

AFRO MARKET

AFRICAN - CARIBBEAN - THE BLACK COMMUNITY BUSINESSES & SERVICES

December 2011- January- February 2012 EDITION N° 9

Eat at Accra Restaurant 2041 Davidson Ave where Dignataries and Celebrities eat # 718-584-8500/917-737-8200

Four Women to Watch in 2012



Binta Ann
Writer and humanitarian



Doretti Desir,
"an Innovative Haitian-American woman"



Abby Travel
"The comeback"



Masidi Conde
President of A.W.G.G



Editorial

Compared to 2010, during the year 2011 AfroMarket magazine published five issues, one more than last year. This means we are averaging one issue every two months. Over the course of the year 2011, we reported on the many African business owners who shared their challenges with us, as well as, the politicians from African countries

who came to the US to meet the members of their respective diasporas with the hope of encouraging investment back home. This year, we received two emblematic diplomatic personalities from Chad and Senegal in addition to Heads of State. The year 2011 was also the United Nations International Year of People of African Descent which recognized the contributions of African descendants and called for continued struggle to end the racism and discrimination faced the world over. In this issue we recount some of the events that took place to commemorate this historic year. While 2011 has ended, its financial impact on the African and African Diaspora business community does not go unnoticed. Many small businesses went bankrupt. A number of restaurants and clothing stores have been affected by the bad economy and the unemployment rate in the African and Caribbean community grows with the exceedingly high percentage of unemployed blacks in New York City.

Despite the toughness of the economy, our communities never gave up. Business was created in the five boroughs and in other states.

Some businesses like money transfer continue to show signs of growth because of the needs of African and Caribbean families on the back home. According to the General Consul of Senegal El Hadj Sidi Niang, while the past year was bad for Senegalese entrepreneurs, the Consulate is working hard to encourage and support them, by taking on initiatives to facilitate their empowerment with the help he and his office could bring.

We remain optimistic that the December holiday season is a great opportunity for the small- and medium- size businesses of the global African community to reboot many of the losses they endured during the year. AfroMarket is also pleased to close out the year by launching a website to help promote business in the US and worldwide, www.africatvusa.net provides African and African Diaspora business people an opportunity to establish a strong global consumer base. Finally, as we continue to expand our reach, AfroMarket has for the first time in its history reported from abroad (the Federative Republic of Brazil in South America) with our new correspondent in an promising partnership between African descendants from civil society, as well as, the cultural and business sectors around the world.

We wish you all a great New Year in 2012 and hope that your business will be more successful.

Cordially,

Karim Diabate, Publisher

Dowoti Désir, Editor

In This Ninth Issue

Page 2 - Editorial by Dowoti Desir

Page 3 - Sonia Pierre activist

Page 5 - Habissatou Bah (Business woman)

Page 6 - Lassane Cissokho (Malian artist)

Page 9 - Dowoti Desir (Designer)

Page 11 & 15- Binta Ann (Writer & humanitarian)

Page 16 & 17 - An African man indicted for stealing account information

Page 21 - Miss Guinea Pageant 2011

Page 22- Women for Good Governance

Advertisement call :

Karim Tosh diabate 917-945-1386

- Publisher

Karim Tosh diabate

- Copy Corrector

Dowoti Desir

- Writers

Karim Tosh diabate- Dowoti Desir

Boubah Sow- Yves Gerard- Stephan Douglas

-Graphic Design

Afromarket



**Watch your new site www.africatvusa.net
all the african events-show-videos etc..**



The Activist Dominican Republic Sonia has changed the world for better by tireless advocacy for human rights

For the critics, Sonia Pierre, shed too much light on a situation. And for others, that light was a bright beacon of hope.

For her critics Sonia Pierre shed too much light on a situation. And for others, that light was a bright beacon of hope.

hope. Pierre, 48, who died of a heart attack last Sunday, endured death threats, assaults and jail because of her. And for others work and her positions — a main one being that the children of Haitian immigrants born in the Dominican Republic should be Dominican citizens. Right now, that is not the case.

And ExtremeR, in a post on the DR1.com website agreed with that point: "There's one thing I will always agree with her. The fact that Haitians are not declared Dominicans on birth in the DR. I find it to be a coward solution to the immigration problem in the DR. Any kid born in the DR should be Dominican period. But that's my POV."

Much of the hatred in the DR against Pierre came from her tendency to not take "no" for an answer when it came to Dominico-Haitians' rights. When nos came from the Dominican government and the country's highest courts, she charged that the actions were international human rights abuses and highlighted them.

She was recognized for her efforts. Among the honors she received was a Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights award and the U.S. State Department International Women of Courage award, in 2006 and 2010 respectively.

"Though the world is somber today because of her too-soon departure, she has changed the world for the better by her tireless advocacy for human rights," Lily Cerat, co-founder of the New York-based Haitian Women for Haitian Refugees and a steadfast friend and fan of Pierre, said last week.

"Living daily amid great hostility in her homeland, the Dominican Republic, Sonia remained steadfast in her advocacy for the human and civil rights of Dominicans of Haitian descent."

Over the years, Cerat's organization and Pierre's MUDHA — Movimiento de Mujeres Dominico-Haitiana (Movement of Dominican Haitian Women) — have worked together on humanitarian and educational projects in the DR and Haiti.

"[Sonia] has shown that each one of us can make a difference and play a role in making this world a truly democratic place where we respect the existence of one another," Cerat said. "Part of her legacy is never to be afraid to challenge civil rights abuses from others or nation-states, to denounce the wrongs perpetrated against disenfranchised peoples and communities and to truly be keepers and protectors of our brothers, sisters and children."

Source Daily News

★ *New Location!!!* ★

Prestige Multimedia

Sale- Repair-Services

-Computer-Cellphones-LCD-Hard Drive

Memory Repair and Upgarde

iPhone clock screen-Ipod clock screen-Computer crack screen




Adresse: 105 E Kingsbridge Road Bronx NY NY 10468








Contact: 917-737-8686

SAHEL INTERNATIONAL

WHOLESALE & RETAILER
100% HUMAN HAIR - WIGS
GSM TELEPHONE
PHONE ACCESSORIES- ETC...



MAC IMAN FASHION FAIR - WIGS



1234 W 31 ST STORE 5 BET 5TH & BROADWAY N.Y
TEL: 718-924-6420 / 212-564-2545

Habissatou Bah the very successful business woman is BACK!



**"LET US PLAN YOUR NEXT TRIP TO
ARICA, ASIA OR EUROPE"**



ABBY TRAVEL & MULTI SERVICES

2194 8th Ave (Bet 118th & 119th St.)
New York, NY 10026

212-213-6775 Fax: 646-216-8558

Website: www.abbytravel.com Email: abbytravel@mindspring.com

Mon. - Fri. 1pm - 8pm Sat. 11am - 6pm, closed Sundays

* Airport Limo Service * Travel Insurance * Passport Application * Money Transfer *
Tour packages * Cruises * Car Rentals * Honeymoon Specials * Immigration Matters

Say: *"I saw your ad in the Amsterdam News"* Get 5% Discount

Subject to availability, prices may change without notice, taxes and surcharges are not included.

Habissatou Bah the owner of a travel company named Abby Travel is back in business one year after she closed her company due to a sickness that has almost paralyzed her. Habissatou has been in business for over ten years and has steadily established herself as a leading and trusted company in the travel field. Thanks to a dedicated team of expert travel agents, she has seen her company evolve from a start-up company to an established institution that is still growing. She first opened her business on Broadway in the Chelsea district in 1999. After a few year of success, she decided to expand her business and find an office in Harlem at 135th Street to be closer to the African community (date). After two years of rapid growth, Habissatou became one of the most reliable travel agency owner's in the community.

In July 2010 things took an unfortunate turn in her life, she was hit by a sickness and was forced to temporarily close her business. But now, thanks to her husband and the good relationships she enjoyed with her customers over the past years, Habissatou has been able to reopen her business in a new location between 118th and 119th Streets on 8th Avenue. Nowadays she is getting back on the tracks, moving slowly but surely reestablishing her clientele. We just wish her a great come back.

by Boubah Sow

Keita West African Market

Specialized in african Food Stuffs & Cosmetics

Wholesales & Retails
Open 7 Days A Week

Tel : 718-602-2099

Cell: 917-239-3076

ADDRESS:

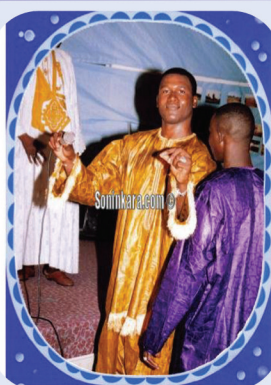
1194 BROADWAY

(CORNER LAFAYETTE AVE)

BROOKLYN, NY 11221



Lassana Cissokho le chouchou de la musique Soninke attendu pour une **serie de concerts aux USA**



Annoucé pour les Etats Unis au mois de Janvier 2012 lassana Cissokho le chouchou de la music Soninke s'apprete à livrer une serie de concerts à ses fans à travers les Etats ou se trouve une forte communauté Malienne et Africaine. l'artiste qui vient pour la premiere fois aux USA n'est connu que par ses oeuvres et ses albums qui sont au nombre de quatre, Taguekhana en 2003, khouman khouman en 2005 Tenere et Diagou en 2006. C'est tout petit à l'age de 7 ans que Lassana a pris gout à la musique. Opposé à son père pour ce choix il du s'enfuir et se confier à l'ami de son grand-père afin de pratiquer aisement sa passion. Apres plusieurs tournées

dans les villes et villages du Mali, Cissokho se retrouve en France en 2002. Il fonde son propre groupe Soninkara et participe à des concerts et festivals avec une musique qui se consomme à travers la France et toute l'Europe. Dans son palmarès il a partagé la scene

avec des stars comme Youssou Ndour, Salif kita qui voit en ce monsieur un talent et un avenir plein de succes. C'est ce talent et cette connaissance de la musique que Lassana Cissokho vient partager aux USA avec ses fans qui l'attendent impatiemment

Yves Gerard



D. WILTSHIRE

TUXEDO RENTAL & LIMOUSINE SERVICES

1329 E 222ND ST BOSTON ROAD 10469








24 H
7 DAYS

-WEDDING LIMO
 -AIRPORT CAR S.
 -CASINO VIP
 -Proms
 -ANY OCCASION
 -PARTY EVENTS

TEL: 800-779-8556
- 718-231-2333
- 917-209-3921

WWW.DWILTSHIRE.COM

AFRICAN AMERICAN RESTAURANT BATE

DESSERT'-COLD & HOT' BEVERAGES

Adress: 160 st-161 st 860 Melrose Bronx 10456



Menu :

Grilled Chicken- Grilled Chicken- Thiepou Djeun- Placali- Fufu- Soup Kandia Yassa- Dibi- Oxtail Stew



Tel: 718-401-2283

BELDAM TOUBA

**-PERFUMES- COSMETICS
- COLOGNES & More
- BRODE (voile suisse)**



231 W 116 STREET BET 7AVE & 8AVE NEW YORK

TEL: 212-665-9073/ 917-769-6372

GASSAMA GENERAL HOUSE REPAIR



**-Roof work- Cleaning
after burn- Rebuilding
-Plastering-Painting
Tile**

TEL: 917-604-9813

450 W 149 ST NY NY 10031

Email:gassahamady@yahoo.com



AFRICAN MARKET INC

TEL: 718-328-1928- FAX: 718-328-7139

WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

1407 VIELE AVE. HUNTS POINTS MARKET BRONX, NY 10474



ACCRA Kenkey-ABEMUDURO PALM NUT SOUP-ALAFIA BITTERS-ALATA SEMINA BLACK SOAP-ATTIEKE
ATWOOD BITTERS- BLACK EYE BEANS- BLACK SEED BITTERS- BONE IN BEEF BUCKETS-CERELAC
-COUS COUS- DELTA RICE- EGGPLANTS- EXETER CORNBEEF- GARI- GHANA FRESH PALM NUT SOUP.
GOLDEN TROPIC'S FUFU -GRIPE WATERS- GUN POWDER TEA- HAUSA KOKO- HEINZ SALAD CREAM- HEINZ
VEGETABLE SALAD -JASMIN RICE-JUMBO CUBES-KARAFI BITTERS-LIKEFE PALM NUT S.- MAGGIE SHRIMP-
GHANA MILO - NIGERIAN STYLE(POUNDED YAM)- OLIVE OIL-- QUAKER OATS- OVALTINE - RICE FLOUR
OXFORD CORNBEEF- PEAK MILK POWDER- POTATO STARCH-PSK RED HOT PEPPER-QUEEN ELIZABETH COCOA BUTTER

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti Désir founder of Gran Bwa states:

“The men’s and women’s clothing I design are inspired by traditional African clothing patterns but with a twist.”



“Most people are surprised when they learn I have started designing African clothing,” stated Dowoti Désir, the Harlem-based human rights and cultural rights activist. “I am a curator of contemporary art, and spent a large part of my youth being formally trained in the arts: pen and ink, water colors, pastels, oil painting etc. I was drawing before I could write.” she said causally. “Creating a refined, polished look with elegant, natural fabrics for our community is something I’ve wanted to do for years.”

Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti Désir founded Gran Bwa designs in 2011 in honor of the the UN International Year for People of African Descent. Gran Bwa is labeled as “sophisticated clothing for warm people in cold places,” because the men’s and women’s clothing she designs are inspired by traditional African clothing patterns but with a twist. A world traveler recently returning from academic and political conferences in Canada and Brazil, and soon heading for Benin, Désir’s vision for dressing the black community speaks to people of African descent who want to maintain a strong cultural presence in their professional environment especially during the colder months of the year or those living in cooler climates.

She recalls being in Berlin in 2010 at a tribunal marking the 125th Anniversary of the Berlin-Congo Conference which drew the problematic lines that literally shaped the national boundaries of today’s African states. Désir said that there were some 200 Afro Europeans, Africans, people of the Caribbean and African Americans putting colonialism on trail; everyone was wearing something African. “It was however freezing outside! We were in the middle of a German winter so imagine what we were wearing?” She continues, “Turtle-necks with bazin; bright African summer shirts with heavy, dark European suits; and bulky sweaters underneath mud cloth tunics. There has gotten to be a better way of

of showing our cultural pride, looking good, and staying warm” she concluded. The woman who never had a chance to fulfill her youthful dreams of being a fashion designer suddenly realized she could not only make her fantasies come true, by reinventing African clothing in the Western work place but also possibly finance her human rights work all by playing with the sartorial aesthetics of her African and Caribbean roots. A signature look is a modified grand bubu, cut with the traditional asymmetrical collar and pocket but the length is shorten to better function in an office, class room, board room, or when walking down snow filled streets. One can tell that Désir was once an artist since she chooses distinct fabrics with subtle color play in cashmere, English and Italian wools, raw silk and other fine materials. Pin stripes, herringbone weaves, and window-pane plaids are favorites patterns to embroider with her design sensibilities.

When asked, “What does “Gran Bwa” mean?” She reveals, “Gran Bwa is a spirit of the forests that the Africans and indigenous people of Haiti shared. Translated it means great forest or mighty tree. It pays homage to what is sacred in our societies: to be grounded; rooted; to stand tall and embrace the heavens. When people invest in my clothing... (because its not cheap)” she laughs playfully, “I want them to know that they possess that kind of natural and spiritual energy. You know, before a tree gets cut down to make a drum, permission is asked of that tree and an offering is made. We think twice about how and why we cut down a tree in most Afrocentric cultures.” Désir continues, “In the world that we live in, filled with so much injustice especially towards Afro-descendants, we need to be empowered and those who would try to strike us down should do the same, i.e., to think twice before they act. There is a psychology to clothing and how we present ourselves in the world impacts how far we advance in it. My clothing line, Gran Bwa is designed to remind us of the power we possess as individuals, and collectively as African descendants.”

A believer in Pan African cooperation and self determination, monies earned from the sale of the rich clothing line generates commerce for local African businesses and allows Désir, the activist to continue her fight against racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia in the global African community through her human rights organization, the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action Watch Group aka., the DDPA Watch Group.

The Gran Bwa atelier is based in Manhattan. Already igniting interest in Canada, Nigeria and France, the collection of men’s 2 piece

To be continued on page 13

P and M
BAKAYOKO FOODS CORP.



TEL: 212-749-6875
208-212 ST NICHOLAS AVENUE

AFRICA WORLD MUSIC

REPUBLIQUE DE COTE D'IVOIRE
SOUS LE PATRONNAGE DE S.E.M YOUSSEFOU JOSEPH BAMBA
SOUS LE PARRAINAGE DE IVOIRE CAR SERVICE INC.
FEDERATION DES ASSOCIATIONS IVOIRIENNE AUX USA
PRESENTE



New Years Eve Gala

FEATURING
MONIQUE SEKA // MIRIAM FATIM // FELY TCHACO
NETT SOUL/SEKOUBA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2011
@ IVORIANS COMMUNITY CENTER
30 WEST 142ND STREET
(BET. 5TH AVE. & LENOX AVE.)
DOORS OPEN 10PM - UNTIL

HOSTED BY: THIERRY DE BALLIER & DOUDOU STEVEN
MUSIC BY DJS: DELAROCCHA // GAZA // COMMANDANT KAMSON
SPECIAL GUEST DJS: CHRISTY B & DJ BAHINI
COUPE DECALE / ZOUGLOU / ZOBLAZO / ZIGUBITY / NDOMBOLO /
MANDINGUE / ZOUK / SALSA / MAKOSSA /
HIP LIFE / R&B / REGGAE & HIPHOP

RTI **abidjanTV.net** **@BIDI@A.NET** **VISAGES**

SPONSORS: LE GRIOT, LE BANCO.NET., DIASPORA MAGAZINE, ALASSANE CAR SERVICE, MOUSTAPHA BARBERSHOP, TIMITE COSMETIC, WHCR RADIO, ROKIA AFRICAN MARKET, ENOVATIVE TV, USA TRANSPORT
MORE INFO: (347) 852-7281 • (917) 344-0539

ALASSAN SERVICE CORP

Taxi Management - Leasing Yellow Cab - Black Cab

DRIVERS WANTED



11-3044 RD 21 ST LONG ISLAND, NY 11101
TEL: 646-529-7867

IRS e file

SONINKARA
Help Center INC.

- Income Tax - Immigration
- Notary Public- Business Licenses
- Certificates & Incorporating
- Document Preparation

Translation + 20 years Experience

Camara A.
President
Tel: 646-335-7361
Fax: 212-876-8686

55 W 116 ST
(Inside UPS Store)
New York N,Y 10026
Email: camarus@yahoo.com



Binta Ann Guinean woman Writer Journalist and founder of Fondale



Hello Binta Ann, you are well known in your country Guinea but maybe not in the whole African continent, could you introduce yourself, tell us about your professional life and tell us where you live ?

Thank you, I'm Ms Daffé born Binta Ann. I'm Guinean. After my studies, I went to France where I studied in a high school of tourist and aerial. I worked in Roissy Airport for 6 years. Now-a-days I live in New York and I just finished my studies on children's education from preschool and elementary school. I'm a comedian in some theater groups and a writer. I work in an immigration law office. I'm mother of two little girls, Mayeny and Fanta. I also work as volunteer in UNICEF USA. In one word, I try to do a lot of things.

What was your motivation in writing and where do you get your inspiration? And when did you start writing?

I grew up in a big family of about twenty where everyone was looking for his way out. I wanted to make a decision to determine my own destiny. My imagination was the concretization of (not only) my joy of life and my mood; but I want to make my readers dream.

Your book *le mariage par colis* (Marriage by Arrangement) was successful. In summation, for those who didn't read it, what is it about?

I had a great pleasure to write this book that I started writing in secondary school in Guinea and finished it in France with the book publishing company *l'harmattan*. I was grateful to see the impact on the youth who played it in theater or in movie in their native language. The book is about the misadventures of a young guy who left his village for the city to pretend to be a minister. After he contracted the job, he sent his first salary to his parents who informed all the village that their son has become a minister so, they needed to send him a wife. After struggling the young man found his way out of Africa and on to Europe where he experienced the ills of the modern society, sex, prostitution,

drugs, corruption and the impact of the African traditions such as *maraboutage* or polygamy on our lives. The challenge for him was how to live in a western country and literally respect our customs and our African tradition? It's a humorous dilemma that the readers have the pleasure or pain to solve. By reading this book you will be pleased to discover the depth of African life in the western countries.

So what about the others books?

Awa the little beggar girl, (someone who lives of begging) This focuses on the education of a young girl in Africa, where I encourage schooling above any other profession or job. It has been realized as a short film by UNICEF in Guinea in 1988 and played in many African countries. *Children soldiers*, denounced the recruitment, implication of and the manipulation of children in war.

-Who is the writer who most inspired you?

The writer that inspired me the most is Camara Laye, my Guinean compatriot. I grew up with his best seller novel, *Enfant Noir* that retraces with wonder African culture. The style is simple and the book is well written. When you read one of my books, *le Mariage par Colis*, for example, you will find some similarities on the style and the description of things and places.†



What will be the next book be about and when will it be available?

My next book is about child soldiers. Our communities and politicians are enrolling more and more young children to become soldiers or militias in their army. I am trying to raise my voice and condemn the use of children for war purposes. Children belong to school and playground not in war zone. The book will certainly be out in 2012, but as we all know, everything is in God's hands.

To be continued on page 19

TIMITE & SONS

USA-EUROPE-ASIA-AFRICA

BEAUTY SUPPLY

WORLD BEAUTY DISTRIBUTOR
 IMPORT - EXPORT - WHOLESALE
 TEL: 212-666-9085 FAX: 212-666-1037

HAIR & SKIN PRODUCTS
 1970 7TH AVENUE NY 10026
TEL: 212-666-9085
212-865-6278
FAX: 212-666-1037
 EMAIL: timi807@aol.com

Ibrahim Soumano

African Clothing

Men – Women – Children

Adresse:
184 E 166 ST
 (Sheridan & Gd Concourse)
 Tel: 347- 576- 6575
 Email: soumanoi2011@yahoo.com

NEW IN HARLEM
MAISON MERE- AFRICAN & World Music
 256 W 116 st Store E (Bet 7th & 8th Ave) Tel: 917-208-3229 / 347-686-4379

sokotos, vests, trousers, shirts and select women's wear will be formally launched in Europe in 2012. At HYPERLINK "<http://www.ddpa-watchgroup.org>" www.ddpa-watchgroup.org, the last entry on the site "Gran Bwa" will lead viewers to a link where they can see more "sophisticated clothing for warm people

in cold places." Reinventing African Style with Dowoti Désir and Gran Bwa Clothing Mariana Victorin



Kaba Beauty

Tel: 212-222-3717/646-593-6050

- MEN' S & WOMEN' S FASHION & ACCESSORIES-JEWELRY- COSMETICS
- HAIR - TEXTILE (Holland Wax- Lace) and More

Adress: 7 AVENUE BET 117 ST & 118 ST HARLEM





BASSANO CLOTHINGS ★

JEWELRY-PHONES-COSMETICS-BAGS
SNEAKERS-JEANS-T-SHIRTS-CAPS







ADRESSE: 209 SHERMAN BRONX TEL: 347-681-3168



TOUBA BOUTIQUE

WHOLESALE & RETAIL -IMPORT - EXPORT

235 W 116TH ST

CONTACTS: 212-222-1819/ 222-1937



GRAN BWA: Sophisticated Clothing for Warm People in Cold Places

A cultural investment for today's transnational men and women. The Gran Bwa line designed with natural fibers is African clothing for all seasons.

1.917.539.7252

www.ddpa-watchgroup.org



2011 Year of African Descendant

At The Afro XXI Conference in Salvador (Brazil)



The United Nations declared 2011 the International Year of People of African Descendants and African descendants everywhere from New York City to Paris, Dakar to Bahia have been participating in a series of discussions, celebrations and civil society fora to celebrate black culture but more importantly to assess any progress made in the socioeconomic conditions of the global African community. The scourge of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia is an on-going battle.

Earlier this year a series of AfroEuropean groups came together at UNESCO in Paris in May to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Taubira's Law, a five article piece of national French legislation that recognizes the TransAtlantic Slave Trade as a crime against humanity. An irony given recent rumors of France's attempt to further devalue the CFA in light of its flattering AAA standing and the crises of the Euro. Such a move would cause even more massive economic downturns in West Africa and emphasizes how dangerous the grip of the Pact Colonial is to Africans everywhere.

The Mexican government on the other hand has for the first time ever officially acknowledged the African presence and the level of discrimination they face in their country. The number of African descendants in Mexico ranges from as little as 474,000 to as many as 4.7 million. The uncertainty about their numbers speaks to the invisibility blacks have endured in that country since 1810 when the last official census determined they were 10% of the population. Measures are being taken by the Mexican government to take a formal census of Afro descendants to better determine what social services this sector of the population requires.

In October the African Union invited prominent leaders from the African Diaspora to participate in a major meeting to determine what mechanisms must be put in place to include the Diaspora as part of its 6th Region. Such a move would create greater solidarity within the global African community and enable economic security and

greater foreign investment on the continent. Dual citizenship for people living outside the continent was a demand placed on the table by members of the Diaspora. November marked "Black Consciousness Month" in South America where spirits were high in Salvador do Bahia. Thousands gathered to celebrate the encounter of African descendants from throughout the hemisphere. Some were wearing tee-shirts that read, "100% Negro" (translated from the Portuguese and Spanish languages meaning 100% Black). Brazil held a major conference organized with the Secretary General's office of Spain in Salvador do Bahia, 16-20 November entitled "AfroXXI Encuentro Iberoamericano del Año Internacional de los Afrodescendientes." The Brazilian office of SEPIIR that is in charge of ensuring racial equality in the country with the largest number of African descendants outside of the African continent had academics, officials, and activists convene in a series of presentations that spoke to and debated the issues confronted by Africans in the Americas including Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Haiti, and Uruguay. Poverty; the lack of statistical data about Afro-descendants; educational disparities including the exclusion of African history in school books; criminalization of youth; the challenges continued to be faced by Black women; and the prevalence of Afro-phobia (a fear of black culture and people) were on the agenda. A high level meeting which included African governmental representatives from Angola, Benin, Cape Verde, and Senegal concluded the historic proceedings.

A decade celebrating the African community's contributions to global culture is called for in 2012. Protecting the human rights of black people by fighting against racial discrimination; installation of a Permanent Forum for People of African Descent that gives voice to the concerns of Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora at the United Nations; as well as, and funding for the Permanent Forum are among the objectives groups hope to have met during the next 10 years.

by Mariana Victorin



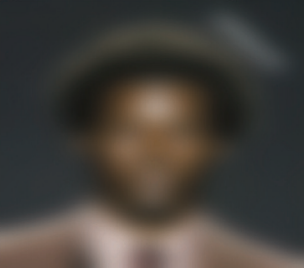
Brazilian Samba dancers performing at the opening ceremony of Nigeria's Center for Black and African Culture and Civilization



Ambassador Crispin GREGOIRE of Dominica (extreme right) at the African Union Headquarters in New York, focused on expanding its scope to include the African Diaspora the 6th region and part of organisational structure in October 2011. (Photo by D. Desir)



Senegal's Ministre Conseiller Amadou Lamine FAYE (l) with Nicaragua's Bridget BUDIER, and Djibril DIALLO (r) at Afro XXI in Salvador do Bahia, Brazil 11/2011



A west African man indicted for stealing account information from corporate Fedex Customers

Defendant Shipped 63 Packages Using Stolen Information from FedEx

Customers. Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr., announced the indictment of A. F (Only initial for security reason) 45, for illegally sending more than 60 shipments from FedEx retail locations in Manhattan using stolen FedEx shipping account information. Many of the shipments were bound for countries in Africa and locations around the United States, and contained items such as clothing, computers, and automotive parts. The indictment charges A.F with Identity Theft in the First, Second, and Third Degrees, and Attempted Identity Theft in the First Degree.[1]

"The defendant used stolen property to offer his customers FedEx service at bargain basement prices," said District Attorney Vance. "This case not only affected FedEx, it also harmed many shippers and receivers who had their packages intercepted by authorities before reaching their destination. I thank our partners in law enforcement and the FedEx Corporation for their assistance with this investigation."

To ship a package through FedEx, a customer must complete and attach to the package a shipping label known as an air waybill, or an airbill. The airbill allows the shipper to bill the shipment costs to a valid FedEx account number established by an individual or corporation.

According to documents filed in court and statements made on the record in court, between September 2008 and November 2010, A.F fraudulently obtained personal identifying information, such as the names, addresses, and FedEx credit account numbers of corporations, and used that information to create airbills. The method by which A.F obtained this information is currently under investigation.

A.F presented these fraudulent airbills at FedEx locations in Manhattan in order to ship packages throughout the United States and to West African nations, including Mali and Senegal. A.F sent these packages on behalf of customers whom he cultivated

To be continued on page 17



Rufine Beauty Supply

184 E 166 St Bronx Ny 10456 (Bet Caroll & Gd Concourse)
Contacts: 646-606-8298/347-3233187





Sougouba African Market-Money Transfert

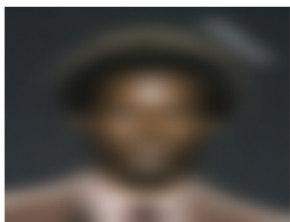




Wholesale & Retail

Shoes- Foulards- Dentels- Cosmetics & More

To be continued



through his contacts in the West African communities, and charged them rates less than FedEx ordinarily charges. For example, as detailed in court, on November 2, 2009, A.F. shipped from

Manhattan a package containing toiletries and powdered milk destined for Dakar, Senegal, using a FedEx credit account stolen from a not-for-profit organization in Manhattan. Given the weight, distance, and chosen method of delivery, this shipment cost the FedEx corporate account holder \$3,221 to send, before being identified as fraudulent.

In another example, on June 2, 2010, A.F. shipped from Manhattan a package containing computer equipment destined for Bamako, Mali, using a FedEx credit account associated with an asset management firm based in Manhattan. The shipment was intercepted

by FedEx in Paris, France. This shipment would have cost the FedEx corporate account holder \$3,436 had the shipment reached Mali.

A.F.'s fraudulent scheme was initially identified by the FedEx Corporation after several corporations disputed their invoices. The 63 shipments associated with charges contained in the indictment include packages that were successfully delivered, attempted to be delivered, or intercepted prior to delivery.

The actual cost of shipping the 63 packages through FedEx is estimated to be more than \$80,000 identified as fraudulent. The victims did not have to pay those costs.

Assistant District Attorneys James Schiff and Jordan Arnold are handling the prosecution of this case under the supervision of Assistant District Attorney Gilda Mariani, Chief of the Money Laundering and Tax Crimes Unit.

District Attorney Vance thanked the agencies who are collaborating in this effort, including: the New York City Police Department Major Case Squad, particularly Deputy Inspector CharLieutenant Christopher Stahl, Sergeant Frank Ventura, and Detective Anthony Diaz. District Attorney Vance also thanked Zane Hill and Joseph Conte of the FedEx Corporation's Fraud Investigations Group.

Fatoumata Awa Beauty Supplies

Hollandais- Dentelle- Italian Shoes & Bags

Clothes- Jewels(India-Doubai)-Lotion-Wussulan



Contact: 646-384-4241 • Adresse: 270 E 165 St Bronx NY 10456

MILLENNIUM WHOLESALE LLC

IMPORT, EXPORT & WHOLESALE OF
HOSIERY, UNDER GARMENTS, ALL HAIR, BODY AND BEAUTY CARE PRODUCTS.
FULL RANGE OF AFRICAN BEAUTY PRODUCTS UNDER ONE ROOF

**WE ARE
SPECIALIZED
IN EXPORTING
TO MOST OF THE
AFRICAN
COUNTRIES**

**WE SHIP
TO ALL
50 STATES**



1178, BROADWAY # 4, 28TH STREET BETWEEN 5TH & BROADWAY NEW YORK, NY - 10001 U.S.A

TEL : (212) 481 7111 / (212) 481 7337 FAX : (212) 447 6542 EMAIL : millwholesale@yahoo.com

B D E F Q TO 34 th STREET

W R TO 28 th ST

OPEN 7 DAYS

3- If you have to write about the African people living in the United States what will be the theme?

The title will be, *The Bravery of My People*, and the topic is going to be how African people struggle to survive and make things right. African men and women open their small businesses, hire people, create jobs, take care of their family in the US and back home, they are courageous people. They inspire me and I am blessed and proud to be part of the African community in the America.

You have participated in the work of the United Nations with the first ladies in 2010 in New York to stop the excision of female genitalia, what does the combat represent for you?

It's a difficult combat to lead. Although religion never recommends this abdominal practice, the (cultural) tradition made it an obligation in our societies. Men won't do the combat for us. We are the women who feel the pain. So we have to stand up to protect the young girls to save the future generation. It's my daily combat and I wish the same for all the other African women. We ask the Guinean government to give more credit to this combat and fight these practices that violate the rights and

would advise the new Guinean authorities to protect the women and children rights. They have to know that women can do better than men. The first street police in the years of 1990 was a woman. The first to direct the National Council of Transition in Guinea was a woman. The president of Liberia, the former president of Ireland, and the current president of Brazil are women. We can do more if they give us more tasks to do. I wish that they would consult African women to help themselves reach a higher level. As for we women, it's time to stop playing victims and to participate in the political life of our countries. If we don't trust our capacities, men will not mind.

You have created the foundation "Fondale" "<http://www.fondale.org>" www.fondale.org. What is its meaning and the goal? And could you tell me about your realizations and projects.?

Fondale means: *Fondation Binta Ann pour les enfants (Binta Ann Foundation for Children)*. It's an NGO to help children and women; to bring them moral support, logistically and financially. We fight against genital mutilation; we encourage education of young girls; we sensitize youth against HIV and STD. We need the financial support of anyone to send back home the goods that we have collected. We have trust in the good faith of everybody.



What advice do you have for the ordinary African women?

Even in the lowest echelon, women have to have their right to let them accomplish their duties in dignity. Women don't have to consider themselves as a second performer. They have to belong to the sphere of decision-making; They also have to pursue the combat against excision which is a old and cruel practice that brings nothing to the woman. Dear women, although you are housewife, in the field, in the market, in the street or in the offices, tell yourself that you are a pillar of the society, you are indispensable and useful. Believe in your self and your capacity to change the world. You are exceptional and you are a example of the future generations., translate testimonies or documents, and take them to the court. I assist

them emotionally and share their pain and joy in the process of getting their legal papers.

Thank you for your time Mrs. Binta Ann

Thank you for doing a great job in the community and for being here for us.

P.s One part of the interview is made by nenehawa.com in french and translated by karimtosh

the liberties of women.

The New Jersey Congress recently gave you an award for your commitment to women's rights. If you are asked to make proposition on women's rights in Guinea, what would you tell the Guinean government?

First, I dedicate this award to all the African women who with the price of their lives, fight to make themselves understood and to defend their fundamental rights. To answer to your question, I



Tailor Elegance
163 A WEST 121 ST NEW YORK NY
(Inside Miza Hair Brtaiding Center)
BERTIN MASTER TAILOR
TEL: 646-399-5500



Ibrahima Sawadogo an Ivorian designer dreams bigger dreams



Ibrahima Sawadogo an Ivorian young man, has been a designer in the Bronx for about 2 years. Inspired by a famous african stylist, Pathe'O from Burkina Faso, Sawadogo has been doing this job for more than two decades, but never intended to do it in the United States. Due to his father's illness Sawadogo never attended school instead he attended a *mandrassa* (Coranic school) at the

age of 13. He quickly learned tailoring. A few years later he and some of his brothers and friends, Ali, Djibril, Noufou, Souleymane, decided to launch their own designs named "Style Couture". The group became very famous, and had a lot of customers. Style Couture participated in a lot of events and fashion shows like: Ciseaux d'Or in 1990; FIAO in Burkina Faso (International Arts & Crafts Fair) in 1993; the two fashion shows at the Hotel Sofitel and Wafou. Their group was even invited to host a private viewing in Nigeria.

In 2009, Sawadogo came in the US as a visitor and decided to go back home to continue his job but things would happen differently. The political war hit his country Ivory Coast, Sawadogo unwillingly fled Abidjan (the capital) to find shelter in the US. Just as anybody who first arrives, life was not easy. Sawadogo decided to take a temporary job here in America, with the intent of returning home when the situation was calmed, but he could not find a job anywhere. At the same time he had a chance to meet a friend who practices tailoring. He started sewing and distinguish himself by his self confidence and ability. Within just a few months he decided to found his own place. Today he is one of the better known tailor/stylist in New York because of his professionalism and the respect he has for the customers. Sawadogo tells Afro Mart, how he, "... does the job on time," and never takes customer's money when he knows that he will not finish the job on time. For now he works by himself but he is willing to hire some tailors to help him. From there he believes he could dream bigger dreams.

By Stephan Douglas .



MAITRE IBRAHIM

209 E 165 st
Corner Sheridan
Bronx 10456

STYLE ABIDJAN - NEW YORK



PRET A PORTER



BASSANO CLOTHING AFRICAN CLOTHING (MEN-WOMEN- & CHILDREN)

TEL : 646-500-9286 **email: sawadogo201034@yahoo.fr**



Mission:

The Miss Guinea USA Organization objective is to empower young Guinean girls here in the United States and else where around the globe. We want these girls to take control of their lives and economic situations; in order to position themselves to better effect a real change in the various crisis the women of Guinea are facing today.

We will provide them with all the resources necessary to help them to build a firm foundation through education and community in America and around the world. We are determined to bring to the fore-front the rich and diverse Guinean cultures.

Miss Guinea Pageant December 24, 2011

in America and around the world. We are determined to bring to the fore-front the rich and diverse Guinean cultures.

Education:

We will provide the educational support through our Scholarship program to help the youth of Guinea. This will help the contestants achieve their goals, and also help shape their leadership abilities. The Miss Guinea USA Organization Inc. believes that education is the key to success. Our organization is determined to work hand in hand with the Guinean community leaders to ensure the focus of education is a priority of our youth both in the United States and back home in Guinea.

The winner of Miss Guinea USA 2011 will work with the men, women, and kids within the Guinean communities. She will document on the daily struggles of life that the Guinean Diaspora encounters across the United States of America.

WATCH YOUR BEST TV SHOW ONLINE
WWW.AFRICATVUSA.NET



Khady Coulibaly hosting a TV Show with Miss Guinea Team. Watch this TV show in www.africatvusa.net



Khady Coulibaly and Miss Guinea Team



Doussouba Diabate Guinean artist waiting to be interviewed

African Women Good Governance **A.W.G.G** has collected more than \$6000

The African Women for Good Governance(AWGG) was established in 2011 The AWGG is a non-profit organisation that offers support and services to African women all over the world. Their outrage programs include , but are not limited to, Good Governance, Health, Education, Mentoring, Movement, Film Skilled Labor, Arts, Abuse, Counseling, Global, Ambassadors & Cultural Flavor.



Women for Good Governance has organized a fundraiser November 26, 2011 for the victims of Ivory Coast war. Hundred of people voluntarily made donations to support this great first initiative of WGG. They have collected more than six thousand dollars and many others goods. This is their first fundraiser and many more are coming. For your donations please contact: 1-570-310-0120 code 286-7382

BROADWAY BEAUTY WHOLESALE LLC

IMPORT, EXPORT & WHOLESALE OF
HOSIERY & SOCKS, HUMAN HAIR, HAIR AND SKIN CARE PRODUCTS,
BODY OIL, MAKEUP PRODUCTS AND ACCESSORIES
FULL RANGE OF AFRICAN BEAUTY PRODUCTS UNDER ONE ROOF



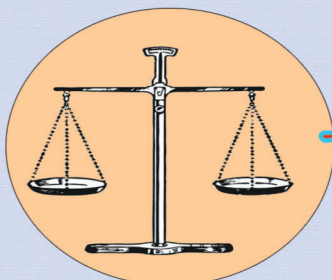
28 WEST, 28TH STREET NEW YORK, NY - 10001 U.S.A

TEL : (212) 447 1299 / (212) 447 6544 FAX : (212) 447 87. EMAIL : BBWINC28@AOL.COM

(B) (D) (E) (F) (Q) TO 34 th STREET

(W) (R) TO 28 th ST

OPEN 7 DAYS



LAW OFFICES

TED SOFER ESQ, PC

115 BROADWAY 17 FLOOR SUITE 1704 NEW YORK, NY 10006

**SE HABLA
ESPAGNOL**

**20 ANS DE SERVICE ET DE SUCCES
AU SERVICE DES COMMUNAUTES**

**NOUS
PARLONS
FRANCAIS**



LE CABINET EST SPECIALISE EN:

**-IMMIGRATION ET DEPORTATIONS- DROITS DES AFFAIRES-
-PROBLEMES CRIMINELS- REPRESENTATION AU TRIBUNAL
-DIVORCES- ACCIDENTS DE TRAVAIL ET D'AUTOMOBILE-
BANKRUPTCY-TAXES ETC...**

OFFICE: 212-346-2000 CELL: 646-515-8988

FAX: 212-346-2501/ Email: TSOFER@LITIGATION-NY.COM