had a plan to improve his state, and did so beyond his own imagination! Wat a ting.

My personal opinion after saying all that, is that he was not ready to fill the post of Leader of the Opposition. His street smarts did not prepare him for the mercenary and cannibalistic nature of the world of politics. Being a gangster rapper or a thug is a much easier task. With all the help from his uncle and his father, he still could not get that bulletproof vest to ward off the barbarians at the gates! They broke through, and even with the intervention of the courts his position is tenuous at best, and futile as a leader, at the worst, in my opinion.

But the documentary put a spotlight

on Belize, about the beauty and the grittiness of the country and the streets. If you have never been to Belize, you would be led to believe that it is a majority black country, which it definitely is not. It prominently featured Michael Finnegan, his wife, Jules Vasquez, Dean Barrow, and of course Shyne's mother, and many beautiful landscapes of our beloved Jewel! Many other famous people were in the documentary, but I was referring to the Jewel section of it.

I wish that they had shown more about politics and the House and other politicians, but I suppose this was a story of redemption, Shyne's redemption! About a boy who became a man, then acted like a boy and failed, and started over and became a better man, and prevailed against all odds!

This is a Belizean story that began in Belize and ended in Belize. In years to come, there will be a rewrite, because nothing remains the same. I just hope that this young man never gives up. He has been through a lot in his young years, much more than most of us will experience in many lifetimes.

After seeing this documentary, the ups and downs of a man who could've simply disappeared into obscurity, I find myself reluctantly admiring the man called Shyne!

Glen

Attention — Part 1

by Marie-Therese Belisle Nweke

Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 10:13 AM

Last weekend, I was chatting with an old friend who is visiting the UK, where I currently am. He has lived in Nigeria almost as long as I have, though he's no longer there, but still visits. He said something remarkable about Trump's victory. What he said, no one, as far as I know, had voiced or written. But recently, I came across an American data scientist disputing the election results. I believe my friend is right; for truth is often stranger than fiction.

He said Donald Trump's re-election was a "419" one. In Nigeria, "419" means A VERY BIG SCAM. The expression is derived from Section 419 of Nigeria's Criminal Code which refers to one obtaining anything by deception

or fraud, or deliberately deceiving and extorting others with the goal to cheat and rob.

My friend believes that Elon Musk definitely tinkered with some kind of technology he had at his disposal, to produce the landslide victory, resulting in Trump returning to the WH and Kamala Harris' inexplicable defeat.

He also reminded me that Trump actually revealed that he had a secret weapon. And, undoubtedly, Musk, who appeared from out of the blue, miraculously became his right-hand man, dwarfing everyone in Trump's hog heaven.

Anything gained in a bad way always ends in a bad way; and both Elon Musk and Donald Trump will find this out sooner than later. Sadly, millions of Americans will suffer because of this Faustian pact.

Ghana battles the EU over cocoa. Can it win a trade war? — Part 2

by Marie-Therese Belisle Nweke

Saturday, November 23, 2024 at 7:13 AM


Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire selling their raw cocoa to Europe, instead of making cocoa into chocolate or other refined products like Ovaltine, etc., and exporting them to Europe, or wherever, is what economists describe as a structural trade deficit.

In other words, instead of Belize exporting its cows to neighbouring Guatemala, as is the case now, the Briceño government should be leading the march for Belizean entrepreneurs to set up allied industries in Belize. These would manufacture and export high-end products from the cow such as cheese, butter, yoghurt, beef

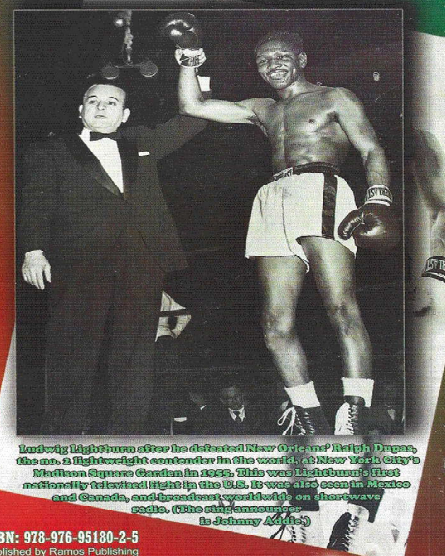

sausage, leather handbags, caps, shoes, jackets, leather furniture, decorative pouffes and leather jewelry.

In addition to creating genuine and greater employment opportunities for young Belizeans, many of whom believe that drug dealing, and other criminal activities are the only money-making avenues available to them, these value-added exports would bring in far more foreign exchange to Belize than merely selling the cow. This government needs to invest hugely in technical education and craft technologies in order to tap into Belizean talent that is being wasted on a huge scale.

Dumb nations sell raw cocoa and cows. Smart nations, instead, manufacture high-end products from these and export them.



SPORTS, SIN AND SUBVERSION



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Alvian Strikers lead BDFA U-15 girls' football

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024

The Alvian Strikers enjoyed their 2nd victory, 4-1, over the 3-time defending BTB Mundialito champions, Royal Fusion, when the Belize District Football Association (BDFA) Under-15 female tournament continued in its 2nd week at the Berger Field in Belize City on Saturday afternoon, November 23.

Treneice Amaya's hat trick (18', 24' & 32') led the Strikers' attack, and Aisha Reyes (36') added a 4th goal in their 4-1 blast of Royal Fusion, for whom only substitute Priya Bladen (45') scored a late consolation goal.

In Game 2, Tanesha Card (25') came off the bench to score the Goal Getters' winning goal, 1-0, over the KP Strikers.

Upcoming matches on Saturday, November 30:

KP Strikers vs Alvian Strikers

Royal Fusion vs Phoenix FC



Alvian Strikers are (2 - 0)



Treneice Amaya netted a hat trick (3 goals) for Alvian Strikers.



Royal Fusion – defending champions

Galen Eagles women & WJC men win ATLIB basketball northern regionals



Galen Eagles – ATLIB 2024 Northern Regional Female Champions

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024

The Galen Eagles women and the Wesley Junior College (WJC) men won the Association of Tertiary Level



Tanesha Card (right) scored the lone goal for Goal Getters

Institutions of Belize (ATLIB) northern regional basketball championships at the Belize City Civic Center on Saturday, November 23.

The Galen Eagles won the northern championship, 33-25, over the Wesley

Junior College women, led by Tashira Gillett's 13 pts. Kimberly Spence struck from outside the arc for 12 pts, and Tina Herrera put up 8 pts. Shelene Thomson



No Limit & Hydro Yabra win Over-35/50 basketball championships

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024

The No Limit Over-35 masters and the Hydro Yabra Over-50 veterans won the Belize Basketball Federation championship finals at the Belize City Civic Center on Sunday evening, November 24.

In Game 1, No Limit dominated the Mayan Man masters, 73-53, as Greg “Chippy” Rudon struck five times from outside the circle for 23 pts to lead 16-13 in the 1st quarter and 38-31 at the half. Darwin “Puppy” Leslie followed suit twice from outside the arc for 16 pts, and Brandon Rogers drained in a trey to lead 53-38 at the end of the 3rd quarter. Kevin Domingo also hit a long trey for 9 pts, Paul Swasey scored 3 pts, and Robert Ferguson threw in a bucket for the winners.

Mayan Man’s Earl “Bolo” Johnson struck once from outside the arc for 14 pts, Sheldon Williams posted 11 pts, and Doug Penland shot 7 pts. Rico Black struck twice from outside the circle, as he and Zahir Harris scored 6 pts each. William Black also shot a trey for 5 pts, and Shamir Ogaldez added 4 pts.

In Game 2, the Over-50 finals, Hydro Yabra triumphed, 48-30, over the Ballers for Life, led by Vince “Post” Lamb (Estrada) who struck twice from outside the circle for 12 pts to lead 13-5 in the first quarter. Ian “AC” Augustine followed suit from outside the arc for 13 pts to lead 21-16 at the half. Marlon “Snake” Villanueva also shot a trey to put up 7 pts, and Byron “Shackles” Flowers and Cassian “Russian” Flowers put up 5 pts apiece to lead 35-23 in the 3rd quarter. Angus “Walla” Cherrington scored 4 pts, and Leroy Forbes threw in a bucket.

James Saunders led the Ballers for Life with 14 pts, Clement Palacio netted 4 pts, and Calbert Quilter and Emory Bennett both struck from outside the arc for 3 pts each. Anse Martinez and Andrew Robateau chipped in 2 pts apiece.

The championship teams each won 2 cases of Belikin Beer, while the sub-champions won one case of beer per team. Team trophies and medals will be distributed at an awards ceremony at a later date.



No Limit – 2024 Over-35 Basketball Champions



Hydro Yabra – 2024 Over-50 Basketball Champions

Brown Bombers & Caye Caulker Veterans win in BDFA Over-40 football

by William Ysaguirre

BELIZE CITY, Mon. Nov. 25, 2024

The Brown Bombers and Caye Caulker Veterans enjoyed big wins when the Esteban Mahler Over-40 tournament, organized by the Belize District Football Association (BDFA), continued in its 4th week at the Berger Field in Belize City on Saturday evening,



Brown Bombers Over-40

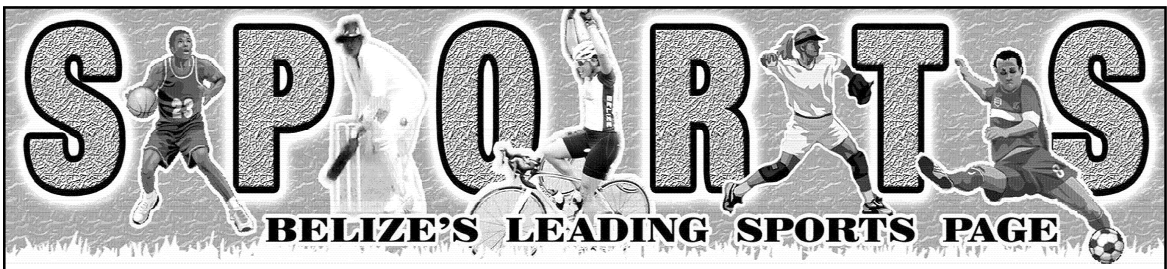
November 23.

In Game 1, the Belize Defence Force Veterans struggled to a 3-3 draw with Kulture Yabra, for whom Steve “Gellies” Young (9’) struck the first goal. Michael Martinez (19’) equalized for BDF, and Victor “Wapio” Nunez (31’) gave the soldiers a 2-1 lead. Jerome “Jaro” James (40’) and Christopher Guild (50’) regained Yabra’s lead, 3-2, until Martinez (56’) equalized: 3-3 final.

In Game 2, the Caye Caulker Veterans schooled the Survivors, 3-0, led by Sanja Pitts’ brace (40’ & 58’) and a goal by Mark “Kelo” Leslie (3’).

In Game 3, the Brown Bombers bombed Berger United, 5-1, led by Leon “Chow” Cadle’s brace (45’ & 56’), with other goals from Bruce Carrillo (13’), Paul Woods (47’) and Kenroy Martin (50’). Only Denver Skeet (10’) scored for Berger United.

Upcoming games on Saturday, November 30:
Survivors FC vs Plaza United
Brown Bombers vs BDF Veterans FC
Berger United vs Caye Caulker Veterans
(Kulture Yabra rests.)



Galen Eagles women & WJC men win ATLIB basketball northern regionals



Wesley Junior College – ATLIB 2024 Central Regional Male Champions

Continued from Page 9

struck from outside the circle as she led WJC with 11 pts. Kelsey Spence scored 8 pts and Glenda Torres netted 6 pts.

In Game 1, the WJC men blew away the San Pedro Junior College (SPJC) men, 75-19, led by Joshua Bradley's 19 pts. Raheem Thurton posted 13 pts, Kerdell Tench put up 11 pts, and Elmer Hamilton scored 9 pts. Anigi Conoquie and Joshua Ferguson netted 6 pts each, Jaheim Wright drained in a long trey, and Karic King and Jerris Valentine each threw in a bucket. Jamal Martinez led San Pedro with 6 pts, Anton Laureano added 4 pts, and Albert Lawrence shot 3 pts. Darren Jimenez, Josue Perez and Gregory Angelo tossed in a bucket apiece.

In Game 2 the WJC men dominated the St. John's Junior College Wildcats, 65-41, led by Tench and Bradley's 16 pts each. Thurton posted 11 pts, Hamilton scored 7 pts and Conoquie added 6 pts. Wright hit a long trey, and Andrew Bernard and Ferguson each threw in a bucket.

Julian Young struck twice from outside the circle, as he led the Wildcats with 13 pts. Daejon Myles followed suit for 8 pts, and Kaylon Sanchez and Noah Ramclam scored 4 pts each. Tamron McKenzie, Denroy Moore, Tyrese McFoy, Jose Bonilla and Jonathan Davis each tossed in a bucket.

In Game 3, the Wildcats mauled the SPJC men, 80-25, led by Ramclam's 14 pts. Sanchez and McKenzie posted 10 pts each, while Davis and Wilburn Forbes put up 8 pts each. Young and Flowers netted 6 pts apiece, and McFoy, James Stephen and Josiah Sotor-Smith threw in a bucket apiece. Laureano led the islanders with 11 pts, Lawrence and Brian Barrientos scored 4 pts each, and Isaac Pook and Angelo each tossed in a bucket. Darren Jimenez chipped in a free throw.

The Galen Eagles women and the WJC men will represent the northern and central regions, respectively, at the ATLIB national basketball championships to be hosted by the Stann Creek Ecumenical Junior College in Dangriga on Saturday, November 30.

Brown Bombers & Caye Caulker Veterans win in BDFA Over-40 football



Caye Caulker Veterans

Our email address for news, letters and articles is editor_amandala@yahoo.com



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Biden going out with a bang



Michael Moore
michaelmoore@substack.com, Nov. 24, 2024

Dear Joe,

What have you been doing? I saw you went to the rain forest. That looked cool. I loved how at the end you just turned away and walked into the jungle as if never to be seen from again. All Presidencies should end this way.

A little over a month ago, I sent you a nice letter with some suggestions for how you could use the rest of your time as President of the United States of America. Things like canceling student debt once and for all, closing Guantanamo, freeing Cuba, freeing Leonard Peltier and pardoning Snowden and doing other good deeds. Instead of doing any of these, you have done none of them.

In fact, if I'm reading the news right, you're going in the *opposite* direction. My suggestions were all about cementing your status as a "Great President"—about shaping your legacy, making you an unforgettable figure in the pantheon of all 44 white men who've presided over this country before you (and also your former boss). You on the other hand seem to be trying to cement your legacy as a war monger—doubling down on some of your worst mistakes and worst impulses.

So I'll ask again, **WHAT ARE YOU DOING?**

Donald Trump just won the election. In two months, you'll hand him the keys to the White House and the pin number for the alarm system. And you will be out of time.

Instead of using your precious little time left to do something to **HELP THE AMERICAN PEOPLE**, your first action after Trump won was to fast track the delivery of over \$6 Billion in weapons to Ukraine. Then, you called up Zelensky and gave him the green light to start firing long range ballistic missiles into a country with a massive amount of nuclear weapons, Russia. Then, as if that weren't enough carnage for one week, you authorized the use of antipersonnel land mines in Russia.

LAND MINES, Joe? Seriously? **THIS** is your legacy? This is how you want to go out? In a blaze of horror? Like, if Joe's gotta go, we all gotta go with him ... right into World War III?

Joe—America has spent well over a **BILLION DOLLARS** removing landmines from places like Iraq, Afghanistan, Vietnam, Laos and

Cambodia (you know, the places we invade and then leave our landmines behind). Vietnam was 50 years ago, Joe. And kids today in southeast Asia are still getting their arms blown off by our landmines. That's your legacy, Joe. This is what you're doing.

This week, 19 brave Democrats rose in the Senate and voted in favor of halting a shipment of weapons to Israel. And what did the Biden White House do? You lobbied against these Democratic Senators. You were scared that others would join them, pleading with Schumer and the others to vote them down, to shut them up, to keep arming this slaughter in Gaza and the West Bank and Lebanon. So you decided to slander this group of Senators from your own party. You said that by halting these armaments to Israel, these Democrats were on the side of Hamas.

Also this week, at the United Nations, 14 of the 15 members of the Security Council voted in favor of an **IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE** in Gaza. Fourteen of Fifteen, Joe. And your administration cast that 15th lone vote to veto a chance for peace. America once again single handedly blocked the ceasefire. The only country speaking out in favor of more death and destruction was the one you and I are citizens of. *This* is your legacy, Joe?

The week ended with the International Criminal Court in the Hague, the most important criminal court prosecuting war crimes in the world, issuing an actual arrest warrant for Benjamin Netanyahu. Democracies throughout the world—including Canada—announced that they would abide by the ICC warrant and take Netanyahu into custody should he ever set foot on their soil. And your White House's response was to reject the warrants and condemn the court for issuing them? For pursuing justice? Is this your legacy, Joe?

What about us, Joe? What about America? You have two months left in office. What are you going to do with this time? Maybe you should stop arming foreign wars and leave that for the next guy. Maybe instead, you should focus on things that matter to Americans.

So once again, Joe, I am calling on you to use your power of the pen—and your **COMPLETE IMMUNITY!**—to make some real and powerful change.

How about starting with a no brainer? The **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT** for women.

You have the power to order the E.R.A. be officially published in the

West splits on Israel: US threatens ICC & allies over Netanyahu arrest warrant

West splits on Israel: US threatens ICC & allies over Netanyahu arrest warrant

The Western alliance is divided on Israel, after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for PM Netanyahu over crimes against humanity in Gaza. US officials threaten sanctions.



BEN NORTON
Geopolitical Economy Report on Substack
geopoliticaconomy@substack.com, Sun. Nov. 24, 2024

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has issued an arrest warrant for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, charging them with war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

This historic decision has led to a political split in the West. The European Union, United Kingdom, Canada, and Australia have expressed support for the ICC.

On the other hand, the United States is openly attacking the ICC and threatening to impose sanctions.

US President Joe Biden blasted the ICC's charges as "outrageous". The White House said it "fundamentally rejects" the Court's order.

Washington is working with Israel to make a list of ICC officials whom they plan to sanction.

This is deeply ironic, given that the Biden administration, and particularly Secretary of State Antony Blinken, have constantly claimed to uphold a so-called "rules-based international order", while accusing US adversaries like China of supposedly violating it.

But it is not just the Democrats; the assault on the Hague is bipartisan in Washington.

Top officials nominated by President-elect Donald Trump, who will return to the White House in January 2025, have

also threatened the ICC.

Trump's pick to be national security advisor, the neoconservative war hawk Mike Waltz, vowed to impose sanctions on ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan, while smearing the Court as "anti-semitic".

The first Trump administration hit ICC personnel with sanctions in 2020, after the Court opened an investigation into accusations of war crimes committed by US-NATO forces in Afghanistan.

The Biden administration boasted of lifting these ICC sanctions in 2021, but is now considering returning to Trump's extreme policy.

Some far-right members of Congress have gone even further. In response to the ICC's arrest warrant for Netanyahu this November, Republican Senator Tom Cotton threatened a military assault on the Hague.

Cotton referenced a law approved by the US government in 2002, known as the Hague Invasion Act (officially called the American Servicemembers Protection Act of 2002). This legislation "permits" the White House to unilaterally send troops to the Hague, in the Netherlands, to physically remove any officials from the United States or its allies who face justice at the ICC.

Countries in the Global South have long criticized the ICC, accusing it of bias in the interest of Western governments. The vast majority of officials tried at the court have been from African countries.

The decision to issue arrest warrants for Israeli officials appears to be an

Please turn to Page 13

United States Constitution. You've had nearly 4 years to do this. It was ratified by the required number of states and it should be published as the 28th Amendment to the Constitution. Women, who make up 51% of the American population—THE MAJORITY—should finally be recognized as equal citizens and equal human beings, endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, just as they are in almost every single other Western Democracy.

A massive coalition of groups, all across America have come together this

weekend asking millions of Americans to EMAIL AND CALL THE WHITE HOUSE EVERY DAY for the next two months, calling on you, Joe Biden, to finally make the Equal Rights Amendment the law of the land.

You have the power to do this, Joe. You have the power to make *this* your legacy.

So, Joe, I'm really telling you for the last time: **JUST DO IT.**

(AMANDALA Ed. Note: Michael Moore is the renowned producer of the film "FAHRENHEIT 9/11".)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

British Museum to conduct internal review of Olmec mask and Santa Cruz idol replica in the Thomas Gann collection



Olmec mask and Santa Cruz idol replica were acquired from art collector Thomas Gann by the British Museum but are now controversial. The mask is likely stolen property and the idol is not a genuine ancient relic. (credits: British Museum)



Michael Richardson
richardsonreports.wordpress.com, Nov. 22, 2024

The British Museum will conduct an internal review of information it holds about two pieces in the 8,000,000-object collection kept by the museum. Both items are in the Thomas Gann Collection of the museum and have attracted controversy over their origins. The internal review has been forced on the museum by Freedom of Information Act requirements and will be conducted by a senior museum official.

The internal review, expected to be completed in December, will look at an Olmec mask and the Santa Cruz idol replica. The museum’s catalog entry says it purchased the mask from collector Thomas Gann in 1938, the year of his death. However, the museum says it cannot say how much was paid for the serpentine mask. The Santa Cruz replica only turned up in a museum storeroom in 1991, bears the facial image of Gann, and is alleged to have been found at Tulum, Mexico. The museum cites as proof the replica is a genuine ancient artifact, a photograph of Gann and the idol. However, the book *Ancient Cities*, which contains the photograph, also has a picture of the real Santa Cruz idol still in its hidden jungle shrine. The museum refuses to admit it holds a 1927 replica and not the genuine relic.

The internal review request explains why the museum should examine its records more carefully.

“While you have provided a scan of the Register and a brief 1938 article about the Olmec mask, you have not provided any financial information indicating how much the Museum paid Gann or his estate for the mask. Further, the mask has been extensively exhibited internationally over the years and it is difficult to believe that there are no

‘records, letters, emails, memoranda, summaries’ or other information that discusses the origin of the mask with the other museums.”

“You have not provided any receipts or financial information on any of the objects purchased from Thomas Gann or his estate. It is difficult to believe the Museum has such lax financial records for its acquisitions. If the Museum does not know how much it paid for an object, it raises the question how does the Museum really know it purchased the object.”

“While you have acknowledged that no scientific testing of the stucco figure has been conducted and provided a photograph of Gann and the figure, you have not provided ‘any and all records, letters, emails, memoranda, summaries’ or other information that discusses the figure. Further, the figure was exhibited as a genuine ancient artifact at Cambridge University in 1992, the year after the figure was found unregistered in a Museum storeroom. It is difficult to believe that there were no communications with Cambridge University regarding the figure’s discovery and lack of provenance information.”

The British Museum is currently undertaking another internal review of interest in Belize. The museum has refused to provide copies of its expedition reports to British Honduras for 1926-1930. Even though the museum already has the reports in digital form and could provide them to the public via the internet with a keystroke, the museum insists the public obtain the reports from a private subscription service which charges \$40 BZD for each year’s report of approximately a dozen pages. Reports for the five-year period would cost a total of \$200 BZD. The issue in that internal review is whether the pay-to-read requirement is in keeping with the museum’s free admission policy. A decision in that internal review is expected sometime near the end of November.

West splits on Israel: US threatens ICC & allies over Netanyahu arrest warrant

Continued from Page 12

attempt to save the international reputation of the Court.

Nevertheless, the ICC also faced criticism for delaying the arrest orders. Prosecutor Karim Khan initially announced the charges against Netanyahu and Gallant, as well as against a commander of the Palestinian armed group Hamas, back in May 2024. It took six months for the arrest warrants to finally be issued.

Throughout this time, the US government was putting significant pressure on the ICC, threatening personnel.

Senator Lindsey Graham warned in May that, “if they’ll do this to Israel, we’re next!”

In June, the US House of Representatives approved legislation that would impose sanctions on the ICC. The bill passed with support from more than 200 Republicans, along with 42 Democrats.

United Nations accuses Israel of genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza

The United Nations convened a special committee to investigate Israel’s warfare methods in Gaza, and it concluded in a November report that they are “consistent with the characteristics of genocide, with mass civilian casualties and life-threatening conditions intentionally imposed on Palestinians there”.

Israel’s leading human rights organization B’Tselem has warned that the Netanyahu regime is carrying out a concerted campaign of ethnic cleansing in northern Gaza, expelling indigenous Palestinians from the home with plans to annex and colonize their land, so they can never return.

UN Secretary General António Guterres has called on the world to prevent Israel’s ethnic cleansing in Gaza.

EU, UK, Canada, Australia support ICC, breaking with US

While the leaders of both major political parties in the United States are threatening the International Criminal Court in defense of Israel, some major Western allies have broken ranks.

Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom said they would abide by the ICC’s order and arrest Netanyahu if he entered their territory.

The European Union’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell likewise stated that Brussels would honor the arrest warrant, stressing, “The states that signed the Rome convention are obliged to implement the decision of the court. It’s not optional”.

The top EU diplomat pushed back against the Israeli regime’s baseless accusations of “anti-semitism”. Borrell asserted, “I have the right to criticize the decisions of the Israeli government, be it Mr. Netanyahu or someone else, without being accused of antisemitism. This is not acceptable. That’s enough”.

Among EU members, the governments of Belgium, France, Italy, Ireland, and the Netherlands have publicly clarified that they would respect the ICC decision and arrest Netanyahu.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham responded to the countries that support the ICC by threatening to impose sanctions on them and “crush” their economies.

“To any ally — Canada, Britain, Germany, France — if you try to help the ICC, we’re going to sanction you”, Graham vowed on Fox News.

“We should crush your economy”, Graham said to the US allies. “Because we’re next”, he added in fear.

Far-right regimes in Hungary and Argentina back US attacks on ICC


Unlike the EU leadership and many European states, Germany has said it will not abide by the ICC’s order.

One EU member that has openly attacked the ICC is Hungary, which is governed by far-right leader Viktor Orbán, a close ally of Israel and an anti-Muslim demagogue. In defiance of the Hague, Orbán invited Netanyahu to visit Hungary.

Joining the US and Hungary in condemning the ICC was Argentina’s far-right President Javier Milei, a self-declared “anarcho-capitalist”. Although Milei is a close Trump ally, he and Biden are in alliance on Israel.

In the UN General Assembly in September, Hungary and Argentina also sided with the United States in voting against a resolution that demanded an end to Israel’s illegal occupation of Palestinian territories within 12 months.

Much of Europe abstained in this vote, however several key EU states endorsed the resolution, including Belgium, France, Ireland, Portugal, and Spain.



AMANDALA
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The lack of provenience records for objects in the Gann collection at the British Museum, and Gann’s reputation as a looter of burial mounds have triggered recent social media calls for the return of Maya relics to Belize where Gann did most of his digging. A new Maya exhibit at the Belize Museum highlights growing interest in the country’s prehistory. Thus far the British Museum has made no

public overtures toward repatriation of Gann’s loot to Belize.

(AMANDALA Ed. Note: Author Michael Richardson also wrote the article: “Dozens of looted Maya artifacts from Belize in Thomas Gann collection at the British Museum lack any provenience records and are a nightmare for curators”, dated September 2, 2024.)

From the border...

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New Year's Day

2025



Who will win?

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CYCLING CLASSIC

New Year's Day 2025!!



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	Ernest Meighan (second)		Carlos Manuel Hernandez (second)
1992	Francisco Flores (first)	(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	Fitzgerald Joseph (second)		Anthea Sutherland (second)
1993	Derrick Mahler (first)	2011	Marco Salas (first)
	Orlando Chavarria (second)		Juan Rojas (second)
1994	Douglas Lamb (first)	(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	Ronald Sutherland (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second)
1995	Robert Mariano (first)	2012	Geovanni Choto (first)
	Gustavo Carillo (second)		Byron Pope (second)
1996	Nigel Matus (first)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (first)
	Ian Smith (second)		Shalini Zabaneh (second)
1997	Fred Usher (first)	2013	David Henderson (first)
	Michael Lewis (second)		Gregory Lovell (second)
1998	Francisco Flores (first)	(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	James Frampton (second)		Patricia Chavarria (second)
1999	Ernest Meighan (first)	2014	Byron Pope (first)
	Skip Spangenburg (second)		Carlos Lopez (second)
2000	Ariel Rosado (first)	(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)
	Quinton Hamilton (second)		Gabrielle Lovell (second)
2001	Miguel Perez (first)	2015	Hector Rangel (first)
	Shane Vasquez (second)		David Santos (second)
(Ladies)	Karen Rosito (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
	Amilita Knowles (second)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
2002	Barney Brown (first)	2016	Joel Adan Borland (first)
	Hugo Rostrain Monterosa (second)		Gregory Lovell (second)
(Ladies)	Ann Marie Bennett (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
2003	Douglas Lamb (first)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
	Frank Cannon (second)	2017	Ron Vasquez (first)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes-Gonzalez (first)		Brandon Cattouse (second)
2004	Marlon Castillo (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
	Mateo Cruz (second)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Fiona Humes-Gonzalez (first)	2018	Giovanni Lovell (first)
	Claudett Maheia (second)		John DeLong (second)
2005	Michael Lewis (first)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
	Shane Vasquez (second)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
(Ladies)	Marinette Flowers (first)	2019	John DeLong (first)
2006	Scottie Weiss (first)		Clayton Travis (second)
	Marlon Castillo (second)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (first)
(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)		Nicole Gallego (second)
	Marinette Flowers (second)	2020	Oscar Quiroz, Jr. (first)
2007	Shane Vasquez (first)		Joslyn Chavarria, Jr. (second)
	Marlon Castillo (second)	(Ladies)	Alicia Thompson (first)
(Ladies)	Gina Lovell (first)		Nicole Gallego (second)
	Shalini Zabaneh (second)	2021	NO RACE (DUE TO COVID)
2008	Neo German Camacho Villegas (first)	2022	Brandon Cattouse (first)
	Reyes (second)		Derrick Chavarria (second)
(Ladies)	Shalini Zabaneh (first)	(Ladies)	Gabrielle Gabourel (first)
	Alicia Thompson (second)		Kaya Cattouse (second)
2009	Marlon Castillo (first)	2023	Derrick Chavarria (first)
	Gregory Lovell (second)		Jyven Gonzalez (second)
(Ladies)	Lori Harkey (first)	(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse (first)
	Shalini Zabaneh (second)	2024	John Delong (first)
			Cory Williams (second)
		(Ladies)	Kaya Cattouse