



# NEWSREEL WORLD

## 2020-11-21

### Programmanus

*av Alanna Leslie*

**Alanna Leslie:** Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie, and it's time for Newsreel World. Today, we're heading to Pakistan, the United States of America and South Africa. But first, Nigeria.

#### **Nigeria**

**Alanna Leslie:** Over the past few weeks, you may have seen the hashtag EndSARS trending on social media. These clashes between protestors and police have become violent and seen both police and protestors injured and killed. To explain the background of these protests and to tell us how young Nigerians are reflecting on the protests, Rabia Hadejia has this report from the city of Abuja.

**Rabia Hadejia:** On 3 October, Nicholas Makolomi, a young Nigerian, was passing by Wetland Hotel in Delta State. He used his phone to record a video. The narrative around it was that the Nigerian police, specifically the Special Anti-Robbery Squad, also known as SARS, had shot a young man and were speeding away in his car. We now know that this narrative was misleading. Nicholas Makolomi admitted that what he tweeted was not what the video showed. The police held a press conference to explain what happened. Channels Television was at that press conference.

**Press conference:** "Operatives of Safe Delta Squad, while on patrol observed a white-coloured Jeep without registration number that suddenly parked by the roadside. Which, on sighting police patrol team, the driver immediately zoomed off. The team gave them a hot chase and they successfully intercepted the vehicle. On their way to the station, with the arrested suspects inside the police patrol vehicle, one of the suspects jumped out of the moving vehicle and sustained body and head injuries."

**Rabia Hadejia:** But it was too late, the video with the misleading narrative had already gone viral with the hashtag EndSARS. And it encouraged more young Nigerians to share their experiences of being stopped, searched and harassed.

**Robert Derrick:** "We don't want people to harass us."

**Rabia Hadejia:** Robert Derrick spoke to Channels Television.

**Robert Derrick:** "We don't want people to say: 'Bring out your phone, we want to check what is on your phone. You are a criminal.'"



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**Rabia Hadejia:** Several international and local human rights organisations have published reports citing specific instances of police abuse including torture, extortion, and rape.

**Crowd chanting:** End SARS! End SARS! End SARS! End SARS! End SARS!

**Rabia Hadejia:** Hundreds of young Nigerians protested. The peaceful protesters developed the five-point demands for the Federal Government. Roots TV followed popular music artist Davido as he met with the Inspector General of Police to share these demands.

**Davido:** “Immediate release of all arrested protestors; justice for all deceased victims of police brutality....”

**Rabia Hadejia:** In response, the Inspector General of Police released a statement that same day, dissolving SARS across the country. The Presidential panel on police reforms approved the five demands. But, the Inspector General of Police announced the creation of a new unit, the Special Weapons and Tactics unit.

This unit would replace SARS. Protesters were not happy about this. So, the protests continued.

[SFX] – Sounds of yelling

**Rabia Hadejia:** They started to turn into riots and looting, injuries and deaths. Both protestors and police have reported casualties. I sat down with some young Nigerians to get their perspectives.

**Vox 1:** Let’s even assume the video was fake; these cases had compounded, it had accumulated so it was like a keg of gunpowder that was just waiting for a strike.

**Vox 2:** Whether the video was false or not, it has an intention to stop the act of brutality. This has been happening for quite some time now without any definite solution to it. It still links to young people.

**Vox 3:** It was not just about EndSARS. I think it’s accumulated of all the things that young people are going through and they keep using the word the President used for them like two years back: “lazy.”

**Rabia Hadejia:** I am Rabia Hadejia, reporting from Abuja, Nigeria for Newsreel World.

**Alanna Leslie:** Thanks Rabia.

### Canada

**Alanna Leslie:** Olympic and Paralympic hopefuls all over the world have had their Tokyo training schedules completely ripped apart by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many athletes are also having to train alone due to restrictions. Canadian boxer Mandy Bujold is using technology to adapt to the new reality. She’s using panels of



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randomly flashing lights to replicate her trainer holding up boxing gloves for her to punch. She's also using video analysis, as she told CBC:

**Mandy Bujold:** We're trying to find creative ways to stay active and continue to prepare and in these circumstances.

**Alanna Leslie:** Mandy is yet to qualify for Tokyo 2021 and her final qualifier isn't until June next year. Until then, she's got a lot of flashing lights to punch.

### U.S.A

*Star Spangled Banner plays*

**Alanna Leslie:** The 2020 U.S. Presidential Election has been a real nail-biter with former Vice-President Joe Biden claiming victory several days after the votes were in. A key demographic for Biden were voters under thirty. More than sixty percent of eighteen-to twenty-nine-year olds nationwide backed Biden over President Donald Trump. Paige Sutherland reports from Boston. "From ABC News Election headquarters: Election 2020".

**Paige Sutherland:** With a global pandemic still underway and millions of people voting early and in large part by mail, this election was bound to be unprecedented. In the end, Biden came out on top.

**Joe Biden:** "The people of this nation have spoken."

**Paige Sutherland:** Overall, eighteen-to twenty-nine-year olds were Biden's biggest fans. For many of the young voters I spoke with, Biden wasn't their first choice, but he was the best option out of the two. That was definitely the case for 18-year-old Caleb Dunson from Chicago.

**Dunson:** "I voted for Joe Biden mostly because I knew that a Joe Biden presidency would be less harmful to my community and communities like it than a Donald Trump presidency."

**Paige Sutherland:** Marina Schwadron is 23 years old and from New Hampshire. She doesn't think Biden's policies go far enough but she says there was too much at stake if he didn't win.

**Schwadron:** "I was definitely really worried because now that Trump has the Supreme Court his capacity to follow this really destructive agenda and this anti-democratic agenda has vastly increased."

**Paige Sutherland:** Another concern that kept coming up in my conversations was about not feeling represented. Yakirah Mitchel is 18 years old and from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**Mitchel:** "Course it's hard when the President is the face of the country and it's still a seventy-year-old white man. I don't feel personally represented by them, so it's frustrating."

**Paige Sutherland:** Although there seems to be a lot of energy from young people this election, the turnout was only slightly higher than in 2016, hovering around fifty percent. And overall, exit polls show, the youth vote made up only seventeen percent of overall voters, down two percent from four years ago. With Trump's campaign crying voter fraud and contesting the results, legal disputes are expected to continue until Inauguration Day on



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January 20th.

**Alanna Leslie:** Thanks Paige.

### **South Africa**

This is Jiya Jiya by South African music icon Simphiwe Dana. Her music style combines jazz, afro-soul rap and traditional music with Xhosa, the language of the Xhosa people who live in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Simphiwe recently made news by coming out as gay as well as announcing she's now married to South African opera star Pumeza Matshikiza. Whilst South Africa's constitution is very liberal when it comes to LGBTQ+ rights, there's a perception that a conservative and patriarchal South African society makes life more difficult for those who come out in practice. This prompted Simphiwe to tweet: "I know coming out means Africa will block me. But, after a lot of thinking, I'm ok with it. I'm marrying a woman, and I've never been happier."

### **Pakistan**

**Alanna Leslie:** Pakistan's only Asian elephant, a male called Kaavan, will soon relocate to a sanctuary alongside other elephants in Cambodia. Kaavan has been labelled "the world's loneliest elephant" after spending eight years on his own since his mate Saheli died. Symptoms of his loneliness included lethargy, stress and aggression, which eventually led to his keepers chaining him up. The story of his poor treatment saw a campaign begin in 2015 to have him released. Kaavan's cause was taken up by pop icon and animal-welfare activist Cher and after five years of campaigning Kaavan will soon be moved to Cambodia.

That's all from me today. See ya!