



# THE SUNDAY TIMES

**"I WAS VIDEOED DOING MY SHOPPING"**  
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BY BOY GEORGE  
NILE RODGERS  
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CULTURE

## Soldier suspect joked about Kenya murder

- ▶ Tasteless Facebook posts on mother's death
- ▶ Army criticised for its inadequate response

Hannah Al-Othman, Larisa Brown and David Collins

The British soldier accused of killing a woman while training in Kenya joked about the murder on Facebook with fellow squaddies.

Agnes Wanjiru, 21, who had a five-month-old daughter, was last seen entering a hotel room with a British soldier near an army base in Nanyuki in March 2012. Her battered body was found in a nearby septic tank.

At an inquest in 2019, a Kenyan judge ruled that she had been murdered by a British soldier. The identity of her alleged killer, who can be named only as Soldier X, has been an "open secret" in the Duke of Lancaster's Regiment for nine years. His name was confirmed by five members of the regiment, one of whom – Soldier Y – claims he heard him confess "I've killed her" and saw the body that he had dumped in the tank.

Approached at his home last week, Soldier X said the "rumours" that he was the killer were false and had been spread by fellow soldiers in a bullying campaign against him.

However, in the Facebook messages Soldier X responds jovially to

### 'FEMALE TROOPS TOLD ME THEY WERE RAPED'

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posts by other soldiers of photographs of the Lions Court Hotel, where Wanjiru was last seen, accompanied by the words "if you know you know" and "septic tank", and a ghost emoji.

Soldier X jokes about having a "sore throat" when he thinks about it, an apparent reference to the claim that he killed Wanjiru in a sex game that went wrong. He posts an emoji of an angel with a halo, used to indicate innocence.

Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, is under growing pressure to explain why the Ministry of Defence has failed to begin its own

inquiry into the alleged involvement of soldiers in the killing, or claims of a cover-up by senior officers. Soldier Y claims he was told to "shut up and go away" when he told officers what had happened. Others in the regiment agreed that the crime appeared to have been "covered up" by the army.

The shadow defence secretary, John Healey, said it was "totally inadequate" that there had been "no investigative effort by the MoD" in the past nine years.

The Facebook messages emerged as:

- A Kenyan diplomatic source in Nairobi said they believed the case was being "suppressed" to protect relations between Britain and Kenya.

- The MoD admitted it had not started an inquiry – despite asking The Sunday Times not to publish last week's story about the case to protect "ongoing investigations".

- A soldier was dismissed from the army last week after committing an "appalling" sexual assault in Kenya in which he drunkenly lifted up a woman's skirt in a shopping centre.

- A female former lieutenant colonel claimed there was "a lingering

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## Cop26 Hopes grow of deal to save rainforests

LETICIA VALVERDES FOR THE SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE



A girl from the Mundurucu tribe in Brazil, where the indigenous people of the Amazon are battling miners and deforestation on the front line of the climate crisis Children of the Resistance, Magazine

Ben Spencer and Caroline Wheeler

World leaders are close to agreeing a deal to halt global deforestation by 2030.

The government has secured the commitment of dozens of key countries to reverse the rate of destruction. An announcement by Boris Johnson is expected on Tuesday at the Cop26 climate summit in Glasgow, where 25,000 delegates from 197 countries start arriving today.

As many as 60 countries are also expected to sign up to proposals to reduce methane emissions, which could lead to a 0.2C temperature reduction by 2030. Observers say that even oil-rich Saudi Arabia may

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sign up to the pledge to reduce emissions by 30 per cent by 2030.

Details of the proposed deforestation deal are still being finalised but some environmentalists are hopeful that an agreement could be the surprise success of the summit. Some critics feared it would not go far enough, however, and called for an end to imports produced on deforested land. Kevin Conrad, climate envoy for Papua New Guinea, said: "This is what I call window dressing."

While previous summits have focused predominantly on carbon emissions and the switch to renewable energy, Johnson is giving greater prominence to the protection and restoration of nature. George Eustice, the environment secretary, said: "We have thrown

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## Andrew: My accuser is sex trafficker

Dipesh Gadhur  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Prince Andrew has sought to turn the tables on the woman accusing him of teenage rape by claiming that she was involved in the "wilful recruitment and trafficking of young girls for sexual abuse".

In a controversial attempt to prove his innocence, lawyers for the Duke of York have painted Virginia Giuffre as an alleged criminal who worked to procure underage "slutty girls" for Jeffrey Epstein, the paedophile billionaire.

They also indicate that by making false allegations against the prince and using up court time, Giuffre is allowing real predators to get away with their crimes.

Andrew's decision to come out fighting marks a significant change in his legal strategy, but potentially leaves him open to claims of "victim-blaming" from women's rights groups.

Giuffre, who is also known by her maiden name, Virginia Roberts, has accused the prince in a civil lawsuit in New York of "rape in the first degree" and sexual assault

on three occasions when she was 17.

The attacks are alleged to have taken place in 2001 in London, New York and on Epstein's private Caribbean island, Little St James.

Giuffre, now 38, is seeking unspecified "punitive damages" that could run into millions of pounds.

In a legal response filed late on Friday, Andrew, 61, sought to get the "baseless" claims thrown out of court for multiple reasons.

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### NEWMAN'S WEEK



## Firm evidence the handshake is back

Tom Calver

On March 3 last year, on the day that Boris Johnson boasted of shaking hands with Covid-19 patients, the government's scientific advisers recommended that the greeting be placed in hibernation.

Now it may be returning. J.L. Partners, a polling company, said: "In a group of younger voters, all but one said they were back to shaking hands."

This will come as no surprise to the evolutionary biologist Dr Ella Al-Shamahi. In her book, *The Handshake: A Gripping History*, she

says chimps and bonobos, humanity's closest living relatives, can be observed linking fingers after a conflict, so our natural instincts mean the handshake was never likely to disappear for long. But how safe is it?

Dr Julian Tang, a Leicester University virologist, said Covid was mainly passed through the air, rather than touching hands or surfaces. The hiatus may not have been entirely useless, however. "Banning handshaking also bans people getting close enough to shake hands," he added.

@TomHCalver

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