

If polls are to be believed, an era of 14 years of Conservative governments is about to end.

## Greedy Politicians

Troubled times in British politics :



### Named and shamed 'greedy politicians unmasked in UK's Gamblegate scandal': CASH-STARVED CONSERVATIVES SEEK LIFELINE, BIG DONORS PULL THE PLUG, ILLEGAL BETTING CLAIMS ROCK ELECTION DAY

By: Shamlal Puri Associate Publisher & Senior Editor - UK shamlalpuri4@gmail.com



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak came out with new vigour to argue with his Labour Party opponent Sir Keir Starmer in Nottingham on Wednesday. Photo Courtesy BBC

Next week, the UK will elect a new government, and voters hope a new dawn in the troubled politics of the British Isles will herald a new era on July 5.

If polls are to be believed, an era of 14 years of Conservative governments is about to end.

But these are troubled times in British politics.

Forget the happiness Britons are looking forward to; the elections have turned into a fiasco, a circus in which some politicians have been caught with their fingers in the till.

Confusion, chaos, crisis, conspiracies, questions, and crazy

allegations against the conduct of both Conservatives, also called Tories, and the opposition Labour continued to create political tremors as the United Kingdom clocked run-up of the final days of the polls on July 4.

To add to the woes of the Conservatives, major donors have been pulling the plug on the million Pounds donations to the Party.

Aware that Rishi Sunak was heading for a disastrous loss in the polls, a group of anonymous Tory Party donors who had given over £5 million to the Party decided not to make any further payments, Individual donors giving anything up to £15,000 have also

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Kenya protesters call for President Ruto's removal after tax bill dropped

Demonstrations continue across Kenya Kenya



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Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille

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News Backpage Generation Z: A Force That Cannot Be Ignored in Kenya



### 'Not afraid to die': Kenya tax protests inspire broader demand for change

"You can't kill us all," a protester shouts as heavily armed riot police charge at him.

He stands his ground, water bottle in hand, occasionally splashing water on his face, his eyes visibly irritated by tear gas smoke floating in the air and choking police and protesters

alike.

A group of protesters push forward towards him. They chant, "We are peaceful, we are peaceful." Some raise their hands above their heads, others kneel down, intent to demonstrate the non-violent nature of the protests to the police.

Suddenly, sirens blare. Then, pink-coloured water scatters the crowd as a water canon blocks demonstrators from advancing towards Parliament Buildings.

These scenes have been played out over and over again this past week in Kenya as angry youth took to the

streets to protest against a controversial tax bill, that many say would have made essential commodities costlier. President William Ruto, who advo-

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# What is Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed group that could go to all-out war against Israel?

By: VOA  
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

- **Shiite Muslim Hezbollah is part of a collection of Iranian-backed factions and governments known as the Axis of Resistance.**
- **It was the first group that Iran backed and used as a way to export its brand of political Islamism.**
- **In its early days the group attacked U.S. targets, causing Washington to designate it a terrorist organization.**
- **“Iran’s support has helped Hezbollah consolidate its position as Lebanon’s most powerful political actor as well as the most-equipped military actor supported by Iran in the whole of the Middle East,” said Lina Khatib, the director of the SOAS Middle East Institute in London.**
- **Hezbollah fighters ambushed an Israeli patrol in 2006 and took two Israeli soldiers hostage. Hezbollah and Israel fought a month-long war that ended in a draw but Israeli bombardment wreaked widespread destruction in southern Lebanon.**



FILE - Supporters of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group listen to a speech by Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah speaking via a video link, in the southern suburbs of Beirut, May 14, 2024.

After more than eight months of low-scale conflict, Israel and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah are threatening all-out war. The United States and the international community are lobbying for calm and hopeful for a diplomatic solution. They have not been successful so far and time for a political settlement could be expiring. Should war break out, Israel would face a much more formidable foe in Lebanon than it faced in Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah warned Israel last week that his group has new weapons and capabilities, and it has published surveillance drone footage taken deep inside northern Israel that showed the port of Haifa and other sites far from the Lebanon-Israel border. A look at how Hezbollah became what many call the strongest non-state force in the region.

### What is Hezbollah?

Founded in 1982 during Lebanon’s civil war, Hezbollah’s initial objective was ending Israel’s occupation of southern Lebanon. It achieved that in 2000. Shiite Muslim Hezbollah is part of a collection of Ira-

nian-backed factions and governments known as the Axis of Resistance. It was the first group that Iran backed and used as a way to export its brand of political Islamism. In its early days the group attacked U.S. targets, causing Washington to designate it a terrorist organization. “Iran’s support has helped Hezbollah consolidate its position as Lebanon’s most powerful political actor as well as the most-equipped military actor supported by Iran in the whole of the Middle East,” said Lina Khatib, the director of the SOAS Middle East Institute in London. Hezbollah fighters ambushed an Israeli patrol in 2006 and took two Israeli soldiers hostage. Hezbollah and Israel fought a month-long war that ended in a draw but Israeli bombardment wreaked widespread destruction in southern Lebanon. Israel’s objective was eliminating Hezbollah but the Lebanese group came out stronger and became a key military and political power on Israel’s northern border. Domestic opponents have criticized Hezbollah for maintaining its arsenal and for coming to dominate the

government. Hezbollah’s reputation also suffered when it briefly seized a section of Beirut in May 2008 after the Lebanese government took measures against its private telecommunications network. Hezbollah’s military capabilities have also surged, and it has played a key role in the Syrian civil war, keeping President Bashar al-Assad in power. And it has helped train Iran-backed militias in Syria and Iraq, as well as Yemen’s Houthi rebels.

### What are Hezbollah’s military capabilities?

Throughout its latest conflict with Israel, Hezbollah has gradually introduced new weapons to its arsenal, especially after Israel began its ground invasion of the southern city of Rafah in Gaza in early May. While Hezbollah initially began launching Cornet anti-tank missiles and salvos of Katyusha rockets, it later started using rockets with heavy warheads, and eventually introduced explosive drones and surface-to-air missiles for the first time. Nasrallah said the drones are locally manufactured, with many at their disposal. The group notably released the two videos of footage from drones over Haifa and

other sites in northern Israel, showing critical civilian and military infrastructure in a move intended to showcase new access and capabilities and deter Israeli attack. In a televised address last week, Nasrallah said that the group will continue resorting to this tactic. “We now have new weapons. But I won’t say what they are,” he said. “When the decision is made, they will be seen on the front lines.”

### How does Hezbollah compare to other Iranian-backed groups?

Hezbollah is the Arab world’s most significant paramilitary force with a robust internal structure as well as a sizeable arsenal. Israel sees it as its most direct threat, and estimates that it has an arsenal of 150,000 rockets and missiles, including precision-guided missiles. In recent years, Hezbollah sent forces to Syria to help fellow Iranian ally President Bashar Assad against armed opposition groups. It also supported the growth of Iranian-backed militias in Iraq, Yemen and Syria. Khatib of the SOAS Middle East Institute in London likened Hezbollah to a “big

brother” of fledgling Iranian-backed groups that “do not enjoy the same level of infrastructure or discipline.” Hezbollah is bound to Iran by doctrine. However, its relationship with Hamas, an offshoot of the Sunni Muslim Brotherhood movement, is based on pragmatism. In recent years, some Hamas officials, including its former second-in-command, Saleh al-Arouri, have since moved to Lebanon, where they have Hezbollah’s protection and a presence across Lebanon’s multiple Palestinian refugee camps. Arouri was killed in an Israeli drone strike in a southern Beirut suburb in January.

### Who Is Hassan Nasrallah?

Born in 1960 into a poor Shiite family in the Beirut suburb of Bourj Hammoud and later displaced to south Lebanon, Nasrallah studied theology and joined the Amal movement, a Shiite political and paramilitary organization, before becoming one of Hezbollah’s founders. He became Hezbollah leader in 1992 after his predecessor was killed in an Israeli strike. Idolized by many for presiding over Israel’s withdrawal from the south and leading the 2006 war, his image appears on billboards and on gadgets in souvenir shops in Lebanon, Syria and other countries across the Arab world. But he also faces opposition among Lebanese who accuse him of tying their country’s fate to Iran. Nasrallah is also considered to be pragmatic, able to make political compromises. He has lived in hiding for years, fearing Israeli assassination, and delivers his speeches from undisclosed locations.

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## HEALTH

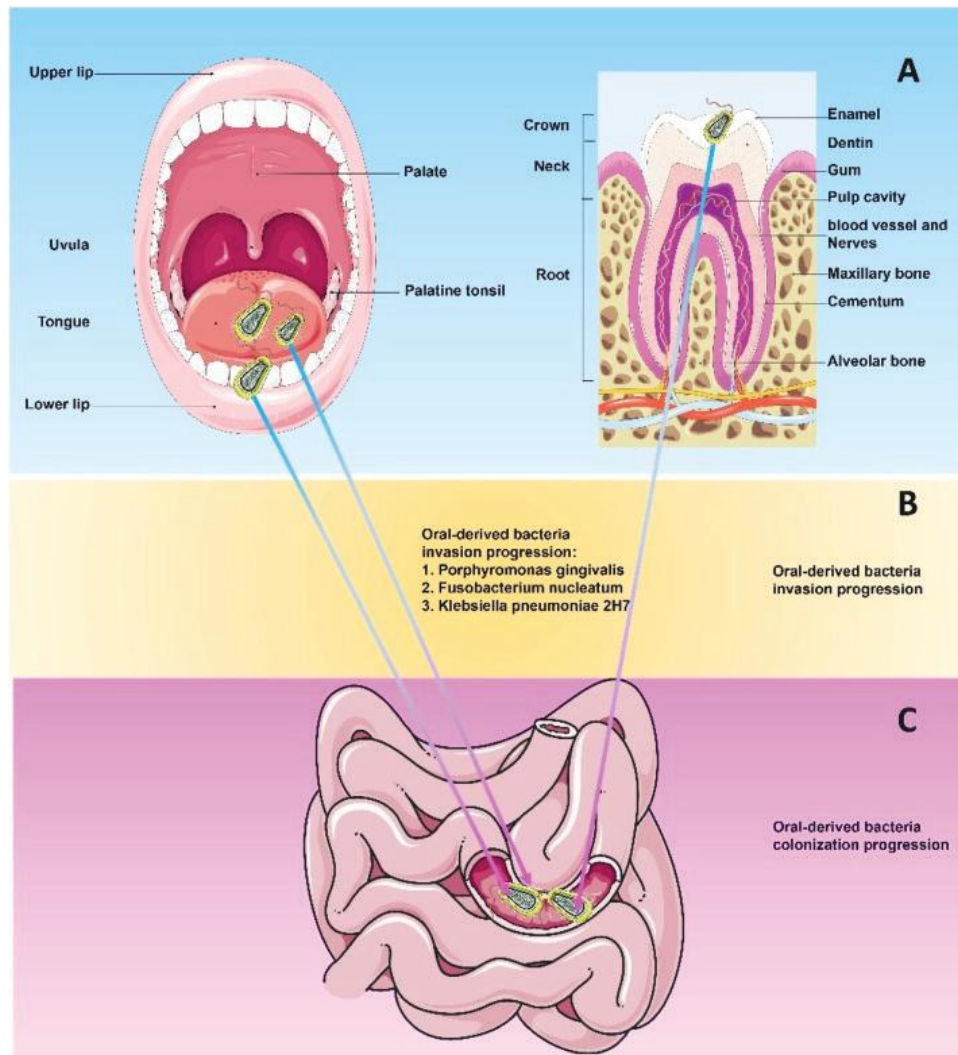
## Oral Microflora



By: Ergashev Bekzodbek Jaloliddin  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

- Therefore, teaching our children the rules of oral hygiene is one of the necessary actions for every parent and pediatrician.
- For this, we must be able to fulfill these rules perfectly ourselves, because it is precisely the imprecise hygienic procedure that causes the pathogenic microflora to remain on the surfaces of the teeth, between the teeth, in the gum pockets, and on the tongue and other mucosal surfaces possible



**Abstract:** This article provides information about the diseases of the microorganism of the oral cavity and their treatment, as well as its hygienic requirements. Public educational institutions are responsible for organizing hygiene corners (in kindergartens), hygiene classes (in schools), and providing them with the necessary equipment and tools to create favorable conditions for the work of medical workers. Healthcare organizations should provide children's institutions with medical personnel (dentist, pediatrician, and specially

trained nurse, orderly).

**Key words:** microorganisms, microflora, hygienic rules, normal variability, dysbacteriosis.

In the oral cavity, various microorganisms - bacteria, simple microorganisms and viruses can live symbiotically without posing any danger to human life. According to the type and number of bacteria, bacteria occupy the highest place, that is, we can find about 150-200 of them. One ml. 4 million to 5 billion in mixed saliva up to one gr and in dental ex-

amination, we can observe from 10 billion to 1000 billion microorganisms.

The composition of the microflora of the oral cavity and its diversity are influenced by the number and types of microbes entering this place from the outside, the quality of the food consumed the physical and chemical conditions in the oral cavity, and the nature of the microorganisms and circumstances such as the interaction of the ulam are integrally affected.

In particular, the hygienic condition of the oral cavity and the active implemen-

tation of these individual (personal) hygienic education rules by each child have a direct impact on the quality and quantity of microorganisms. It has been proven in science.

Therefore, teaching our children the rules of oral hygiene is one of the necessary actions for every parent and pediatrician.

For this, we must be able to fulfill these rules perfectly ourselves, because it is precisely the imprecise hygienic procedure that causes the pathogenic microflora to remain on the surfaces of the teeth, between the teeth, in the gum pockets, and on the tongue and other mucosal surfaces possible

This situation leads to caries disease of the tooth hard tissue, diseases of the mucous membrane or inflammation of the periodontium. For example, cariogenic microorganisms such as *Str. mutans* or *salivarius*, which are quickly settled in the contents of food residues or blood cells on the tooth surface (fissures or contact points), quickly create an acidic local microclimate due to their exotoxins.

Therefore, it is desirable to follow the rules of personal hygiene of the oral cavity perfectly and regularly.

Normal variability of oral microflora:

The considered part of the body is widespread with microbes and can compete with the intestine in this respect. There are more than 370 types of aerobic and anaerobic microorganisms in the mucous membranes of the oral cavity: streptococci; lactobacillus; Neis-

seria; staphylococci; diphtheroids; influenza bacteria; vibrations; pneumococci; Candida; mycoplasma; peptococcus; Borrelia; fusobacteria; actinomycetes; leptothrix and others.

In the described cases, a minority of microorganisms are oppressed, and the pathophysiology of the number of bacteria is dysbiosis.

I, the son of Ergashev Bekzodbek Jaloliddin, was born on January 1, 2004 in Uchkurgan district of Namangan region. I spent 8 years of school at the Specialized Russian Gymnasium. But since I live in the Republic of Uzbekistan, knowing that I must learn my native language, I moved my school to an Uzbek school. I spent 11 years of school in 3 schools. In 2022, with 137.2 points in the DTM test, I was accepted to study at Namangan State University at the Faculty of Biology on the basis of a State Grant, but because I was so interested in medicine, my highest goal was the only one. By the Rector's decision, 2022 was accepted for study without examination. In 2022, I won an honorable 2nd place among more than 5,000 students of more than 10 medical universities of Uzbekistan, more than 40 foreign universities, in the field of Medical Biology and General Genetics at the "Samarkand 2020 III International Medical University Olympiad" organized by the Samarkand State Medical Institute in 2022. In 2023, I took a proud 3

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## Biography

## My Academic Odyssey: The Path To Success

Saparbaeva Aziza Asror's daughter is a 4th-year student of Urgench State University, Faculty of Socio-Economic Sciences, Department of History. Navoi state scholarship winner. She is the author of more than 40 articles and 5 books, a member of 10 international organizations (India, Argentina, Egypt, Kazakhstan), a graduate of more than 20 international courses, owner of the "For International Services" badge of Kazakhstan "Qo'shqano't" creative association, participant of the international project of Oxford&UrSU Amudarya Project, founder of the Student Academy project, winner of the 3rd place in the June 2022 "Zukko kitobxon" contest, 2nd place winner of the district stage of the "Yosh kitobxon" republican contest, laureate of more than 30 international and republican contests and participant, participant of more than 20 international and republican scientific-practical conferences, graduate of Shine Girls' Academy, Multilevel English B2 certificate holder.

Detailed description of achievements:

On April 27-29, 2023, at the international conference "Khorezm oasis in the system of Central Asian civilizations" held at Urgench State University in cooperation with several foreign universities, in particular, University of Barcelona, Astrakhan State University, Lubelsk Polytechnic University she participated with a lecture on "Some considerations on the historical roots of Khorezm oasis jewelry art".

On May 19-21 of this year, "Life and work of Jaloliddin Manguberdi. Anushtegin participated in the international conference on the topic "The role of Khorezmshah dynasty in Uzbek statehood" with an article on the topic "The history of jewelry art of the great Khorezmshahs". She participated in the scientific-practical conference "National costumes - the mirror of the nation" held in June with her practical help.

On June 3, 2023, an article was published in the 3rd special issue of the "Education Research in Universal Sciences" magazine. On April 25, 2024, Urgench Innovation University presented a lecture entitled "The History of Jewelry Art of the Bronze Age Residents of the Khorezm Oasis" at

the republican scientific and practical student conference entitled "Strategy of Innovative Approaches in the Formation of Spiritual and Moral Competencies in Modern Education".

She participated with to date, about 40 scientific and creative articles and 5 author's books of our student have been published in foreign and state publishing houses. At the same time, she is an official member of about 10 creative and scientific organizations and the owner of the "For International Services" badge of the "Double Wing" creative fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the 2023 recipient of the state scholarship named after Navoi of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

She is the owner of the 2024 academic year. She also participated in the international project "Amudarya Project" held in cooperation between Urgench State University and Oxford University of Great Britain. "English-Russian-Uzbek-Turkish" Languages Translator Mobile Application has a certificate from the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

She also publishes his creative articles in Uzbek and foreign languages in international anthologies and almanacs. In particular, she actively participates in the international anthology of Great Britain, Germany, and Argentina called Totem with her scientific and creative works. At the same time, several popular articles were published in foreign newspapers and websites. In particular, popular scientific and creative articles are periodically published in Kenya Times, Classico Opine, Raven Cage Zine, The Diaspora Times Global, Page News, and Synchronized Chaos.

International competitions, including the "Know your G20" quiz competition held by the Indian state, the "National Technology Day" international quiz competition held by Rajkiya Engineering College, the "International Day of Light" held by Panimalar Institute of Technology participated in international quiz contest and "World Ozone Day" quiz program, also participated in the "Microbial Diversity" and "World Environment Day Celebration" quizzes organized by Shree Ramkrishna Institute of Computer Education.

She also participated in the 3-day "International Facul-

ty Development Program On Nascent Challenges of World Education and the Predicament of Holistic Accreditation" program held by Indonesia's Bliss Education Center and received an international certificate.

"VI Международного химического диктанта", "II Всероссийского Арктического Диктанта для студентов и школьников", "Всероссийский Большой онлайн-диктант в Год семьи", "Союзный диктант: Россия и Беларусь", "Библиотечный диктант", "Всероссийском Статистическом диктант", "Беларусский Географический Диктант 2024" competitions.

Business Model Canvas Essentials, Great Learning, Upskillist, Stepik, Scopus Academy, Yalinetwork, UNICEF, UNITAR, Europe Academy, Saylor Academy and completed UK Open-Learn academies and international courses and received a certificate.

On June 24-26, 2023, students of Urgench State University and Fergana State Polytechnic University jointly held a scientific-practical conference on the topic "Global Education and Youth" within the framework of the international student forum she participated with a presentation on the subject.

On June 7, 2024, on the occasion of "Youth Day", Urgench State University and Adolat were awarded the 1st-degree diploma of the Social Democratic Party.

Aziza Saparbaeva is constantly conducting research on the topic of "History of Jewelry Art of the People of Khorezm".



Aziza Saparbaeva receiving certificate



Aziza Saparbaeva making an address



Aziza Saparbaeva holding certificate



Aziza Saparbaeva receiving certificate



Aziza Saparbaeva receiving certificate



Aziza Saparbaeva with mother



Aziza Saparbaeva and a friend holding certificate



Aziza Saparbaeva with family members

## Worth Noting:

On May 19-21 of this year, "Life and work of Jaloliddin Manguberdi. Anushtegin participated in the international conference on the topic "The role of Khorezmshah dynasty in Uzbek statehood" with an article on the topic "The history of jewelry art of the great Khorezmshahs". She participated in the scientific-practical conference "National costumes - the mirror of the nation" held in June with her practical help.

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## Motivation

# Skillful Description Of Stronger Uzbeki Women In Shukur Kolmirzayev's Story 'Adam' Zonboriyeva Fan



By: Jonborieva Mukhlisa Rakhmon  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

## Worth Noting:

• In the story that begins with these lines, Rahima, who is considered the main character, is said by Khosiyat Opa - "I will accept your satiling, I will not give it" - that Shodmon took her away with the intention of meeting the wrestler, but Rahima said, "Run away!" - that he refused to meet Rahima, that before Rahima's mother died, Shodmon Polvan had come from the city for her, and that she left a will to her older sister to marry Rahima to Shodmon Polvan, and that Rahima married Shodmon Polvan and divorced her.

• The events that happened in his life are skillfully covered, and in addition, in this story, the situation of Uzbek boys returning from the city to reach their beloved land, the fact that the word of parents is always the law in the family is the foundation of our Uzbek national values. it can be said that it will be illuminated.



Uzbeki Women In Shukur Kolmirzayev

### ANNOTATION

In the story "Adam" written by Shukur Kholmirezayev with this high literary skill, no matter how difficult it may be, despite facing many difficulties during the difficult years during the infamous World War II, with patience, contentment and perseverance. In this article, we can see once again that the character of Uzbek women who endured for their family and society is embodied in the image of the main character of the story Rahima.

Key words: storytelling, image, patience and satisfaction, horror, perseverance, society, character of Uzbek women.

### INTRODUCTION

Rahima put her bucket by the water and went to sister Khosiyat who was standing in front of the grass. - Come in there, I'll show you something. It's going out of town! Rahima followed him into the grass, saw the young man standing next to him and bit her. Sister Khosiyat blocked his way: - I'll keep your sale, I won't give it! - Run away! Rahima pushed him and rushed out...

In the story that be-

gins with these lines, Rahima, who is considered the main character, is said by Khosiyat Opa - "I will accept your satiling, I will not give it" - that Shodmon took her away with the intention of meeting the wrestler, but Rahima said, "Run away!" - that he refused to meet Rahima, that before Rahima's mother died, Shodmon Polvan had come from the city for her, and that she left a will to her older sister to marry Rahima to Shodmon Polvan, and that Rahima married Shodmon Polvan and divorced her. the events that happened in his life are skillfully covered, and in addition, in this story, the situation of Uzbek boys returning from the city to reach their beloved land, the fact that the word of parents is always the law in the family is the foundation of our Uzbek national values. it can be said that it will be illuminated.

### MAIN PART

Thus Rahima marries Shodmon the wrestler according to her mother's will. After the wedding, Rahima's husband witnessed Shodmon the wrestler hanging on the neighboring wall to

commit adultery with the tanner's widow, and Shodmon the wrestler "devilized Rahima with one blow" for pulling her leg. As a result, Rahima's left arm was broken. . Despite the fact that after 4 years, Shodmon Polvan went to Afghanistan with fellow wrestlers, and after returning, her nails turned blue and died. He says that he wants to raise his 3 children alone. This shows in detail the character of a real Uzbek woman with patience and endurance.

### DISCUSSION

One day, a rumor spread that "The Reds are coming". Rahima takes her children and goes to the mountain with the people. He even lost his daughter Tursunoy from hunger in the mountains and his 2 children, justice and abdurahim, and the "Reds" are ours, and when the news came that there was Muslim civilization...Safety, safety, he witnessed a terrible situation. They go back. Later, Rahima joins the collective farm and becomes one of its active members. Adalat starts going to school and Abdurahim helps his mother. Our hero overcomes life's blows with his patience and

achieves a stable life for a while.

### THE RESULT

As we live in life, we always have dreams to achieve a happy life, but are we worthy to achieve the best? or not - we have to prove it in life. In fact, if we are patient and persistent people, we can achieve everything. Sometimes we face such difficult moments that it seems that everything is not going well at all, that our life has come to an end, but these are small tests given to us. Everything can happen in life, such as "Betrayal" and "Unexpected divorces" that our hero faced. The real truth is that you need to understand that all these things are temporary and find the strength to get back up again and again even when life is bent.

### CONCLUSION

Nowadays, the rate of family separation is increasing due to minor problems in our society. Despite the fact that our ancestors, our mothers and sisters, who lived in the past centuries, lived in a complicated time, the number of divorces did not rise to a high level. they

have reached the bakhshi. They behaved intelligently regardless of any conditions or situations. If we think about small disagreements mentally, thinking about what will happen as a result of our drastic decisions, we would contribute to reducing the number of divorces and family violence in our society.

*Jonborieva Mukhlisa Rakhmon's daughter is a 10th grade student of school 16, Muzrabot district, Surkhandarya region. She was born on September 6, 2007 in Muzrabot district, Surkhandarya region. His nationality is Uzbek.*

*Currently, she is a 10th-grade student of the 16th general school of Muzrabot district. She is the winner of the 3rd place in the Muzrabot district stage of the 2023 "Surkhan youth" science Olympiad for the regional governor's prize. 2023 Azerbaijan and O She is the holder of a certificate for her active participation in the festival held in cooperation with Uzbekistan under the project "One country, one language". his poem also took place.*

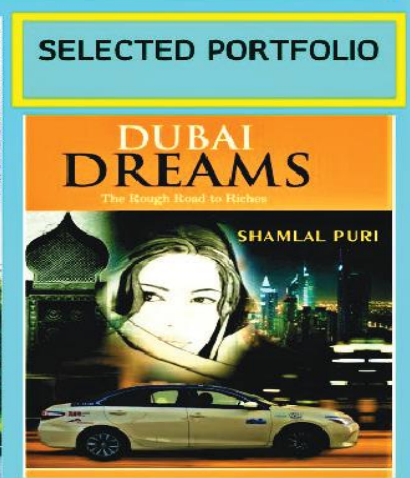
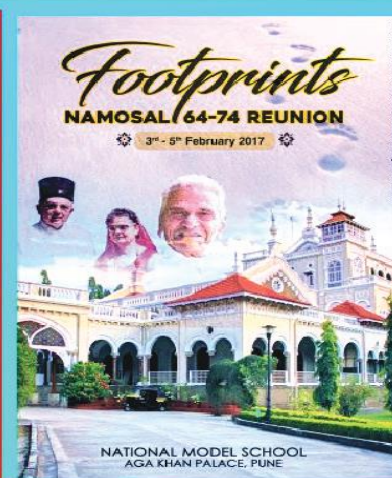
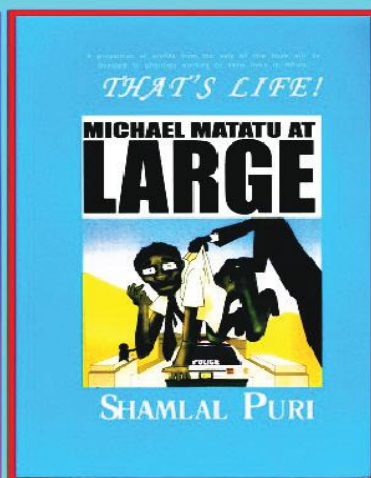
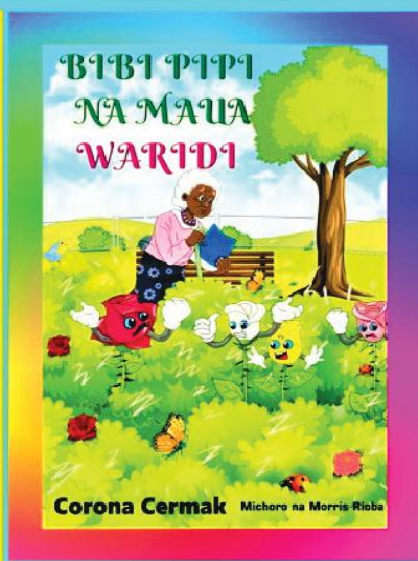
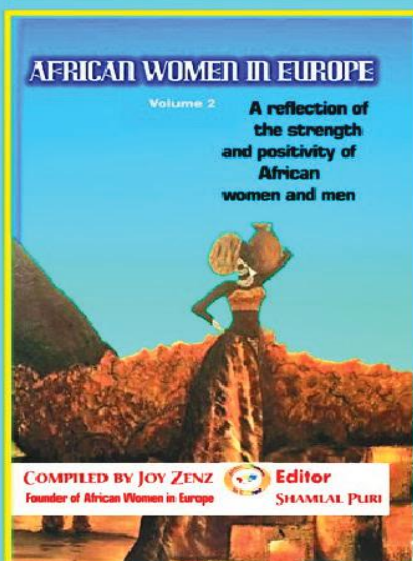
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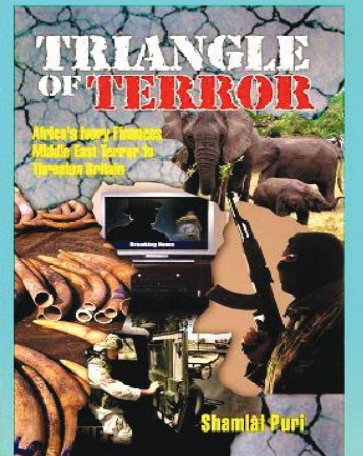
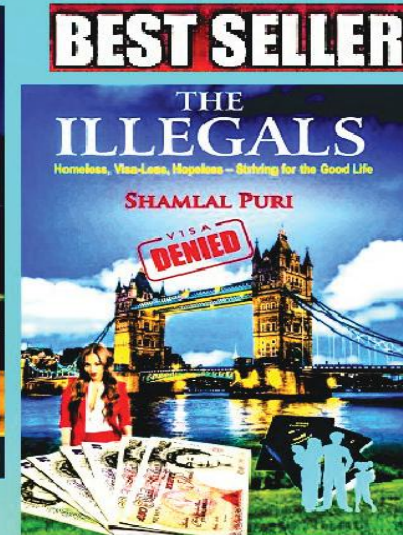
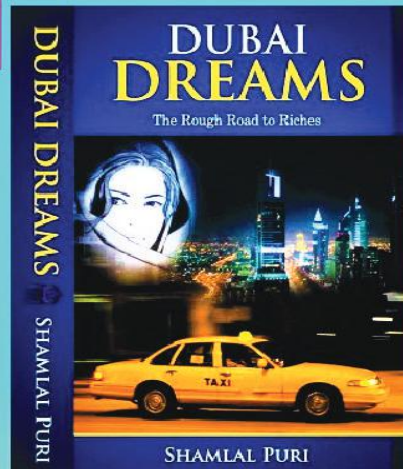
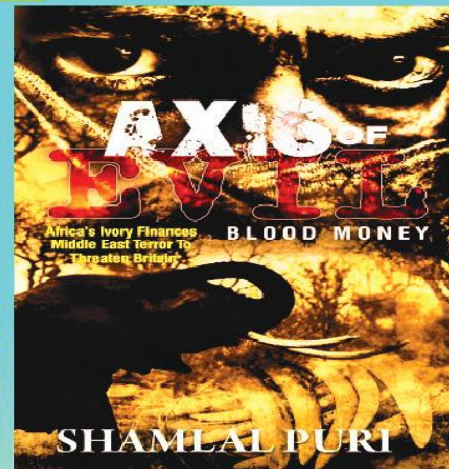
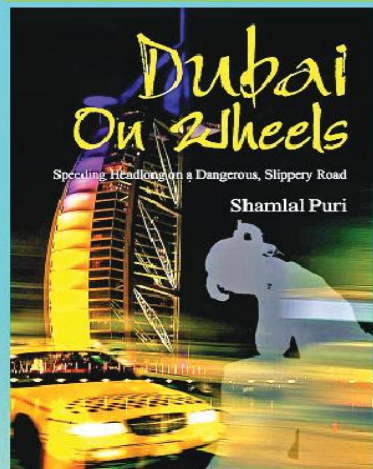
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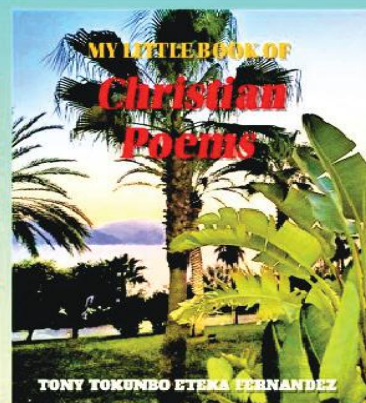
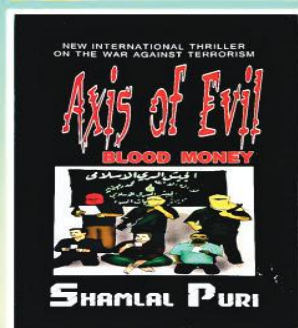
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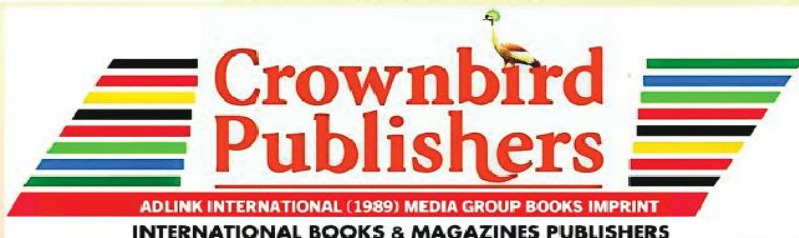


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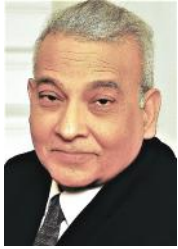
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UK News

**Named and shamed ‘greedy politicians unmasked in UK’s Gamblegate scandal’: CASH-STARVED CONSERVATIVES SEEK LIFELINE, BIG DONORS PULL THE PLUG, ILLEGAL BETTING CLAIMS ROCK ELECTION DAY**



By: Shamlal Puri  
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& Senior Editor – UK  
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Contd from Page 1

**Worth Noting:**

- Aware that Rishi Sunak was heading for a disastrous loss in the polls, a group of anonymous Tory Party donors who had given over £5 million to the Party decided not to make any further payments,
- Individual donors giving anything up to £15,000 have also switched sides from the Tories to give to other parties.
- These funds are a lifeline to the Tory Party’s functioning, particularly during the General Election.
- The past few days have been tumultuous for the Conservative Government of Rishi Sunak, which was rocked by allegations that several of its members and officials were caught placing bets on the July 4 General Election date.
- The public will take a dim view of Gamblegate, which may cost the Tories valuable votes.
- Not just the Conservatives but also a member of the Labour Party has also been unmasked in this gambling scandal, leading to police investigations.

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The past few days have been tumultuous for the Conservative Government of Rishi Sunak, which was rocked by allegations that several of its members and officials were caught placing bets on the July 4 General Election date. The public will take a dim view of Gamblegate, which may cost the Tories valuable votes.

Not just the Conservatives but also a member of the Labour Party has also been unmasked in this gambling scandal, leading to police investigations.

What is election betting?

Those close to the political parties’ place bets – using insider information to gain a higher advantage to win a bet is seen as potentially illegal.

The authoritative and respected Guardian newspaper exposed the extraordinary gambling scandal in the Conservative Party recently that Craig Williams, the closest parliamentary aide of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, was under investigation by the Gambling Commission for allegedly betting on a July election three days before one was called.

Mr Craig Williams, who has been dropped as a Conservative Party candidate, has since vowed to clear his name.

A total of 15 people, mainly Tories, six police officers and one Labour candidate have since been investigated by the Gambling Commission for betting.

Police have announced that it plans to widen its investigation, and there is a high possibility that more politicians and officials will be named.

Both Parties’ campaigners say that the scandal is seriously damaging to the Government because it is illegal to abuse their positions to gain advantage of insider information.

They also say that an abuse of rules that the Government sets give the impression there is one set of rules for the public and another for politicians. Morally, it exposes the greed of politicians and top officials.

Britons have not forgotten the infamous Partygate scandal, which engulfed the leadership of former

Tory Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the events that led to the collapse of his Government, bringing in the disastrous Liz Truss’ leadership for 46 days, the consequences of which the Tories are still licking their economic wounds.

On Wednesday night, Rishi Sunak and his Labour Party opponent Sir Keir Starmer clashed in a bitter war of words in the last live leadership debate chaired by BBC’s top-notch presenter Mishal Husain in Nottingham and in which the questions of betting and aftershocks of the elusive Rwanda Asylum policy were raised.

In their fiery exchanges, both the leaders clashed with Sunak clinging to his flagship project – immigration.

The Prime Minister urged voters not to surrender Britain’s borders to Labour. He challenged Sir Keir several times to explain what he would do with 90,000 asylum seekers in the UK.

The spikey debate on migrant boats held the attention of many people in the invited audience and BBC TV viewers nationwide.

People smugglers charge up to £8,000 per person to carry them in their dinghies across the English Channel to Britain.

Some of the human traffickers arrested in the UK are millionaires from this illicit business.

The Prime Minister, in an unrestrained conversation, asked Sir Keir up front if he was planning to make a deal with the Taliban to send back asylum seekers rejected from the UK.

Responding to a question from BBC’s invited audience member, Sir Keir said his Government would smash human trafficking gangs profiting from people on the risky journey from Europe across the English Channel.

He reiterated his pledge to tear up the Conservative Government’s plan to deport failed asylum seekers to Rwanda if Labour wins the general election.

Sir Keir said his Government would establish new programmes to process arrivals more quickly and develop return deals.

Sunak hit back, saying, “The



Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer did not mince his words during Wednesday’s fiery final leaders’ debate in Nottingham. Photo Courtesy BBC



Iran, Syria and Afghani-

An eye-to-eye confrontation when the two leaders met face-to-face in Nottingham’s final leaders’ debate. Photo Courtesy BBC



JEFF OVERS/ BBC

migrants are coming from

stan,” asking, “Will you sit

Seasoned BBC Presenter Mishal Husain chaired the final Leaders Debate on Wednesday, Photo Courtesy BBC

Contd Page 11.

UK News

# Named and shamed 'greedy politicians unmasked in UK's Gamblegate scandal': CASH-STARVED CONSERVATIVES SEEK LIFELINE, BIG DONORS PULL THE PLUG, ILLEGAL BETTING CLAIMS ROCK ELECTION DAY



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## Worth Noting:

- Police have announced that it plans to widen its investigation, and there is a high possibility that more politicians and officials will be named.
- Both Parties' campaigners say that the scandal is seriously damaging to the Government because it is illegal to abuse their positions to gain advantage of insider information.
- They also say that an abuse of rules that the Government sets give the impression there is one set of rules for the public and another for politicians. Morally, it exposes the greed of politicians and top officials.
- Britons have not forgotten the infamous Partygate scandal, which engulfed the leadership of former Tory Prime Minister Boris Johnson and the events that led to the collapse of his Government, bringing in the disastrous Liz Truss' leadership for 46 days, the consequences of which the Tories are still licking their economic wounds.

down with the Ayatollahs? Are you going to go and do deals with the Taliban? It's completely non-sensical – you are taking people for fools.”

Sir Keir said that since Sunak became Prime Minister, more than 50,000 people have arrived in the UK by boat across the English Channel.

According to official Government figures, more than 13,000 arrived only this year. Sunak taunted that a Labour government would allow free movement by the back door, which Sir Keir flatly denied.

He confirmed that his Government would not return to the European Union, adding, “We're not rejoining the single market or customs union, and we're not accepting freedom of movement.” He pushed the button further, “I'm not a defeatist like the Prime Minister”

“I know we can get a better deal than the botched deal we've got, and I'm going to go out and fight for it.” But Sunak did not look convinced, refusing to accept defeat on this issue, which disproportionately consumed his time and attention.

The Westminster Gamblegate saga continued in the debate about the political bets placed on the timing of the election and was bound to ruffle feathers in the Conservative Government.

Sir Keir went for the jugular, accusing the Prime Minister of being “bullied” by fellow Conservatives into acting over the betting scandal.

Audience members asked how the leaders would restore trust in politics with the public “dismayed by the lack of integrity and honesty” amid serious allegations of illegal betting by several Tories, election officials and Police members.

Sir Keir pointed the finger at the Prime Minister, laying the blame at Downing Street's door.

The Tories have withdrawn support from two candidates under investigation for allegedly betting on the general election date.

At the same time, one Labour MP's candidature was also suspended over claims that he awkwardly bet on losing in his constituency.

Sir Keir linked Gamblegate to a previous scandal, Partygate, during the Boris Johnson Government when Sunak, the chancellor of the

exchequer at the time, living at 11 Downing Street, was fined for breaking lockdown rules during the Covid-19 pandemic by attending a drinks party hosted by the then Prime Minister.

Sir Keir said, “What I did when one of my team members was alleged to have been involved and investigated by the Gambling Commission was that they were suspended within minutes because I knew it made it important to be swift.”

“The Prime Minister delayed and delayed until eventually, he was bullied into taking action.”

Sunak responded: “It was important to me that given the seriousness and the sensitivity of the matters at hand, they were dealt with properly, and that's what I've done.”

The Prime Minister said he was “frustrated” and “furious” about the affair.

Both leaders were in good form and managed to hold the fort, though Sunak looked uneasy at times, answering questions from the audience, and struggling to keep his composure.

However, the audience and those who watched the debate gave him a high of 44% for how he handled the final debate.

After the debate, Sir Keir cornered the remaining 56% of the public vote, delivering verbal punches to the Conservatives where it mattered the most.

But some viewers believed that although he was doing



Homeless young Briton begging on the sidewalk to pay for his rent and food. Photo SHAMLAL PURI



Suspicious.... A conspiracy of silence on taxes between Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Sir Keir Starmer, says Paul Johnson, Director of International Fiscal Studies. Courtesy IFS

Contd Page 13.



Immigration policy in choppy waters....Any government in power will continue to fight boat crossings as it would be nearly impossible to stop illegal crossings, Photo Courtesy.

Kenya

# Kenya protesters call for President Ruto's removal after tax bill dropped

*Demonstrations continue across Kenya despite the government's dramatic U-turn on legislation that would have raised taxes.*

## Worth Noting:

- The Kenya National Commission for Human Rights (KNCHR) said on social media on Thursday that it had received credible reports of live fire being used against "civilians protesting across the country, resulting in some deaths". It did not specify where the alleged incidents took place.

- Hundreds of protesters also rallied in the port city of Mombasa and the opposition bastion of Kisumu, where some blocked roads and lit fires, TV footage showed. Protests were also reported in Kisii and Migori.

- Seven people – two women and five men – sustained gunshot wounds in Homa Bay Town in western Kenya, Citizen TV news reported. The outlet said they were shot by police while protesting and then rushed to Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital.



Protesters in Kenya are angry over the government's economic policies [Monicah Mwangi/Reuters]

Police in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, have fired tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators who rallied in another day of protests sparked by a controversial bill that would have raised taxes on essential goods.

Hundreds of people on Thursday took to the streets to call for President William Ruto's removal, a day after he caved into young protesters' demands to withdraw the deeply unpopular tax hike bill.

As protesters headed to Nairobi's central business district, soldiers were deployed and police in anti-riot gear blocked access along roads leading to Ruto's office at State House and Parliament of Kenya. Turnout by demonstrators was lower than in previous days after mass protests turned violent, killing more than 20 people, according to human rights groups.

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Homa Bay County Teaching and Referral Hospital.

### Protesters demand 'Ruto must go!'

The youth-led protests kicked off last week and caught the authorities off-guard. Ruto's government ricocheted between taking a tough line on the unrest and calling for dialogue.

On Wednesday, the presi-

dent declined to sign the tax changes into law and withdrew the bill.

"The people have spoken," he said, adding that he would seek "engagement with the young people of our nation".

But protesters said they would still rally in memory of those killed in the demonstrations, criticising Ruto's dramatic reversal as a

case of too little, too late.

Al Jazeera's Zein Basravi, reporting from the protests in Nairobi, said there was an "ebb and flow" on Thursday on the streets, with flare-ups of tension between police and protesters followed by relative calm.

Young protesters in the capital said they would stop when the president steps down while chants of "Ruto must go, Ruto must go!" could be heard throughout the day.

"They want a change in the presidential leadership, and they want Parliament absent of what they describe as corrupt parliamentarians who do not have their interests at heart," Basravi said.

Kasmuel McOure, a Kenyan youth leader and award-winning pianist, told Al Jazeera that Ruto is running a country that has very heavily disgruntled youth.

"Kenya has been declared a military state. And I know nobody's talking about that enough. But the army has been given free rein," he said, adding he would continue protesting until the president "listens to the people of Kenya".

Source: Al Jazeera and news agencies



A police officer walks near a gas cloud at a demonstration in Kenya's capital, Nairobi [Monicah Mwangi/Reuters]

## UK News

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Contd from Page 11

### Worth Noting:

- Sunak hit back, saying, "The migrants are coming from Iran, Syria and Afghanistan," asking, "Will you sit down with the Ayatollahs? Are you going to go and do deals with the Taliban? It's completely non-sensical – you are taking people for fools."
- Sir Keir said that since Sunak became Prime Minister, more than 50,000 people have arrived in the UK by boat across the English Channel.
- According to official Government figures, more than 13,000 arrived only this year.
- Sunak taunted that a Labour government would allow free movement by the back door, which Sir Keir flatly denied.
- He confirmed that his Government would not return to the European Union, adding, "We're not rejoining the single market or customs union, and we're not accepting freedom of movement."

well, Sir Keir was cornered in some places when Sunak came out with tactical attacks on the Labour.

Sunak hit back at the Labour leader by launching an attack on his tax plans, saying Sir Keir "is not being honest with everyone about his plans to raise their taxes". Money is part of the fighting factor when it comes to general elections.

Both leaders have been hiding behind denials about the increase in taxes.

Paul Johnson, Director of the reputed International Fiscal Studies (IFS), is convinced there is a conspiracy of silence between Sir Keir and Rishi Sunak on taxes.

Analysing the General Election manifestos of the two parties closely, he said, "Debt is at its highest level in more than 60 years. Taxes are at near enough the highest ever level seen in the UK. They have risen more over this parliament than over any other since the Second World War. Spending has also risen: the fourth largest increase per year in public spending as a share of national income and the biggest under a Conservative government. Yet public services are visibly struggling. "Despite these high tax levels, spending on many public services will likely need to be cut over the next five years if government debt is not to ratchet ever upwards or unless taxes are increased further.

"How can that be? A £50 billion a year increase in debt interest spending relative to forecasts and a growing welfare budget bear much of the responsibility. Then we have rising health spending, a defence budget which, for the first time in decades, will likely grow rather than shrink, and the reality of demographic change and the need to transition to net zero. Add in low growth and the after-effects of the pandemic and energy price crisis and you have a toxic mix indeed when it comes to the public finances.

"These raw facts are largely ignored by the two main parties in their manifestos. "That huge decisions over the size and shape of the state will need to be taken, that those decisions will, in all likelihood, mean either higher taxes or worse, public services, you would not guess from reading their prospectuses or listening to their promises.

"They have singularly failed

even to acknowledge some of the most critical issues and choices to have faced us for a very long time. As the population ages, these choices will become harder, not easier. We cannot wish them away.

"Low growth, high debt, and high-interest payments mean we need to do something quite rare just to stop Debt spiralling ever upwards: we need to run primary surpluses. That means the Government collecting more in tax and other revenues than it spends on everything apart from debt interest. Not necessarily a recipe for a happy electorate.

"A fiscal target which implies Debt falling in five years' time, as both the Conservatives and Labour have committed to, is looser than any debt target we have had since 2008. Yet it will constrain. Taking it seriously – and this is one thing both manifestos do appear to take seriously – will mean painful choices. None of which are faced up to," Mr Johnson said.

"Current plans are for big real-terms cuts to investment spending – of £18 billion a year by 2030. While the March Budget assumes overall day-to-day spending will rise by 1% a year above inflation, plausible settlements for the NHS, childcare, and defence will likely leave other services facing cuts of somewhere between £10 and £20 billion a year."

The "conspiracy of silence" about all of this has been maintained. Regardless of who takes office following the general election, they will – unless they get lucky – soon face a stark choice. Raise taxes by more than they have told us in their manifesto. Or implement cuts to some areas of spending. Or borrow more and be content for Debt to rise for longer. That is the trilemma. What will they choose? The manifestos have left us guessing.

"Their proposals on tax, benefits and public service spending would be barely enough to detain us in analysing a modest one-year fiscal event. They certainly don't answer the big questions facing us over a five-year parliament."

All these talks of mouth-watering promises of tax cuts are merely pulling the wool over the eyes of the unsuspecting British public.



Looking for happy days, A Londoner putting-vote-into-ballot-box in the Mayoral elections in May.



Spreading the word...Tory Election Battle Bus is travelling campaigning throughout the country



New government, new hope... This London market trader is among the millions of independent entrepreneurs who hope that their businesses will benefit from lower taxes and improved incentives

Kenya

# ‘Not afraid to die’: Kenya tax protests inspire broader demand for change

*Demonstrations continue across Kenya despite the government’s dramatic U-turn on legislation that would have raised taxes.*

By: Al Jazeera.  
xxxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 1



Protesters scatter as Kenya police spray a water canon at them during a protest over proposed tax hikes in a finance bill in downtown Nairobi, Kenya, June 25, 2024  
[Brian Inganga/ AP Photo]

## Worth Noting:

- “I just wished him a good day and I left the house for work at my motorcycle repair shop,” recalled Tata. Seven hours later, his son was dead. He had been killed while taking part in protests opposing the tax bill. He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital, the young man’s uncle Daniel Nzamba said. Emmanuel had suffocated after inhaling too much tear gas.

- “How do you explain this loss? A bright future just snapped away like that in an instance, because we just couldn’t listen to our own children when they told us we were on the wrong path,” Nzamba said.

- Human rights groups say at least 23 people have died in the violence and clashes surrounding the protests. Another 300 people have been treated and discharged from hospital.

cated for the law, withdrew the bill on Wednesday evening, a day after protesters stormed Parliament.

But his decision hasn’t quelled the anger against his government — hundreds of protesters returned to streets in Nairobi and across the country on Thursday, many of them now demanding that Ruto quit.

The weeklong protests began in capital Nairobi but quickly spread across Kenya. Local media reports say protests have taken place in 35 of Kenya’s 47 counties, including in president William Ruto’s home county of Uasin Gishu, which voted overwhelmingly for him nearly two years ago when he came to power.

But the movement led by young Kenyans has come at a price for families around the country.

‘How do you explain this loss?’

When Paul Tata left his home for work last Tuesday, little did he know it was the last time he was seeing his 20-year-old son Emmanuel Tata.

“I just wished him a good day and I left the house for work at my motorcycle repair shop,” recalled Tata. Seven hours later, his son

was dead. He had been killed while taking part in protests opposing the tax bill. He was declared dead on arrival at the hospital, the young man’s uncle Daniel Nzamba said. Emmanuel had suffocated after inhaling too much tear gas.

“How do you explain this loss? A bright future just snapped away like that in an instance, because we just couldn’t listen to our own children when they told us we were on the wrong path,” Nzamba said.

Human rights groups say at least 23 people have died in the violence and clashes surrounding the protests. Another 300 people have been treated and discharged from hospital.

In the coastal city of Mombasa, a mortician showed Al Jazeera the bodies of three men with multiple bullet wounds in their heads and torsos.

‘We have to stand up’ These protests originally began online, driven mostly by young tech-savvy Kenyans on social media platforms Instagram, TikTok, Instagram and X. The aim was to oppose the Finance bill 2024 fronted by Ruto’s government with an aim of raising an additional \$2.9bn in rev-

enue.

The government has said it needs the money to meet its obligations of repaying foreign debts while also executing its ambitious development plans driven by infrastructure development. But protesters have argued that they are already over-taxed. The original draft of the bill increased levies on basics such as fuel, mobile money transfers, internet banking, sanitary pads and diapers.

On Wednesday, Ruto addressed the nation and agreed to withdraw the bill. “Listening keenly to the people of Kenya that have said they want nothing to do with the finance bill 2024, I concede and therefore I will not sign the 2024 finance bill,” Ruto said.

But many Kenyans remain unconvinced — and are demanding Ruto’s resignation, his credibility in tatters in their eyes.

“I am not afraid to die, many have died before us,” said Andrew Ouko as he walked the 18km (11 miles) from Juja on the outskirts of Nairobi to join the protests on Thursday. “Many more will die but we have to stand up for our generation who are being taken for fools by the politicians.”

Political analyst Herman Manyora warned that the government had no option but to listen to the Gen Z protesters.

“The events of the past few days, especially the storming of Parliament and the subsequent withdrawal of the contentious bill by the president point to one thing — that the government faces serious legitimacy challenges,” Manyora told Al Jazeera. “This level of resentment cannot just wither away.”

“The country should harness this new spirit and organise to have a national conversation with the intention of ushering in a new Kenya. Hopefully, this will fix the politics of the land as a basis for the nation’s economic development” he added.

Ruto has promised many austerity measures including cuts on hospitality and travel budgets for his office. He has asked regional governments and other arms of the federal government structure to follow suit.

But economists warn that the Kenyan government is now walking a tight rope. Kenya has international debt obligations amounting to nearly \$80bn. Fulfilling them without the extra tax revenue that the bill hoped to bring “will be an extreme-

ly daunting task for Kenya unless we see radical budget cuts in the next financial year”, said business analyst Julians Amboko.

In Nairobi on Thursday, Ouko unfurled a Kenyan flag and wrapped it around his face.

“We will not be bowed, we will not cower. Our children will not grow up with lies and bad governance,” he shouted.

Back in Mombasa, the family of Tata reflected on the president’s Wednesday speech — where he also committed to helping families of those who have died in the protests.

“No amount of money can bring our son back. If he had withdrawn the bill a week ago, a month ago, Emmanuel would still be here. Now we are just mourning the lives of innocent young souls,” Nzamba, the uncle, said.

“The Gen Z have come of age. They are doing what we have always been too lazy to do. I am grieving but I know our son’s death is not in vain. We bury him a hero.”

Source: Al Jazeera

# NEWS PAPER



## IN BUSINESS

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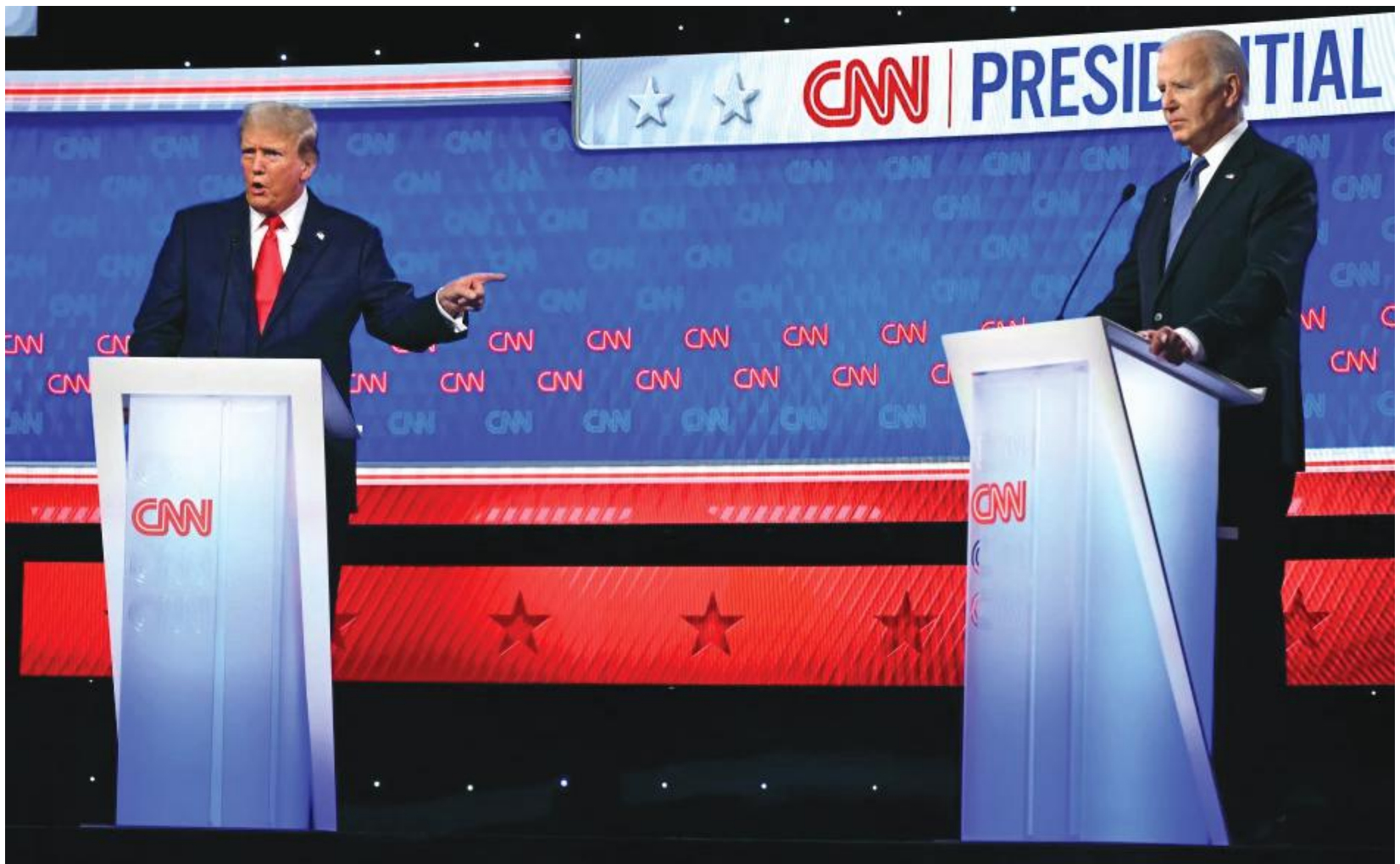
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America

# Explainer: How Democrats could replace Biden as presidential candidate before November

By: Reuters  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

US President Joe Biden and former US President and Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump participate in the first presidential debate of the 2024 elections at CNN's studios in Atlanta, Georgia, on June 27, 2024. (Photo by ANDREW CABALLERO-REYNOLDS / AFP)

## Worth Noting:

**Q: WHO WOULD REPLACE BIDEN?**

**A:** Several candidates could step into the fray, but there is no obvious number one.

Vice President Harris would almost certainly be at the top of the list, but she has had her own problems after a rocky start in the job and poor polling, opens new tab numbers. The U.S. Constitution dictates that the vice president becomes president if the president dies or becomes incapacitated, but it does not weigh in on an inter-party process for choosing a nominee.

**Q: HOW WOULD A NOMINEE BE CHOSEN?**

**A:** There would likely be a free-for-all of sorts between the Democratic heavyweights vying for the job. Candidates would have to get signatures from 600 convention delegates to be nominated. There are expected to be some 4,672 delegates in 2024, including 3,933 pledged delegates and 739 automatic or superdelegates, according to Ballotpedia, opens new tab.

After President Joe Biden's shaky performance at the debate with former President Donald Trump on Thursday night, some Democrats openly questioned whether he should be replaced as their candidate for the 2024 election.

There is a process for doing so, but it would be messy. For answers on how that would work, Reuters spoke to Elaine Kamarck, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank, a Democratic National Committee (DNC) member, and author of the book "Primary Politics" about the presidential nominating process. This explainer is based largely on interviews with her.

**Q: WHAT OPTIONS DO DEMOCRATS HAVE?**

**A:** The Democratic Party has had no real Plan B for Biden as its presidential candidate. He ran virtually unopposed for the party's presidential nomination this year.

He will not be nominated officially until later this summer, so there is still time to make a change and a handful of scenarios to enact one: Biden could decide himself to step aside before he is nominated; he could be challenged by others who try to win over the delegates he has accrued; or

he could withdraw after the Democratic convention in Chicago in August, leaving the Democratic National Committee to elect someone to run against Trump in his place.

**Q: SO WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

**A:** Right now, the process largely depends on Biden. He would have to agree to step down or face a challenger this late in the process who would try to force him to do so. So far Biden has shown no indications of wanting to step aside and no opponents have challenged him directly.

In fact some of his top potential replacements - Vice President Kamala Harris and California Governor Gavin Newsom - spoke passionately in his defense after the debate, serving in a surrogate role that showcased their support but also contrasted their smooth delivery with his faltering one on the Atlanta debate stage.

**Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF BIDEN STEPS DOWN?**

**A:** Biden has spent the last several months accruing nearly 4,000 Democratic delegates by winning primary elections in U.S. states and territories.

Those delegates would normally vote for him, but the

rules do not bind or force them to do so; delegates can vote with their conscience, which means they could throw their vote to someone else.

If Biden "releases" his delegates by stepping aside, there could be a competition among other Democratic candidates to become the nominee.

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delegates in 2024, including 3,933 pledged delegates and 739 automatic or superdelegates, according to Ballotpedia, opens new tab.

If no one gets a majority of the delegates, then there would be a "brokered convention" in which the delegates act as free agents and negotiate with the party leadership to come up with a nominee.

Rules would be established and there would be roll call votes for the names placed into nomination.

It could take several rounds of voting for someone to get a majority and become the nominee. The last brokered convention when Democrats failed to nominate a candidate on the first ballot was in 1952.

**Q: WHAT HAPPENS IF BIDEN STEPS DOWN AFTER THE CONVENTION?**

**A:** If Biden steps down after the August convention, the 435 members of the Democratic National Committee would choose a new candidate. The members would meet in a special session to select a nominee.

**Q: WHO ARE THESE 435 DNC MEMBERS?**

**A:** They are divided equally between men and women as well as various constituency groups including labor lead-

ers, LGBTQ representatives, and racial minorities. Of the total, 75 are appointed at-large by the chair, while the rest are elected in their respective states.

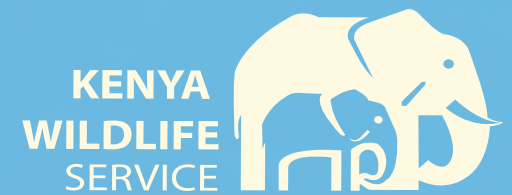
**Q: WHO COULD NOMINATE AN ALTERNATIVE IN THAT CASE?**

**A:** To nominate a candidate to replace Biden on the ballot, that person would have to have the support of a minimum number of DNC members -- perhaps around 60, though the exact number would be determined by the DNC's rules committee, which would lay out the rules for the proceedings before they started.

There would likely be nominating speeches and seconding speeches. Multiple candidates could be nominated before the list is whittled down.

**Q: HOW WOULD THOSE VOTES BE COUNTED?**

**A:** The DNC would likely hold its meeting in Washington and the votes would be counted there. Ballots would be coded, signed and collected by hand. If a vote were to happen very close to Election Day on Nov. 5, when it was not possible to meet in person, then it would likely be virtual.






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## Diaspora

# A Closer Examination of the US Disinformation Campaign Against China

*The US campaign aimed to counter China's rising influence in developing nations like the Philippines. Concurrently, US vaccine distribution efforts, under "Operation Warp Speed," prioritized domestic needs and offered vaccines to developing nations at premium prices.*

By: Stephen Ndegwa  
xxxxxxxxxxxx



## Worth Noting:

In the interconnected global landscape, disinformation campaigns leverage social media, cyber warfare, and traditional media to sway public opinion and influence political stability. The US strategy against China encompasses various fronts, including highlighting alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang, Hong Kong's democracy suppression, and restrictions on freedom of speech.

Western media outlets, international human rights organizations, and influential think tanks amplify these issues, portraying China as a violator of fundamental human rights. Similarly, the US criticizes China's trade practices, accusing it of intellectual property theft, unfair trade policies, and market manipulation, framing China as an economic threat to global stability. Economic measures like tariffs and sanctions are justified within this narrative.

A recent Reuters investigation has uncovered a clandestine effort by the US military during the COVID-19 pandemic to undermine China's vaccine and aid initiatives in the Philippines. This operation involved over 300 fake social media accounts on X (formerly Twitter), posing as Filipinos to disparage Chinese products such as masks, test kits, and the Sinovac vaccine.

These accounts, created primarily in the summer of 2020, employed the hashtag #Chinaangvirus, linking China directly with the virus itself. Upon scrutiny by Reuters, X identified and removed these accounts as part of a coordinated bot campaign. Initiated under former President Donald Trump and continuing into President Joe Biden's tenure, this propaganda effort was confirmed by US officials and analysts. While a senior Defense Department official acknowledged its existence, specific details were not disclosed.

The US campaign aimed to counter China's rising influence in developing nations like the Philippines. Concurrently, US vaccine distribution efforts, under

"Operation Warp Speed," prioritized domestic needs and offered vaccines to developing nations at premium prices. In response, the Chinese Foreign Ministry condemned these actions as hypocritical and driven by a thirst for power. Neither Trump nor Biden's spokespeople commented on the program.

In today's era of rapid information dissemination and advanced technology, the strategic use of disinformation has emerged as a pivotal tool in international relations. As a global superpower, the US engages in a persistent struggle for influence and dominance against China, employing multifaceted disinformation campaigns.

Disinformation tactics have historically been integral to international strategy. During the Cold War, both the US and the Soviet Union extensively utilized propaganda to undermine each other's political systems and global standing. With the digital age, these methods have evolved, becoming more sophisticated and influential in shaping contemporary geopolitical dynamics.

In the interconnected global

landscape, disinformation campaigns leverage social media, cyber warfare, and traditional media to sway public opinion and influence political stability. The US strategy against China encompasses various fronts, including highlighting alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang, Hong Kong's democracy suppression, and restrictions on freedom of speech.

Western media outlets, international human rights organizations, and influential think tanks amplify these issues, portraying China as a violator of fundamental human rights. Similarly, the US criticizes China's trade practices, accusing it of intellectual property theft, unfair trade policies, and market manipulation, framing China as an economic threat to global stability. Economic measures like tariffs and sanctions are justified within this narrative.

Furthermore, the US emphasizes China's military expansion in the South China Sea, portraying it as a significant threat to international maritime security and regional stability. By highlighting these concerns, the US aims to strengthen alliances with countries appre-

hensive about China's perceived military ambitions. Official US government channels, including the State Department and detailed reports on human rights and economic practices, play pivotal roles in shaping and disseminating this narrative. Prominent Western media and influential think tanks publish critical analyses that reinforce the disinformation narrative, while social media platforms are utilized for coordinated disinformation campaigns involving fake accounts and bots to amplify messaging.

In response, China has developed its own strategies to counter these narratives and enhance its global image. Chinese media outlets provide counter-narratives that defend China's policies and critique US actions. Moreover, China seeks to forge alliances, particularly with developing nations, to counterbalance negative US influence and promote a multipolar world order. Efforts such as international aid, cultural exchanges, and partnerships are instrumental in improving China's global standing and fostering goodwill.

The US disinformation campaign against China holds

profound implications for global politics, economic stability, and international relations. It cultivates an atmosphere of mistrust and hostility, complicating diplomatic efforts and international cooperation. Furthermore, it exerts influence over public opinion both domestically and globally, aiming to shape perceptions against China.

The strategic deployment of disinformation underscores the intricate nature of modern international relations. The ongoing US campaign against China underscores the potency of narratives in shaping global perceptions and political dynamics. As technology continues to evolve, so too will the strategies and tactics employed in this enduring battle for influence and power.

Understanding the mechanics and motivations behind these campaigns is imperative for policymakers, media consumers, and global citizens alike. It underscores the necessity of critical thinking and the imperative to seek out reliable sources of information in an era where disinformation wields substantial influence.


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# Haiti PM travels to US as Kenyan police patrol capital

*Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille left Port-au-Prince on Friday to travel to Washington and New York, as freshly deployed Kenyan police officers began patrolling the city as part of a U.N.-backed mission to battle armed gangs that have taken over the capital.*



Haitian National police SWAT unit and Kenyan Police walk through a steep hill to board an armoured vehicle after one of the vehicles broke down on a steep hill while patrolling through a neighborhood, after the arrival of the first contingent of Kenyan police as part of a peacekeeping mission, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti June 28, 2024. REUTERS/Ricardo Arduengo

By Reuters

Haitian Prime Minister Garry Conille left Port-au-Prince on Friday to travel to Washington and New York, as freshly deployed Ken-

yan police officers began patrolling the city as part of a U.N.-backed mission to battle armed gangs that have taken over the capital.

Conille's office said he would travel with Foreign Minister Dominique Dupuy, Finance Minister Ketleen Florestal and chief of staff Nesmy Manigat, while Justice Minister Carlos Hercule would stay as acting prime minister on his behalf.

"The delegation will have important work meetings with officials from international financial institutions, among others. It will also inspect Haiti's embassy in Washington," the office said, without giving further details.

A spokesperson for the U.S. National Security Council said Deputy National Security Advisor Jon Finer would meet with Conille on Monday.

The U.S. is the principal financial backer of a Kenya-led international security force the United Nations has ratified be sent to Haiti to help its police battle armed gangs that have plunged the country into a humanitarian crisis.

Haiti's former government first requested the force in 2022 and the a first deployment of Kenyan police arrived this week, though it is un-

clear when the rest of the force - expected to number over 2,500 - is set to arrive.

As armed khaki-clad Kenyan police in bullet-proof jackets and helmets patrolled the city in black armored vans, Port-au-Prince residents said they hoped the force could stop the indiscriminate killings and allow business to restart.

"We need peace. If the Kenyan police forces are here, it's so we can return to the lives we used to have. We hope they've come to work seriously," said resident Kloud Dine.

"We need the Kenyans here a while here because the gang members make us suffer too much," added Louise Baret, a painter. "Enough is enough."

In a video shared on social media on Wednesday, gang leader Jimmy "Barbecue" Cherizier rallied armed men, telling them to fire on Kenyan police and pledging to fight to the death: "I don't care if they are white or black. If they're not Haitian and they're on Haitian soil, they're invaders," he said.

Over half a million people have fled their homes due to the violence and around half the population is going hungry.

## Ukraine

# Zelenskyy seeks EU follow-through on pledges of military aid

VOA

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy attended the European Union summit in Brussels Thursday, where he thanked EU members for a long-term security agreement they were expected to sign and urged delivery of promised packages of military aid.

During a press availability with European Council President Charles Michel, Zelenskyy expressed gratitude for the promised military aid but added that Ukraine's battlefield needs are urgent, especially air defenses.

He also thanked the EU and Group of Seven nations for their pledge to use roughly \$50 billion in frozen Russian assets to support Ukraine's war effort.

Ahead of the meeting, Zelenskyy posted a statement on his official X account, saying he expected to sign a total of three security agreements with EU member nations, including one with the EU, as a whole.

"For the first time, this agreement will enshrine the commitment of all 27 Member States to provide Ukraine with extensive support, regardless of any internal institutional changes," he said.



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, and European Council President Charles Michel speak with the media as they arrive for an EU summit in Brussels, June 27, 2024.

Referring to Ukraine's EU accession talks, which began this week, he added, "Each step we take brings us closer to our historic goal of peace and prosperity in our common European home."

### Aerial attacks

Meanwhile, Ukraine said Thursday it thwarted nearly all of Russia's overnight aerial attacks, with Ukrainian air defenses shooting down five Rus-

sian missiles and 23 drones.

The Ukrainian air force said Russian forces fired a total of six missiles at Ukraine, but did not specify the targets of the attacks.

Reports from regional officials

showed Russia directed missiles and drones at parts of southern Ukraine. Vitaliy Kim, governor of the Mykolaiv region, reported on Telegram that Ukrainian air defenses shot down six aerial drones and three cruise missiles.

In Kherson, Governor Oleksandr Prokudin said on Telegram that Ukrainian forces shot down two drones.

Air defenses shot down another drone over the Dnipropetrovsk region, the governor there said on Telegram.

Russia's defense ministry said its forces downed four Ukrainian aerial drones over the Tver region, northwest of Moscow, as well as two drones over the Moscow region and another over Belgorod.

Ukraine frequently targets Belgorod, which is located along the Russia-Ukraine border, with attacks against areas such as Moscow and Tver occurring more rarely.

# US judge sentences Honduran ex-president to 45 years for drug trafficking

VOA

Former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez was sentenced Wednesday in New York to 45 years in U.S. prison for aiding drug traffickers who used the Honduran military and national police forces to transport large amounts of cocaine into the United States.

Hernandez, 55, governed Honduras, a U.S. ally in Central America, from 2014 to 2022, serving two terms.

He was arrested at his home in the capital, Tegucigalpa, three months after leaving office in 2022 and was extradited to the U.S. in April of that year.

His brother, Juan Antonio "Tony" Hernandez, was sentenced to life in prison in 2021 on similar drug-related charges.

Prosecutors alleged that Hernandez had colluded with drug traffickers since 2004, accepting millions of dollars in bribes. They argued for a life sentence, saying it would deter other traffickers and corrupt officials.

"Hernandez did more to combat drug trafficking in Honduras than any president before or since," said his lawyer, Renato Stabile, who sought a maximum sentence of

40 years and indicated Hernandez would appeal.

During the trial in Manhattan federal court, Hernandez admitted drug money had permeated all major political parties in Honduras but denied personally accepting bribes. The jury convicted him in March based on evidence that he used drug money to manipulate elections in 2013 and 2017.

Hernandez maintained his innocence, attributing the charges to revenge by convicted traffickers opposed to his anti-drug policies.

Judge P. Kevin Castel also fined him \$8 million. Castel called the former president a "two-faced politician hungry for power" and said he protected certain traffickers.

Hernandez criticized the trial's fairness and claimed critical evidence was excluded.

"It's as if I had been thrown into a deep river with my hands bound," Hernandez said through an interpreter.



Former Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez attends his sentencing before U.S. District Judge Kevin Castel on drug trafficking charges in federal court in New York on June 26, 2024, in this courtroom sketch.

US

# Senior US Republican demands Biden administration shut Gaza aid pier



A truck carries humanitarian aid across Trident Pier, a temporary pier to deliver aid, off the Gaza Strip, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, near the Gaza coast, June 25, 2024. REUTERS/Amir Cohen/File Photo

By Reuters

The Republican lawmaker who leads the House Armed Services Committee has written to the Biden administration formally demanding it shut down its aid pier off the coast Gaza, calling the operation ineffective, risky and a waste of money.

The offshore floating pier, announced by Biden in March as a re-

sponse to the threat of famine in the Gaza Strip, was constructed off the coast of the enclave by the U.S. military as a way to bring in food and other aid supplies.

The U.S. military has been authorized to operate it until the end of July, but a U.S. Agency for International Development official said this week that the administration could seek to extend it for at least another

month.

"I urge the Administration to immediately cease this failed operation before further catastrophe occurs and consider alternative means of land and air-based humanitarian aid delivery," House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mike Rogers wrote in a letter seen by Reuters.

The letter, sent to White House National Security Advisor Jake Sulli-

van, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, has not been previously reported.

Rogers has long opposed the pier and has called in the past for it to be dismantled, but he had not previously expressed that view in a formal written letter to the administration. His armed services committee is the Pentagon's top oversight body in the House of Representatives, and formal requests from its chairman traditionally require a response from Pentagon officials.

Aid first began arriving via the U.S.-built pier on May 17 into Gaza, where nearly all the 2.3 million residents have been displaced by Israel's campaign against the militant group Hamas.

But rough seas have damaged the pier, forcing repairs, and poor weather has limited the number of days the pier has been operational.

Most of the supplies that have reached the shore have yet to be distributed by UN aid agencies which say their operations have been limited by insecurity.

"As of June 19, JLOTS had only been operational about 10 days and had only moved 3,415 metric tons onto the beach in Gaza," Rogers wrote, using the U.S. military's acronym for the pier system, known as Joint Logistics Over the Shore.

According to U.S. military data, as of Tuesday, 8,332 pallets had been de-

livered via the pier. But around 84% of them have been sitting on Gaza's coast in a marshalling area waiting to be picked up by the United Nations for distribution.

The World Food Programme paused deliveries earlier this month over security concerns.

Reuters was given rare access to the U.S. military-run pier off Gaza on Tuesday and saw aid pallets being moved from a vessel onto the 1,200-foot (370 m)-long pier as it bobbed around with the incoming waves. The pallets were then taken by trucks to the coast.

The operation is complex, involving about 1,000 U.S. military personnel. The Pentagon estimates the first 90 days of operation will cost about \$230 million.

Rogers also noted that three U.S. servicemembers suffered non-combat injuries while deployed on the operation.

"I urge the Administration to immediately cease this failed operation before further catastrophe occurs and consider alternative means of land and air-based humanitarian aid delivery," Rogers wrote.

# ‘The people have spoken’: Why did Kenya’s Ruto reject tax bill he pushed?

*Western pressure likely forced William Ruto to backtrack after deadly violence, but his credibility has been badly hit, say analysts.*

By: Shola Lawal  
xxxxxxxxxx



Kenya's President William Ruto speaks during a meeting with US President Joe Biden and business leaders at the White House in Washington, DC, the United States, May 22, 2024 [Susan Walsh/AP]

## Worth Noting:

- Ruto has increasingly faced criticism, culminating in the mass protests that have rocked Kenya over the past 10 days. Anger at the president's tax-collection strategies has long been simmering, especially among young Kenyans.

- Ruto has a new nickname — “Zakayo”, a reference to the corrupt biblical Zaccheus, the chief tax collector of Jericho. Many accuse Ruto of failing to deliver on election promises to root out graft.

- Indeed, during his campaign for office, the former vice president painted himself as an outsider to the power matrix that had long been a mainstay of Kenyan politics, where a handful of politically influential families controlled power. He claimed to be a “hustler” and promised to ease tough living conditions for low earners by cracking down on ingrained corruption that has weakened Kenya's institutions. He also promised to reform a police force long criticised for brutality, limit government waste, and free the country of its huge \$82bn debt.

Kenya's President William Ruto on Wednesday evening rolled back controversial tax reforms that he had championed in the face of public opposition, after mass protests turned violent a day earlier, leaving 23 people dead, according to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.

“The people have spoken,” Ruto said in a press conference at around 4:30 pm local time (13:30 GMT), barely 24 hours before protesters vowed to again take to the streets. “I conceded.”

The admission of defeat was rare for a politician not known to backtrack, and was a sharp about-turn from his speech less than a day earlier, when, after the violence, he had adopted a firm, almost threatening posture towards protesters. He had accused “treasonous” individuals of attempting “to undermine security and stability”. The president had also deployed the military against protesters, an unusually high-handed move, experts said.

The reversal in Ruto's position on Wednesday has led to questions about what changed his mind, said analysts — even as a cloud hangs over his credibility, two years after he came to power promising a break for

corruption and misgovernance.

“I don't believe it is genuine, I think he is just buying time,” Willis Okumu, a senior researcher with the Pan-African think-tank Institute for Security Studies (ISS), told Al Jazeera. “I think he has been advised that this is politically damaging and most likely Western pressure has played a role. He needed to steady the ship after messing up.”

A hardliner loved by the West

Ruto's tough-on-security messaging in his Tuesday speech drew criticism from the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, which called it “insensitive” and “inciteful”, and claimed it fuelled the killings of people in a suburb of Nairobi, hours after the protesters had been dispersed through police firing.

Experts also said that statement signalled Ruto's disconnect from the Kenyan population. It underscored the image Ruto has long had in Kenya, as someone who is inflexible, but who has enjoyed legitimacy from the West, particularly the United States, despite a long history of alleged involvement in electoral violence.

Some of those allegations

led the International Criminal Court to probe Ruto on charges of crimes against humanity. Those charges were dropped in 2016 for a lack of evidence.

“For those of us who have known him for a long time, we know Ruto to be a leader who is a hardliner,” Okumu of the ISS said. “We've always been surprised that the West has embraced him. They know who he is, but because he is spearheading Western interests, they look away.”

Since his election in 2022, Ruto has drawn close to Western powers, positioning himself as progressive on climate change, and refusing to join most African nations in their outright condemnation of Israel over the war on Gaza, instead professing a more neutral position.

To the US in particular, Ruto has emerged as the most viable East African leader to back, one whose loyalty is deserving of support, in a region where Washington's relations with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda are tense.

On Tuesday, a Kenyan police team leading a United Nations-backed mission touched down in troubled Haiti, after Ruto's dogged pursuit of the one-of-a-kind

deal for an African country. That mission is largely backed and funded by the US.

Earlier, in May, US President Joe Biden feted Ruto and First Lady Rachel Ruto in a lavish state dinner — a first for an African leader in 16 years. Biden then bestowed on Kenya the title of “non-major NATO ally” — a major move expected to enhance an already tight security cooperation with Nairobi. The US formally incorporated that designation on Monday.

‘Zakayo’ Ruto

But at home, Ruto has increasingly faced criticism, culminating in the mass protests that have rocked Kenya over the past 10 days. Anger at the president's tax-collection strategies has long been simmering, especially among young Kenyans.

Ruto has a new nickname — “Zakayo”, a reference to the corrupt biblical Zaccheus, the chief tax collector of Jericho. Many accuse Ruto of failing to deliver on election promises to root out graft.

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politically influential families controlled power. He claimed to be a “hustler” and promised to ease tough living conditions for low earners by cracking down on ingrained corruption that has weakened Kenya's institutions. He also promised to reform a police force long criticised for brutality, limit government waste, and free the country of its huge \$82bn debt.

However, Ruto's detractors say he has not delivered on those claims. What has irked many in particular, they say, are the frequent hikes in taxes with no corresponding improvements in social amenities. Already, a 2023 law doubled taxes on fuel, and the initial draft of this year's finance bill was set to further raise that fuel tax.

All this comes amid a bitter economic crisis that has seen the value of the Kenyan shilling drop by 22 percent against the US dollar since 2022, causing food, transport, and energy prices to soar, while incomes have largely stayed the same.

Ruto initially justified the tax increases, saying they were necessary for Kenya's

# ‘The people have spoken’: Why did Kenya’s Ruto reject tax bill he pushed?

To the US in particular, Ruto has emerged as the most viable East African leader to back, one whose loyalty is deserving of support, in a region where Washington’s relations with President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and President Paul Kagame of Rwanda are tense

By: Shola Lawal  
xxxxxxxxxxxx

Contd from Page 22



Kenya police take on a man during a protest over proposed tax hikes in a finance bill, in downtown Nairobi, Kenya on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 [Brian Inganga/AP Photo]

## Worth Noting:

- “The reason why there were so many young people in the streets is that they say things as they see it,” said Nanjala Nyabola, a political researcher and writer. “Older Kenyans are used to the gap that exists between what politicians promise and what they deliver. But young people will not have it.”
- As the protests escalated last week, Ruto at first attempted to strike a cooperative tone, stating the government’s respect for the right to protest.
- On Tuesday, however, after police opened fire on protesters, the image he sought to present appeared to be unraveling with Kenya’s Western allies.
- “We note that Kenya’s constitution guarantees the right to peaceful protests,” a joint statement from the embassies of the US, United Kingdom, Germany, and several other Western countries said. “We regret the tragic loss of life and injuries sustained, including the use of live gunfire ... and are deeply concerned by allegations of abductions of protesters.”

debts. His government took office amid a punishing drought in 2022 and after the Russia-Ukraine war disrupted food imports. “It is instructive that for every 100 shillings we collect as tax, we pay 61 shillings for debt,” Ruto said on Wednesday, justifying why he had backed the tax reforms. However, critics have long

said massive waste in public spending could offset the debts. Ruto is widely seen in Kenya as a jet-setter — critics call him the “flying president”. While that travel has earned him some brickbats, he has argued his overseas visits are needed to draw investment to the cash-strapped country. Detractors also accuse the

president of pandering to West-led institutions like the International Monetary Fund. The IMF backed Nairobi on the now-rejected tax reforms, as part of a loan facility it said was necessary to “preserve debt sustainability.” In April, the IMF said there was a significant shortfall in tax collection that would keep Kenya’s do-

mestic borrowing needs up — although it also stressed the need to cut government waste.

### Did Western pressure force Ruto’s hand?

The anti-tax protests, which initially began in 2023 after the first tax hike, signify a major shift in a Kenya where previously, most people accepted the inadequacies of government, experts said. “The reason why there were so many young people in the streets is that they say things as they see it,” said Nanjala Nyabola, a political researcher and writer. “Older Kenyans are used to the gap that exists between what politicians promise and what they deliver. But young people will not have it.” As the protests escalated last week, Ruto at first attempted to strike a cooperative tone, stating the government’s respect for the right to protest. On Tuesday, however, after police opened fire on protesters, the image he sought to present appeared to be unraveling with Kenya’s Western allies.

“We note that Kenya’s constitution guarantees the right to peaceful protests,” a joint statement from the embassies of the US, United Kingdom, Germany, and several other Western countries said. “We regret the

tragic loss of life and injuries sustained, including the use of live gunfire ... and are deeply concerned by allegations of abductions of protesters.”

That reaction, experts said, appears to have pressured the Ruto government to act with more restraint, and likely led to his softening tone on Wednesday, where he called the protesters “our sons and daughters”. In addition to the rollback, Ruto also announced cuts across government spending on travel and hospitality. Still, some analysts said they have little faith that Ruto will follow through on his promises.

“I don’t think he will implement them,” Willis of the ISS said. “He has been president for two years and he has delivered zero of what he promised.”

And despite the rollback, it won’t be easy for Ruto to resurrect his credibility before the Kenyan people, said Nyabola, the political writer. Ruto’s new stance “definitely responds to many of the grievances that protesters raised, but unfortunately, he’s burned through a lot of legitimacy,” she said.

Source: Al Jazeera

## Generation Z: A Force That Cannot Be Ignored in Kenya

*Generation Z, now entering the workforce in significant numbers, is driving change not only in the political arena but also in the corporate world.*

By: BERNARD MOMANYI.  
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### Worth Noting:

• Companies today are under pressure from multiple fronts: young activists within their ranks, investor demands for ethical practices, and customer expectations for corporate social responsibility. The market has shown that firms which take a stand on social issues often fare better. For example, companies that quickly pulled out of Russia after its invasion of Ukraine saw better market performance compared to those that hesitated. This trend underscores a significant shift in corporate signaling that reflects broader societal changes.

• In Kenya, the youth-led protests against the Finance Bill are a microcosm of this global phenomenon. Young Kenyans are using social media platforms like TikTok to amplify their message, turning what started as online dissent into powerful street protests. This generation's adept use of digital tools has made their activism more visible and impactful, showcasing their ability to mobilize and influence public opinion.



Thousands of youth, mainly GenZ's held massive demonstrations in Kenya's capital Nairobi and other major towns in June 2024 to protest against the Finance Bill 2024, with some saying "Ruto Must GO."

In recent weeks, Kenya has witnessed a remarkable uprising led by its youngest demographic, Generation Z, who have taken to the streets in mass protests against the Finance Bill 2024. These demonstrations have proven to be more than just fleeting moments of dissent; they are a clear message to the government that the voices of the youth cannot be dismissed. While some leaders initially underestimated their influence, President William Ruto has recognized their significance and has vowed to engage with them. This shift is not merely a reaction to protests but an acknowledgment of a broader societal transformation.

Generation Z, now entering the workforce in significant numbers, is driving change not only in the political arena but also in the corporate world. Their so-called "unreasonable" demands are being met not out of obligation but necessity. The corporate world, understanding that it cannot afford to alienate an

entire generation, is adapting rapidly. Consulting firms like Edelman are stepping in as "Gen Z whisperers," helping companies align with the values and expectations of young employees and customers. This shift is a testament to the power and influence of Generation Z. Companies today are under pressure from multiple fronts: young activists within their ranks, investor demands for ethical practices, and customer expectations for corporate social responsibility. The market has shown that firms which take a stand on social issues often fare better. For example, companies that quickly pulled out of Russia after its invasion of Ukraine saw better market performance compared to those that hesitated. This trend underscores a significant shift in corporate signaling that reflects broader societal changes.

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Kenyans are using social media platforms like TikTok to amplify their message, turning what started as online dissent into powerful street protests. This generation's adept use of digital tools has made their activism more visible and impactful, showcasing their ability to mobilize and influence public opinion.

President Ruto's response to these protests is indicative of a government that is beginning to understand the importance of engaging with its youth. His promise to address their concerns and include them in discussions about the nation's future is a step in the right direction. The Finance Bill protests highlight that the youth are not just demanding change but are also offering to be part of the solution.

This movement is not isolated to Kenya. Across the world, Generation Z is pushing for social justice, environmental sustainability, and corporate accountability. Their activism is reshaping how companies and

governments operate. The Financial Times recently reported on the rise of advisers who help businesses adapt to the values of young employees and customers. This adaptation is not just about meeting demands but about aligning with a significant cultural shift.

Critics of "woke capitalism" argue from both ends of the spectrum. Some activists see corporate social responsibility as mere lip service, while others claim it detracts from business profitability. However, these criticisms miss the larger picture. The corporate world's shift towards more socially liberal practices is a reflection of changing societal values. Companies that align themselves with these values are more likely to attract both talent and customers.

In the broader context, societal attitudes have shifted dramatically over the past few decades. Issues once considered controversial, such as homosexuality, casual sex, and gender roles, have become normalized.

This change is particularly evident among younger generations who are leading the charge for a more inclusive and just society.

Generation Z's activism, whether in the streets of Nairobi or through global social media campaigns, is a powerful reminder that the youth are a force to be reckoned with. They are not just participants in the political process but are shaping the future of their countries. Their influence extends beyond protests and into the very fabric of society, driving change in corporate practices, governmental policies, and cultural norms. As Kenya navigates the challenges and opportunities of the future, it is clear that Generation Z will play a crucial role. Their voices, demanding justice, equality, and accountability, cannot be ignored. They are not just the future; they are the present, and their impact is already being felt across all sectors of society.