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WITCHCRAFT
AROUND THE
WORLD



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WITCHCRAFT



AROUND THE WORLD

Being a witch means being one with everything...

...and that includes knowing what else is out there.

Being one with what you see in your backyard is good, but there is something beautiful about reaching out and knowing what your witch brothers and sisters are like in other parts of the world.

It could mean reading about witches in other countries or finding out about the witch trials (there were witch trials all over the world, not only salem.) and finding out about present day witch persecutions.

I hope this issue will let you see the realities of your other witch brothers and sisters in the other parts of the world.

I hope this lets you open your eyes, widen your perspective, and let you reach out.

Enjoy reading!

Blessed be!

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GREY

WITCH CAMPS



ANNIA

*If you thought the witchcraft trials were
a thing of the past, think again.
The witchcraft trials are alive and well in Africa.*

Ghana is one of the most religious countries in the world, with 96 percent of its inhabitants declaring themselves as religious. Scattered throughout are churches, mosques and pagan altars.

IF YOU THOUGHT THE WITCHCRAFT TRIALS WERE A THING OF THE PAST, THINK AGAIN. THE WITCHCRAFT TRIALS ARE ALIVE AND WELL IN AFRICA.



WITCH CAMPS

Plenty suspect witchcraft to be behind negative events like death, disease, mental illness, bad harvest, or loss of live-stock.

For decades, Ghanaian women are suspected of practicing witchcraft have been banished to live in segregated camps.

The Gambaga witch camp is one of the most famous in northern Ghana. Most of its residents are females, especially older ones who do not have the protection of men.

THE WITCHCRAFT TEST

The ritual through which the chief determines whether a woman is a witch or not involves a chicken being thrown up in the air. And the contortions of the chicken determine whether the person is a witch or not.

If the chicken falls with its head down and its feet in the air, the woman is guilty of witchcraft and must spend the rest of her days in the camp. And if the

chicken collapses feet down and she's declared innocent of witchcraft, she must still spend her remaining years in the camp, because some villagers don't believe in her innocence.

According to the oldest witch in the village, who also serves as their leader, they are actually free to go whenever they like, but that they choose not to because they fear the backlash of the community.

A lot of witchcraft accusations actually stem from women who don't get along and see the others as obstacles in the way of their children's well being. For example, a woman might be one of many wives and so she accuses another of witchcraft. Some also stem from false accusations like someone getting sick accusing someone of making him or her sick

through dark magic or curses.

If there are actual witches in Ghana - I am sure there are. It is sad that the country doesn't have the same law that we enjoy in the United States, which is the freedom to practice any religion.

And if you are in a similar situation where you cannot practice freely because you still haven't come out about your beliefs, then be thankful that coming out won't involve banishment to a camp and abandonment by your family.

This is another way to feel grateful for what you have and also send some love and light to your fellow witches in Ghana. It's another one to feel one with Nature - to feel the pain of others in pain and use magick to exorcise it.





AFRICAN
WITCH
DOCTORS

**WHO ARE THE AFRICAN
INYANGAS OR SANGOMAS?**

Witch doctors are used as slang to refer to Sangomas and Inyangas. Some tribes have witch doctors who are allowed to live outside the villages and work their magic. They in a way protect the village from harm.

WHO ARE THE AFRICAN INYANGAS OR SANGOMAS?

As an African Traditional healer, you are either a **Sangoma** or an **Inyanga**.

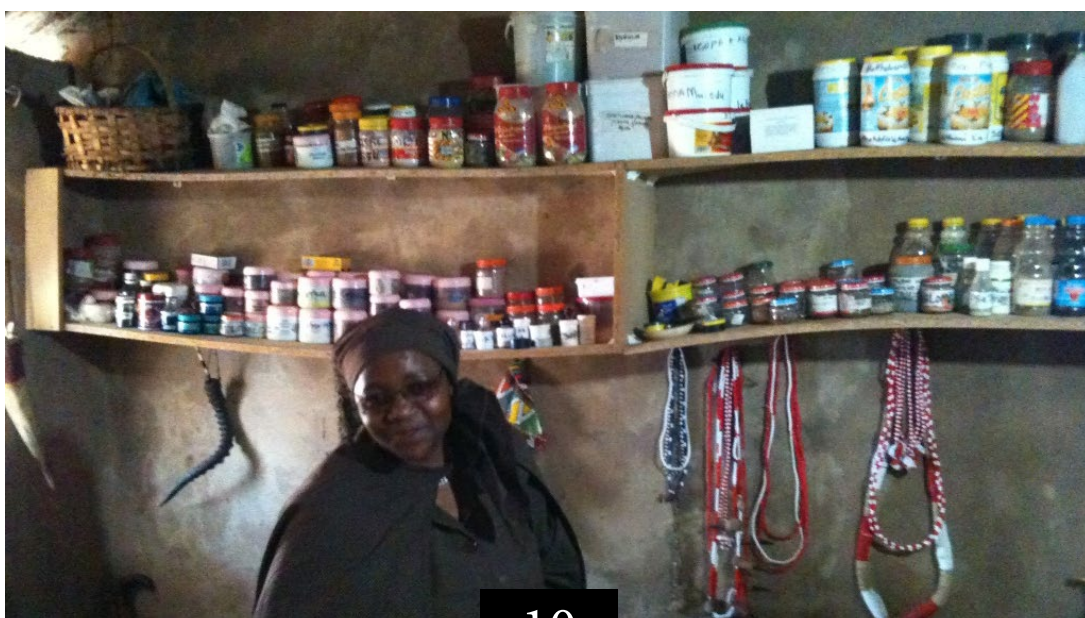
But how do you tell the two apart?

Sangoma – meaning “from the drum” – a drum person is mainly a spiritual healer consulted by anyone with issues regarding health, money, work, family or love.

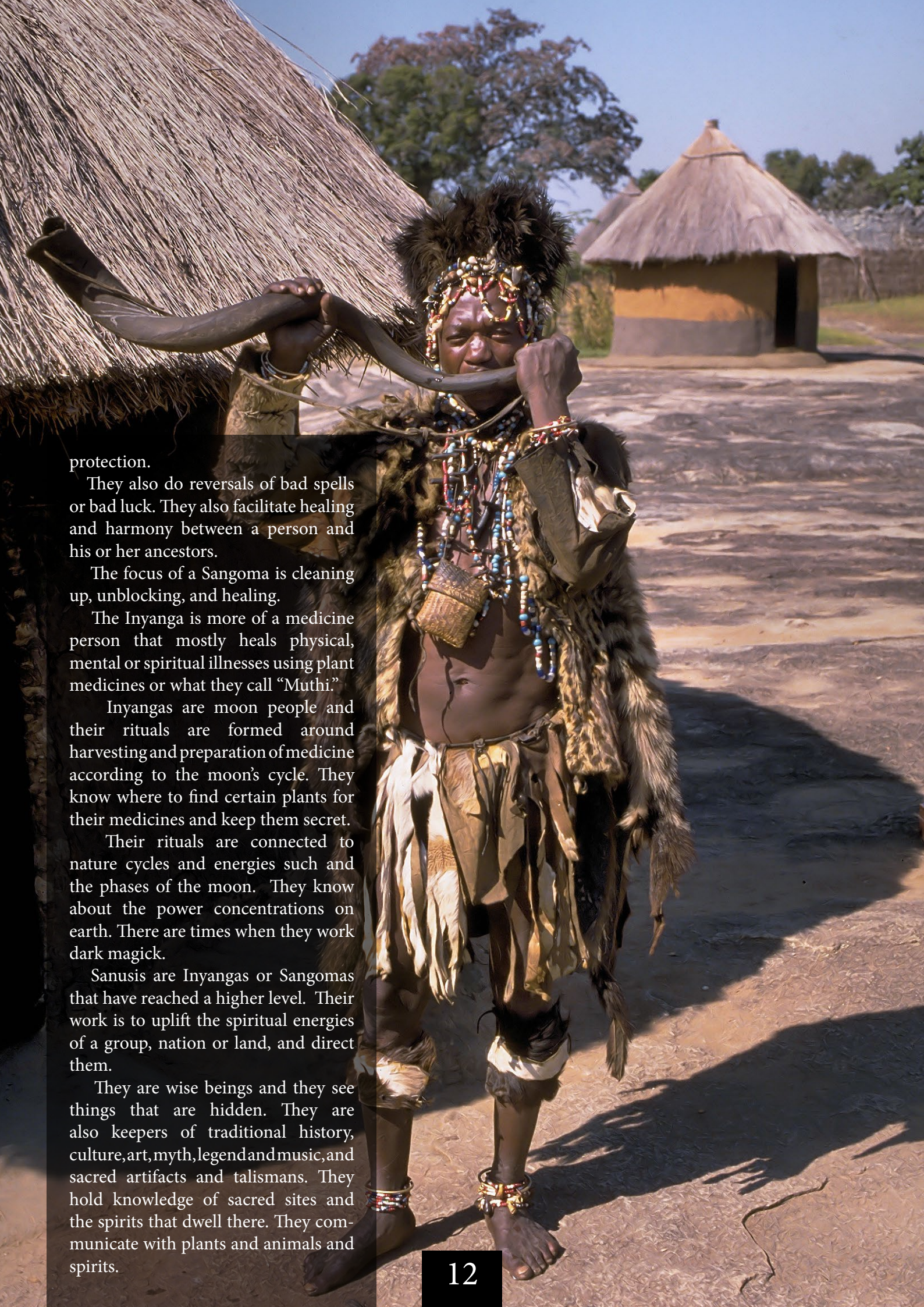
This witch doctor uses drums to get into a trance-like state and communicates with the ancestors on your behalf, and calls on the spirits for their assistance.

They consult oracle bones and divine what is causing the problem and how best to solve it. They also apply various methods in restoring mental, physical and spiritual health and balance.

Sangomas are able to access and use the energy of “umbilini” or “Chi” force in healing. They are also trained in the use of magical aspects of medicine to cast “spells” for healing, luck and







protection.

They also do reversals of bad spells or bad luck. They also facilitate healing and harmony between a person and his or her ancestors.

The focus of a Sangoma is cleaning up, unblocking, and healing.

The Inyanga is more of a medicine person that mostly heals physical, mental or spiritual illnesses using plant medicines or what they call “Muthi.”

Inyangas are moon people and their rituals are formed around harvesting and preparation of medicine according to the moon’s cycle. They know where to find certain plants for their medicines and keep them secret.

Their rituals are connected to nature cycles and energies such and the phases of the moon. They know about the power concentrations on earth. There are times when they work dark magick.

Sanusis are Inyangas or Sangomas that have reached a higher level. Their work is to uplift the spiritual energies of a group, nation or land, and direct them.

They are wise beings and they see things that are hidden. They are also keepers of traditional history, culture, art, myth, legend and music, and sacred artifacts and talismans. They hold knowledge of sacred sites and the spirits that dwell there. They communicate with plants and animals and spirits.



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W I T C H
C R A F T
I N
N E P A L

Witchdoctors play a big role in rural Nepal. Although the kind they practice might shock you.



REPORTEDLY, THERE WAS A WOMAN IN CHITWAN WHO WAS ATTACKED BY A MOB AND STONED AND BURNED ALIVE IN FRONT OF HER TEN-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER...

AND THAT'S JUST ONE OF MANY.

Witchdoctors play a big role in rural Nepal. Although the kind they practice might shock you.

Witchcraft in Nepal tends to go over to the dark side. As you know, there's white magick and black magick...

...and they show you that no good could come from dabbling in dark magick.

The witchcraft doctors heal by driving out evil spirits but they also communicate with evil spirits.

In the name of healing someone from a sickness, the witchdoctors take to child sacrifices.

CHILD RITUAL SACRIFICES

In the southern areas of Nepal, ritual sacrifices of more children have occurred at the hands of shaman trainees who need to shed the blood of children, as a form of sacrifice, to gain mystical knowledge!

Child sacrifices were perhaps little known also to locals in Nawalparasi until it took place in July 2016.

Kodai Harijan, 35, was trying to find a cure for his ailing teenage son. When nothing else would help, he called a witchdoctor who made an evil spirit who was living in his son speak and state its demands...

...the evil spirit declared that it could only be "pacified with human flesh."

Kodai was desperate to save his son and to satisfy the evil spirit. Assisted by the witchdoctor and two relatives, he lured the neighbor's son over and sacrificed him to the evil spirit.

It is scary, isn't it?

BURNING OF WITCHES

Witchdoctors get burned in Nepal. Others get mobbed and stoned too (there are also reports of torture). There are also plenty of women also get wrongfully accused of practicing witchcraft.

Reportedly, there was a woman in Chitwan who was attacked by a mob and stoned and burned alive in front of her ten-year-old daughter...

...and that's just one of many.

FALSE ACCUSATIONS

Another woman was charged for being a witch in the village of Karahiya-1, Rupandehi.

A man around 30 usually of good behavior started to act mad.

The villagers started to think of the witches as the main cause. They decided to invite a witchdoctor for his cure.

He tied up the man using a leather cord and tortured him by inserting his fingers in both ears. He said the blood was not his but from the evil within.

The witchdoctor asked the man to point to the witch responsible for his madness...


...the man pointed to a woman in the crowd - a neighbor.

The woman accused for being the witch was close to the man. She wept. She was falsely accused of being a witch.

Since then, the community ostracized her and treated her badly.




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WITCHCRAFT IN THE PHILIPPINES



Witches who practice black magick in the Philippines are called mangkukulam. “Kulam” means to curse or hex or bewitch. It is a dark form of sorcery and the witches practicing this are feared by many. Some wear diamonds to make them immune to kulam.

Kulam flourishes in the rural areas of Philippines and co-exists with Catholicism. While the good witches use prayers to invoke the good spirits, the black witches are associated with the evil and the devil.

Kulam as Revenge

Apart from casting spells on victims, the mangkukulam also offers services to the villagers to teach cheating spouses a lesson or to seek revenge on someone who has stolen from them or ruined their reputation.

This usually happens in areas where the people feel the justice system will just fail them or cannot be bothered with.

The mangkukulam can also function as a faith healer or witch doctor curing the people of sicknesses they believe are brought about by the local spirits or wood nymphs.

But it's not all dark. They also cast love spells to make someone fall in love with you.

Where can you find them?

Mangkukulams usually come from the islands of Samar and Siquijor, Western Samar and Sorsogon province.

Until now, natives from these areas are viewed suspiciously by people and are believed to practice or know a thing or two about kulam.

But, these places are also well known for their numerous “faith healers.” Some see these places as healing places, especially Siquijor.

Interview with Mangkukulam

In one interview with a mangkukulam, he explained the purpose of kulam, which is to restore “balance” in the world.

He believes he is giving power to the victims of injustice and which also deters people from doing injustices. Mangkukulams help the oppressed and they will help cast spells on those people who oppress them.

He gave the example of an

abused and battered wife who was abandoned by her husband for another woman; and another of a poor person wronged by someone rich and powerful.

He defends his witchcraft as a way of seeking redress for injustice. Anyone who is suffering because of the evil actions of others may seek their revenge through kulam. It is the great equalizer.

He says that the power to cast away or punish or direct evil spirits using unseen forces is accessible to mankind since time immemorial, and it's nothing new.

To be clear, he says that a true mangkukulam will not use this power to hurt good people.

How the Mangkukulam works

The mangkukulam explained how he makes potions and casts spells. The potions are made from ingredients such as black candles, sea anemones, herbs, plants, sap of trees, powdered stones, bones, corals and oils.

The mangkukulam enhances the strength of the potion through prayers and incantations recited during certain days and under certain moon phases.





pharto





WITCHCRAFT IN AMERICA

Today, the term “witch” is used to describe the nearly 1 million Americans who practice paganism.

The term “pagan” is now used a giant catchall for people who practice a nature-worshipping and polytheistic religion.

Here we talk about a witch on the East coast and another on the West coast of the United States.

MANY WITCHES ARE STILL IN THE BROOM CLOSET

Many witches keep their magic lives quiet and prefer to remain in the broom closet, coming out only to friends and fellow believers for fear of losing their jobs and being ridiculed.

Especially those who live in predominantly Christian communities in the South or those who work with children.

WITCHES IN THE BAY AREA

Morpheus is from the Bay Area and she is a witch who works for the government during the day, and at night, a priestess who sings to the moon.

She dragged crushingly heavy stones down dirt roads to build a henge to honor Morrigan, the Celtic goddess of war.

She and her husband oversaw the “Stone City,” one of the only major pagan sanctuaries in the Bay Area.

According to Morpheus, pagans, male and female, find the “craft” in many ways. She found hers while rebelling against an evangelical upbringing.

At a time when she was frustrated by the limitations of the Catholic Church, she wandered into a local occult bookstore...

....and nothing was ever the same since.

WITCHES IN NEW YORK

Liz Pressman has been a witch for 42 years.

She was forthcoming about her beliefs and when she was working at an invest-





ment bank but when a colleague complained about her goddess pendant, she was let go from her job. “Listening to the human resources manager, I could hardly believe my ears,” Liz said.

The pain stayed with Liz for awhile. If that experience taught her anything, it’s to keep her faith under wraps, rather than risk losing relationships and jobs.

Two decades after the traumatizing experience, Liz became empowered to declare that she’s a Wiccan high priestess. Hiding was too painful for her to bear.

Plus, she sees Wicca and witchcraft entering the mainstream and reaching millennials. You see it in current movies and the sale of magickal items like crystal balls, pentacles, and tarot card decks in different shops in New York.

“This is my religion and I need to do this.”

The millennials who grew up on Harry Potter became interested in witchcraft and learned about the feminist pagan religion that worships Mother Earth and uses plants and trees to heal our bodies and souls.

Liz now proudly wears pentacles around her neck, puts on sacred oils and openly talk about her beliefs. But it’s not all fun. In the process, she lost two of her best friends from high school and a college friend gave her a book about finding Jesus and wished her the best.

While casting a circle in Inwood Park, they were disturbed by rangers concerned because I was drawing a pentacle in the air with a dagger. To which she claimed her First Amendment rights while adding: “This is my religion and I need to do this.”

Her group was told to leave the park.

Like a true Wiccan, Liz only uses her powers for good, performing love, healing, money, and luck spells; followed by banishing spells and blessings.



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WITCHCRAFT IN ENGLAND

HARRY POTTER
Author: J. K. Rowling
Country: United Kingdom
Language: English
The books chronicle the adventures of a young wizard, Harry Potter, and his friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, as they battle the evil Lord Voldemort. The series follows Harry's journey from his orphaned state to his discovery of his magical heritage and his role in the wizarding world, culminating in his final battle with Voldemort.

ND



Daniel Jacob Radcliffe
Born: 23 July 1989



Rupert Alexander Lloyd Grint
Born: 24 August 1988

TER
meeting
Kingdom
in
one of the appropriate
with Ron Weasley
The central story arc
and where Lord
in his quest to conquer
wants to subjugate the
the

If America had its own witchcraft trials in Massachusetts, so did Europe - here we reference the Pendle witch trials of the same period.

Until now, the Pendle witch trials helps bring in over £85m to the local economy each year.

10 people being hanged for witchcraft in 1612.

Modern Day Witches in Pendle

A 38-year-old witch known as Myrddin is the head of a witches' coven in Chorley, Lancashire, a little more than 30 miles from Pendle.

They don't do anything sinister like Devil worship and they do not make human or animal sacrifices.

In his words: "We honour, revere and give thanks to nature. We celebrate the seasons. It's not all blood and gore. In spring, we celebrate life and rebirth then in the winter, decay and death to make way for new life."

According to Myrddin, even 400 years later, prejudice against witches still exists. This is the reason why their practices are hidden and kept a secret. They do not practice in view of the public, neither do their celebrations.

Witchcraft school

Myrddin wears a cloak and heads up a magickal working group practicing traditional witchcraft which includes druidry, shamanism and wicca.

Myrddin has a day job, which does not interfere with his spiritualism. He honors ev-

ery living thing and the world we live in.

Since he was a child, he'd always had an affinity with nature. From a very young age, he could feel the magick in Nature.

It was only when he got older that he knew what to call his beliefs - Paganism.

Fearful witches

The coven celebrates eight Celtic festivals across the year and the moon cycles in the Lancashire countryside centred around a campfire.

What do they do? They eat, drink and be merry.

Hazel Woods, of the Pagan Federation, said there are witches of all social classes and occupations but many still fear expressing their beliefs.

Kathy Rowan-Drewitt, 51, hid her beliefs until she reached the age of 30 and divorced her husband. She then became free to follow her dreams and joined the Pagan Federation.

She now runs her own witch school and has taught more than 60 witches. She said: "We use spells to do good. We never do nasty spells. They're always so life takes a better turn like getting promotions or solving problems."

According to her, many hide their beliefs from their families and friends for fear of being thought of as weird.

According to wiccan priestess, the times may have changed but we are still misrepresented and treated as a joke by the media. But most people have done spells without realizing it.

When you gather round a birthday cake and blow out candles and make a wish. You raise energy, focus and make a wish and don't tell anyone what it is - in essence it is magick.





WITCHES OF THE CARRIBEAN

Certain elements of ceremonies are secret and take place behind closed doors. Most services involve animal sacrifice of some kind.



A popular adage has it that Haiti is 90 percent Catholic, 10 percent Protestant and 100 percent voodoo.

Followers believe in that you can only communicate with God through spirits.

Some of their pantheon are:

1. **Iwa**, from Damballah, the snake that created the world
2. **Ezili Freda** the female spirit of love
3. top-hatted Baron **Samedi**, who is the keeper of cemeteries

Prayer, song and drumming are all used to summon different lwa in ceremonies. Sometimes, Iwa even takes temporary possession of members, and from them, the others ask for advice, healing or blessings.

Ceremonies are heady affairs, with plenty of music and rum, and often run until dawn.

Voodoo

Voodoo temples are often hidden, unlike a Sunday church service.

If you want to attend a ritual, it should be possible. Most voodoo practitioners welcome tourists so that they gain a more positive view of the practice back home.

You should treat the priest called a houngan or mambo with respect by offering a gift.


Certain elements of ceremonies are secret and take place behind closed doors. Most services involve animal sacrifice of some kind.

The most common animal being a chicken. They believe the killing of an animal will release life, and the lwa used this to rejuvenate themselves.

Ceremonies start at night and often last until dawn.

Haiti's Day of the Dead

One of Haiti's big festivals is the Fet Gédé, which is Haiti's Day of the Dead. This is just like our Samhain.



Cemeteries across the country are cleaned and decorated, and voodoo practitioners gather to honor the dead and invoke Baron Samedi and his wife Maman Brigitte.

The Gédé spirits possess practitioners and the practitioners become provocative and sexually charged.

Jamaica's Obeah

Jamaica's Obeah has a similar belief system and is widely practiced in rural areas as a form of sympathetic magick.

Obeah is practiced in The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, The Virgin Islands, and other Caribbean nations

You will see pharmacies all about the island selling unusual candles, soaps and paraphernalia for spells to appease or ward off the spirits.

Cuban Santeria

Santería is a lot more widespread and openly practiced in Cuba. It is called "the worship of saints."

In the past, Cuban slaves would congregate on a weekly basis to worship the spirit gods of Oloddumare and the Orishas. They believe it's through the spirit gods that mortals can communicate with the higher God.

Babalawaos or priests even teach other people, including tourists about Santeria.





WITCHCRAFT IN MEXICO

*The white witches do good and the
black witches cast spells of revenge and payback.*



In Mexico, there are Brujas Blancas (white witches) and Brujas Negra's (black witches). The white witches do good and the black witches cast spells of revenge and payback.

Curanderas are what you would call witch doctors in Mexico. A curandera can be both a spell caster and a witch doctor.

If you drive down a street in Mexico and see a line of people outside a house, you can figure people lining up outside the house of a curandera.

A curandera and consulted throughout the day with various clients; reading fortunes with a set of tattered tarot cards, offering advice on love, money, family affairs, herbal cures and "cleansing" potions.

WITCHCRAFT FOR REVENGE

In Mexico, people tend to blame any misfortune on someone casting a spell on them. It creates a lot of animosity.

JOEL'S STORY

Joel is a good father and husband; that is, he takes care of his family. Less than two years ago he became ill. He spent a great deal of time in bed and spent a lot of money on doctors and medicines.

The doctors were not able to diagnose his sickness. He was losing weight and almost bedridden. Driving a car, he would have to pull over to the side of the road because of dizziness.

His condition only got worse and his brother suggested that he see a curandera who also practiced witchcraft.

Joel is a religious person and did not take to the idea. In a moment of desperation, he finally gave in. When they visited the curandera, he was told that someone was probably paying someone else to cast a spell on him. Joel was advised to wear red socks and underwear, both inside-out.

Joel did as he was told. He also wore a cross around his neck using a red cord. For a time, things started to get better until Joel had a violent attack at the supermarket.

As it turns out, Joel started wearing a black cord instead of the red cord he was advised to wear.

The curandera asked him: "Do you want me to transfer the spell to the one responsible for casting it?"

Joel didn't want to harm anyone and said no. A few days later, a neighbor died and brought Joel's sickness along with him.

Scary, isn't it?

Until now, Joel wonders whether it had something to do with his case.







WITCHCRAFT IN SAUDI ARABIA

Twenty-seven people accused of witchcraft were executed in 2010. The human rights group said the number of executions in Saudi Arabia has almost tripled in 2011. A total of 215 people were arrested in 2012 for practicing witchcraft.





Fear of witchcraft is so prevalent in Saudi Arabia that the government set up an 'anti-witchcraft unit' in the country's police back in 2009.

Twenty-seven people accused of witchcraft were executed in 2010. The human rights group said the number of executions in Saudi Arabia has almost tripled in 2011. A total of 215 people were arrested in 2012 for practicing witchcraft.

According to the US-based Pew Research Center, "substantial numbers of Muslims continue to believe in the existence of witchcraft," although the level of this belief varies according to region and culture.

Arrested for Witchcraft

Two women in al-Raed, Riyadh were arrested for practicing witchcraft -- the first one for photocopying images and the second one for providing the images -- after a video went viral on social media of a woman trying to photocopy images of talismans in a shop.

The two women are currently in custody and have been charged by the Bureau of Investigation and Prosecution.

A video of the shop owner telling off the woman about magic and saying it was illegal while she was printing out the copies of talismans.

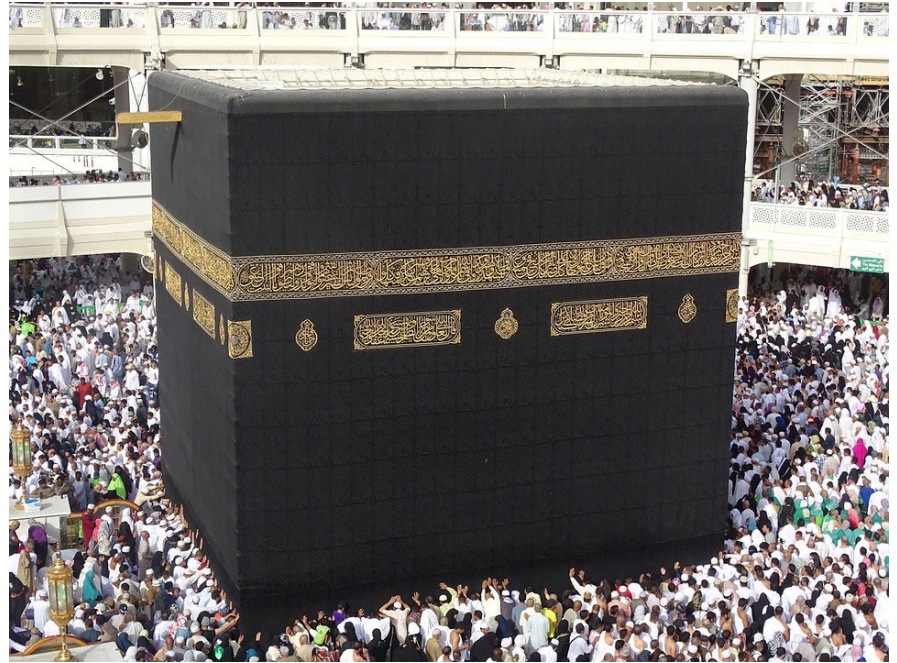
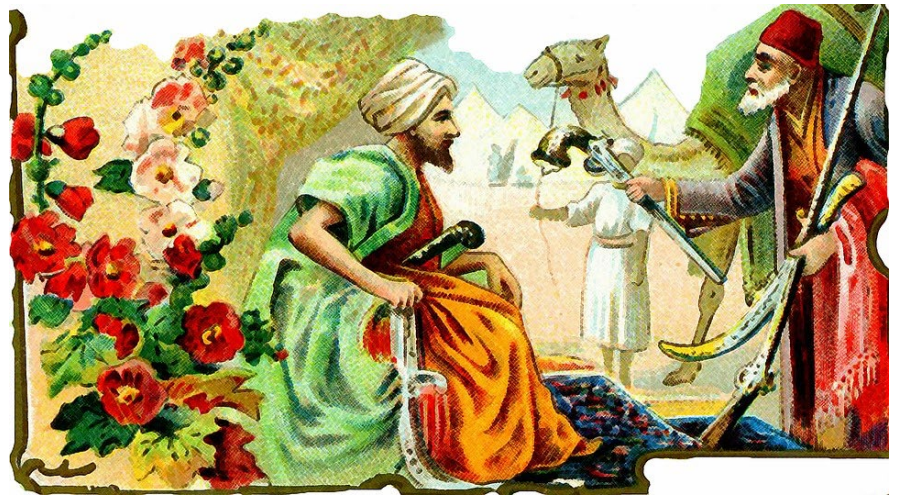
The shop owner proceeded to tell her that he will not allow photocopying of such in his shop. The woman can begged the shop owner not to report her to police.

The charge of practicing witchcraft can result in the death sentence in Saudi Arabia.

Beheaded For Witchcraft charges

In 2012, a man named Muree bin Ali bin Issa al-Asiri, was found in possession of books and talismans. He had also admitted to adultery with two women.

He was sentenced to be beheaded for his offenses. Yet no details were given of what he was found guilty of beyond the charges of witchcraft and sorcery.



The execution took place in the southern Najran province, despite the condemnation of Human rights groups.

Mr Asiri was beheaded after his sentence was upheld by the country's highest courts.

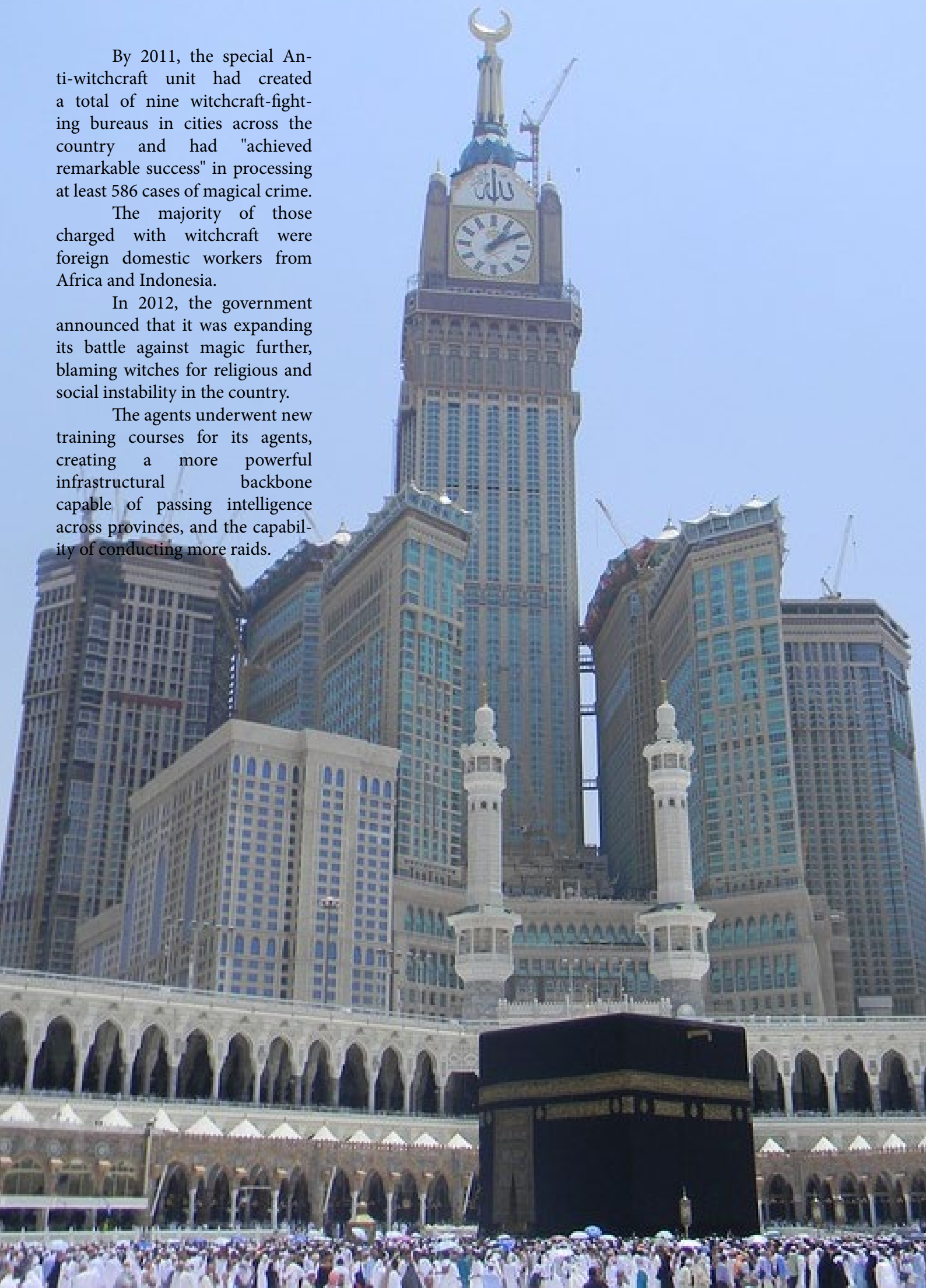
By 2011, the special Anti-witchcraft unit had created a total of nine witchcraft-fighting bureaus in cities across the country and had "achieved remarkable success" in processing at least 586 cases of magical crime.

By 2011, the special Anti-witchcraft unit had created a total of nine witchcraft-fighting bureaus in cities across the country and had "achieved remarkable success" in processing at least 586 cases of magical crime.

The majority of those charged with witchcraft were foreign domestic workers from Africa and Indonesia.

In 2012, the government announced that it was expanding its battle against magic further, blaming witches for religious and social instability in the country.

The agents underwent new training courses for its agents, creating a more powerful infrastructural backbone capable of passing intelligence across provinces, and the capability of conducting more raids.





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