

# NEWSREEL WORLD

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Programmanus av Steve Hankey

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Hi, I'm Alanna Leslie and welcome to a new season of Newsreel World.

Today, we're off to New Zealand, Pakistan and the United States of America.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** But first... Nigeria.

It's been three months since the Nigerian government suspended Twitter indefinitely – and although talks are ongoing about ending the ban, millions of social media users in the country still have no access to the site.

With more on this, here's Umar Isa Dandago in Abuja.

**Hauwa Ishaq Ibrahim:** “I feel like a missing part of me because I've not been able to carry out my assignment of speaking to people.”

**Abubakar Sadiq Umar:** “Some of the campaigns that we are running have to automatically stop because you have the Twitter ban.”

**Umar Isa Dandago:** These are some of the ways that the suspension of Twitter by the Nigerian government has impacted people in the country.

The suspension came one day after Twitter removed a tweet by President Muhammadu Buhari, saying that it violated its rules against abusive behaviour.

The President had threatened to punish regional secessionists because they were attacking government buildings.

These secessionists are just fighting for independence for some regions of the country.



But the Nigerian government accused Twitter of double standards because Twitter allowed certain tweets made by the separatists which the government saw as violent to stay on the platform, while removing the president's.

**Umar Isa Dandago:** Here is Information Minister Lai Mohammed talking to the BBC:

**Lai Mohammed:** "It's not the business of an international organisation to meddle in the internal security of a country, what they know nothing about."

**Umar Isa Dandago:** So the government stands by its decision. But some Nigerians say that this ban is an attack on freedom of speech.

So, I sat down over a video call with Hauwa Ishaq Ibrahim who is a mental health activist, to get her view on the matter.

**Hauwa Ishaq Ibrahim:** "There was the day I made a tweet about something. It is funny, but it had a message. And then somebody sent me a private tweet and said: 'this just made my day. I was actually feeling down because of something that's similar to this'. So that was how I started using Twitter as a voice and I kept doing the mental awareness thing and all that and all that."

**Umar:** Do you think there will be more regulations when Twitter is back to operate in Nigeria?

**Hauwa Ishaq Ibrahim:** "I'm very sure Twitter will want to regulate one or two things about the kind of matters it allows to trend on it."

**Umar:** I also asked Abubakar Sadiq Umar who is a marketing manager for an IT start-up what he thinks:

**Abubakar Sadiq Umar:** "I think there should be some synergy between the two, the government and Twitter can partner up and try to come up with a policy that is based on the interest of both parties so that things can go smoothly."

**Umar Isa Dandago:** So what's happening currently is that both the government and Twitter have said that they are having discussions to come to a resolution.



But the questions are: will Twitter continue to be its own regulator or will the Nigerian government somehow be more involved?

I'm Umar Isa Dandago, reporting from Abuja, Nigeria for Newsreel World.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Pakistan has won its first ever Paralympics gold medal after discus thrower Haider Ali took gold in the men's discus F37 category.

Ali, who has cerebral palsy, also created history back in 2008 when he won Pakistan's first ever Paralympics medal, a silver, at the Beijing games.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** A new report by scientists in America and Israel has shown that the increase in extreme winter weather events in the US is linked to global warming.

The researchers found that temperature rises in the Arctic had disturbed the circular pattern of winds known as the polar vortex.

This allowed colder winter weather to flow down to the US, notably in the Texas cold wave in February, in which over two hundred people died.

Paradoxically, global warming will lead to more cold winters in some locations.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** That's *Mortal Reminder* from heavy metal group *Pentakill*

But *Pentakill* aren't your usual band, they're actually a fictional band made up of characters from the video game *League of Legends*.

*Pentakill's* music is written by composers who work for game company Riot Games but also features cameos from real life rock stars including *Mötley Crüe* drummer Tommy Lee.



### ***Ariana Grande Favourite Things***

*League of Legends* isn't the only game to get on the music bandwagon, as last month Ariana Grande performed a virtual gig within Fortnite.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Now, New Zealand.

In New Zealand, young people are being encouraged to go outside and set traps for rats, possums, stoats and other mammalian predators.

This is part of a wider movement to eradicate these creatures from New Zealand by 2050.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Like many other countries New Zealand is experiencing severe biodiversity loss and it already has the highest rate of threatened indigenous species of anywhere in the world.

Ayana Piper-Healion reports from Christchurch, New Zealand to tell us more.

**Emily:** “And if you want to check the trap, all you do is you lift the tunnel and... makes a bang like that and...”

**Ayana Piper-Healion:** Over the past couple hundred years, humans have introduced mammalian predators like rats, possums, and stoats to New Zealand.

This was mostly through European colonisation. Māori introduced dogs and the Pacific rat around eight hundred years ago.

European colonisation introduced rats, mice, possums, cats, pigs, weasels, stoats and much more, leading to New Zealand having the most introduced mammals in the world.

Now it's out of control. Before humans, New Zealand spent eighty-five million years geologically isolated.

This means New Zealand's biodiversity is unlike anywhere else on the planet. But it also means our native birds, lizards, and plants never evolved to survive land mammal predation.



**Elizabeth:** “My conservation journey started when I met a kakapo called Sirocco, and there are only two hundred kakapo left on the planet.

And I was so fascinated by this large, green, heavy parrot. I've never seen anything like it before and I just knew after that night that I wanted to base my life on saving as many native species as possible.”

**Ayana Piper-Healion:** Twenty year old environmentalist, Elizabeth Werner, is the founder of community group Pest Free Tawa College.

**Elizabeth:** “I value our native species highly. They're so amazing, endemic, unique, there's just so many incredible words to describe them.

**Elizabeth:** And because they're rare, they're threatened by the invasive species, the pest species that we're trying to eradicate.

I do not enjoy killing the pest species. I feel sorry for them.

They don't belong in our country, though, they belong in other countries.

I think they're cute in the country that they're native to. But here they're not cute because they're killing our native species.

So all of the schools in my community are involved with the predator free work and they go out during lunchtime or before school with a teacher or an older student.

And they'll just go around checking all the traps which are located on the school field or around the blocks in the school.

And this is a great way to include youth in conservation work.

**Ayana Piper-Healion:** Emily Moon is a young lawyer and helps run community group Pest Free Point Chev in her spare time.



Since starting a couple months ago, traps in her neighbourhood have increased from twenty to three hundred.

When someone wants to buy a trap for their backyard, they pop over to Emily's flat after work and she shows them how to use it.

**Emily:** "OK, so there's two parts to the trap. One is the trap itself.

The way you set that, is you pull back the lever like this, slide the trap in like that and then put the wire back... It's all safe and ready to go."

**Ayana Piper-Healio:** No other country has ever tried to eradicate predators. We don't even know if it is possible. But we do know if we don't try now we will lose thousands more native species forever, because we brought predators to this isolated country.

New Zealand has successfully eradicated predators on many smaller off-shore islands, which we were told could never be done.

**Ayana Piper-Healio:** Now, young and old, indigenous Māori and immigrated pākehā, are coming together for this colossal nationwide project: killing all rats, possums and stoats in New Zealand by 2050.

I'm Ayana Piper-Healio, reporting for Newsreel World, from Christchurch, New Zealand.

**ALANNA LESLIE:** Thanks Ayana.

That's all from me today. Speak to you soon. Bye!