

# Wikinews

March 3, 2009

<b>Exclusive Interview</b> Australia's Socialist Alliance about the Upcoming Queensland Election	<b>Football</b> Melbourne Victory wins A-League grand Final
---	--

## President of Guinea-Bissau assassinated

According to officials, João Bernardo Vieira, the president of Guinea-Bissau, was shot to death on Monday in his palace by renegade soldiers.

"President Vieira was killed by the army as he tried to flee his house which was being attacked by a group of soldiers close to the chief of staff Tagme Na Waie, early this morning," Zamora Induta, a military spokesman, said to Agence France-Presse, insisting that "this was not a coup d'etat." "We reaffirmed our intention to respect the democratically elected power and the constitution of the republic," he said. "The people who killed President Vieira have not been arrested, but we are pursuing them. They are an isolated group. The situation is under control." Induta also said that the president was "taken down by bullets fired by these soldiers," and that afterwards they looted his home. "They were taking everything they could carry, his personal belongings, the furniture, everything," Induta said.



João Bernardo Vieira  
Author: Roosevelt Pinheiro/PR

The assassination is believed to be a revenge for a bomb blast that killed one of Vieira's rivals, the army chief of staff General Batista Tagme Na Waie, just a few hours earlier. The constitution says that the nation's parliament chief, Raimundo Pereira, is to succeed Vieira in the case of his death.

Jean Ping, the chief executive of the African Union, said that the assassination of the president was a "criminal act".

Guinea-Bissau, located on the western coast of Africa, has had a history of coups, and is one of the world's poorest countries. It is notorious as being a transit point for the cocaine trade between Europe and South America.

João Bernardo Vieira, born in 1939, came to power in Guinea-Bissau during a coup in 1980, but was forced out in 1999 when a civil war started. In 2005, he returned from his exile in Portugal to participate in the nation's elections, and won the vote.

### Wikinews contacts

Wikinews mailing list at [wikinews-l@lists.wikimedia.org](mailto:wikinews-l@lists.wikimedia.org)  
Accredited Reporters / News Tips – [scoop@wikinewsie.org](mailto:scoop@wikinewsie.org)

## Broadcaster Paul Harvey dies

American radio broadcaster Paul Harvey has died at the age of 90. Harvey died while at his home in Phoenix, Arizona on Saturday, February 28. According to reports, his family and friends were by his side at the time of his death. The cause of Harvey's death has not yet been released.

Harvey was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. His radio career started in 1933 at KVOO

Tulsa, while he was in high school. His initial job was cleaning the station and later went to fill in on air for reading news and commercials. He was best known for his *The Rest of the Story* program.

Harvey was credited with coining several words on his broadcasts, including *Reaganomics* and *Guesstimate*. He was inducted into the



Paul Harvey receiving Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005

National Radio Hall of Fame in 1990 and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2005.

In a written statement ABC Radio Networks president Jim Robinson said "Paul Harvey was one of the most gifted and beloved broadcasters in our nation's history. As he delivered the news each day with his own unique style and commentary, his voice became a trusted friend in American households."

Former president George W. Bush in a statement condoled Harvey's death by saying "Laura and I are saddened by the death of Paul Harvey. Paul was a friendly and familiar voice in the lives of millions of Americans. His commentary entertained, enlightened, and informed. Laura and I are pleased to have known this fine man, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family."

## Australian football: Melbourne Victory win A-League grand final

Melbourne Victory has won the A-League Grand Final against Adelaide United at the Telstra Dome. Melbourne came into the match with a 6-0 (2-0, 4-0) win over Adelaide United in their two legged semi final. Adelaide United came into the match with a win against Queensland Roar in the preliminary final. The A-League uses the Page playoff system where the winner of the major semi final (1st vs. 2nd) qualifies for the grand final, while the loser plays the winner of the minor semi final (3rd vs. 4th) for the remaining place.

Melbourne midfielder Tom Pondeljak scored the only goal for the match with a long range strike on sixty minutes.

Adelaide were reduced to ten men after ten minutes when Cristiano landed a clumsy elbow to the head of an opposing player. Melbourne was reduced to ten

men twenty minutes from time when Danny Allsopp was sent off due to a late fracas.

"It was a great performance. Adelaide were great, they pushed us right to the death but I think we deserved it," Melbourne captain Kevin Muscat said. "Down to 10 men it was a very difficult game for us but the amount of courage and heart the boys showed tonight to get through the game and keep fighting to the end was fantastic. I couldn't ask any more."

"It's one of those things I guess, it changed the game, but what can you do about it now?" Adelaide Captain Travis Dodd told Fox Sports after the match. "We worked hard to keep it scoreless until half-time, to keep our discipline and keep our shape and keep doing what we were doing."

## Wikinews interviews the Socialist Alliance about the upcoming Queensland State election

With a Queensland state election coming up in Australia, many minor parties will be looking to hold balance of power and making the major parties listen to what they have to say. The Socialist Alliance (SA) is one of these parties.

SA is a left-wing political party. There stated describes itself as an anti-capitalist party which believes in "a democratic society that is run by and for working people, not the tiny, greedy, destructive elite that now rules."

It should be noted that SA is not registered for Queensland elections due to what they describe as "restrictive rules for registration." Their candidates will run as independents. They are, however, registered for federal elections and elections in other states.

Queensland's unicameral parliament is up for election on March 21. The election campaign will run for a total of 26 days following the issue of the writs by Governor Penelope Wensley.

Wikinews held an exclusive interview with the SA. Answering on behalf of the party was Queensland State Governor Paul Benedek.

### **Wikinews: Why do you want to get into parliament?**

Paul Benedek: For Socialist Alliance, parliament is only one aspect of social change. Our primary focus is building up community action and people's power, because we believe that such grassroots action is essential to social change, as history has shown from struggles for the vote for women to civil liberties to the campaign against the [sic] Vietnam War. However, having a socialist in parliament would be a huge asset for such struggles. Having someone who speaks uncompromisingly for the oppressed and voiceless - working people, the unemployed, students, Indigenous people - in the "parliamentary pit" would help expose the lack of democracy in a

parliamentary system that favours those with wealth and resources. It would boost the resources and media profile for socialist solutions.

### **Wikinews: What are the three main policies you will take into this election?**

**Paul Benedek:** *1. Free public transport & mass investment in renewables to address the climate emergency.* Unbelievably, the current government is looking to triple coal production in the biggest coal exporting state, in the biggest coal exporting country in the world! Meanwhile, the only solution we have to atrocious traffic and car dependence is...more roads, more tunnels, more bridges! Socialist Alliance says we need free public transport to get cars off the road, and provide quality alternatives to all people, regardless of wealth. In the Belgian city of Hasselt, free public transport saw an 800% increase in usage in one year! Socialist Alliance says move on renewable energy rather than more coal mines, and provide retraining for fossil fuel workers in green jobs.

*2. Bailout people and communities, not corporations.* With the worst economic crisis since the 1930s Great Depression, working people are being hit hard - and its going to get worse. The major parties are united in wanting to bail out business - but it's their 'profits before all else' focus that has caused this disaster. Socialist Alliance says we need to defend communities not profits, supporting workers, investing in public housing, health and education. With Sam Watson running in South Brisbane, we will also have an emphasis on justice for Aboriginal people.

*3. Make government genuinely accountable to the people.* We are seeing a LNP "opposition" with big business's hands all over it, and the Labor Government which charges thousands of

dollars to sit down with Ministers for lunch. Socialist Alliance call for an end to this undemocratic farce. We need community referenda, not fake "consultation". An end to cronyism and private factional deals and manipulation. Fixed of government to prevent manipulation for self-interested gain.

**Wikinews: How will you address these policies?**

**Paul Benedek:** These are policies that Socialist Alliance fights for on a daily basis, and helps to build movements for. We publish the progressive newspaper Green Left Weekly ([www.greenleft.org.au](http://www.greenleft.org.au)) which provides an excellent alternative to the corporate media. On the environment front, we are involved in the climate justice movement in Brisbane and around the country.

**Wikinews: Who will lead your party if you gain more than one or two seats in parliament?**

**Paul Benedek:** Socialist Alliance is a truly democratic organisation, with a collective leadership. A key spokesperson for our party would be Aboriginal activist Sam Watson (our candidate for South Brisbane).

**Wikinews: If you can't form government, who would you like to see do so?**

**Paul Benedek:** We want to see the most progressive government possible. We would like to see as many Greens elected as possible. We see both Labor and the LNP as big business parties that are almost like choosing between Coke and Pepsi! However, we generally favour Labor over the LNP, as being a slightly lesser evil.

**Wikinews: What should Queenslanders keep in mind, when heading to the polls?**

**Paul Benedek:** That choosing between "tweedledee" and "tweedledum" once every few years is not real democracy, and with the planet in peril, facing an economic meltdown, and all manner of social problems, we can't afford to leave society [sic] in the hands of the pro-corporate parties. No matter what the vote is, the struggle will continue in the communities, and while voting can be part of changing the world, its people's power that has always made the most important, progressive changes.

*Wikinews content is produced by volunteers. All text is released under the Creative Commons Attribution copyright licence. Images and other media maybe released under the same or similar licences.*