

Joe Biden signs anti-lynching bill in historic first

🕒 29 March



Mr Biden said: "Thank you for never giving up, never ever giving up.

"Lynching was pure terror to enforce the lie that not everyone, not everyone, belongs in America, not everyone is created equal."

More people in more places trust BBC News than any other news source.

[Register](#)

Register for a BBC account to see why.

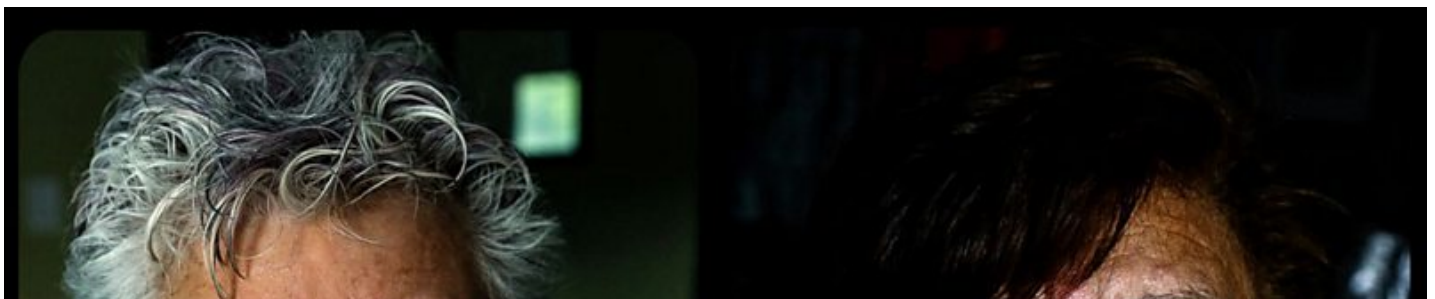
He added: "Racial hate isn't an old problem - it's a persistent problem. Hate never goes away. It only hides."

- **US shuts Emmett Till investigation without charges**

The bill was passed unanimously in the Senate earlier this month. The House had voted overwhelmingly in support of the legislation last month. Three Republicans voted no: Thomas Massie of Kentucky, Chip Roy of Texas and Andrew Clyde of Georgia. They argued that it was already a hate crime to lynch people in the US.

Lynching is murder by a mob with no due process or rule of law. Across the US, thousands of people, mainly African Americans, were lynched by white mobs, often by hanging or torture, in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

Some 4,400 African Americans were lynched between 1877 and 1950, according to the Equal Justice Initiative. Those who participated in lynchings were often celebrated and acted with impunity.





| Her ancestors enslaved mine. Now we're friends

"Lynching is a longstanding and uniquely American weapon of racial terror that has for decades been used to maintain the white hierarchy," the bill's sponsor, Illinois Congressman Bobby Rush, said ahead of its passage.

In 2020, following the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis, the House passed an earlier iteration of the bill, but it was blocked in the Senate.

Many racial justice advocates have described the death of Floyd, as well as the murder of Ahmaud Arbery - who was hunted down and shot by three white men in Georgia in 2020 - as modern-day lynchings.

What took so long?

By Chelsea Bailey, BBC News

One would be forgiven for thinking that lynching was already a hate crime in the United States. After all, it's been decades since Billie Holiday's haunting ballad, *Strange Fruit*, told of "black bodies swingin' in the Southern breeze", and mobs of white Americans no longer line up to take commemorative photos beneath hanging trees.

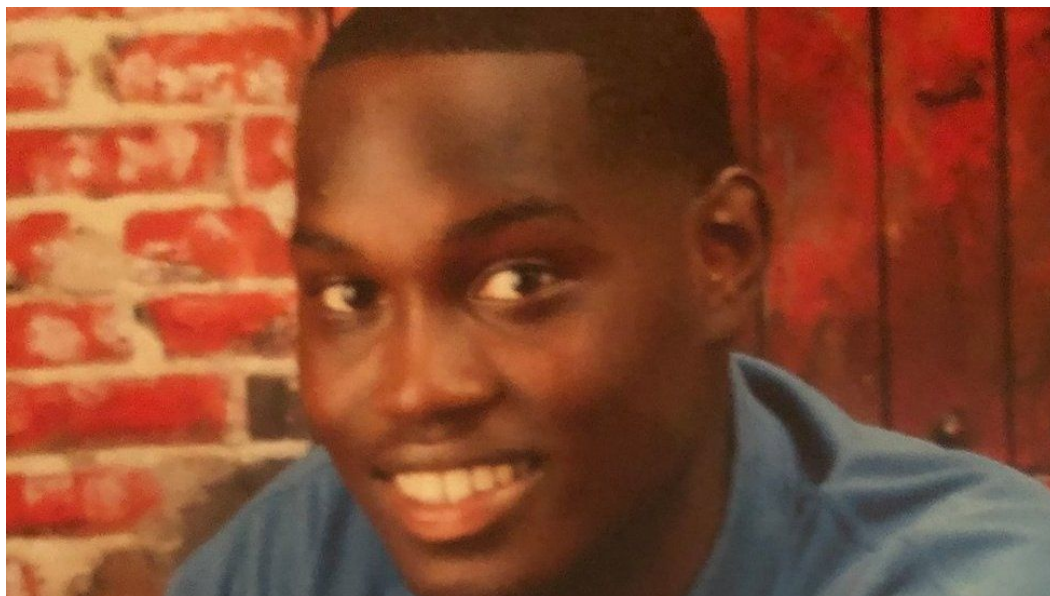
But that's exactly why the Emmett Till Antilynching Act is so significant. Lynchings may not look the same way they did in the past, but that doesn't mean they don't happen.

Many regard the murders of black Americans James Byrd Jr, Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd as modern-day lynchings.

The bill signed into law on Tuesday bears the name of a black teenager whose mother held an open-casket funeral to force the world to see the gruesome effect of racial violence in the US.

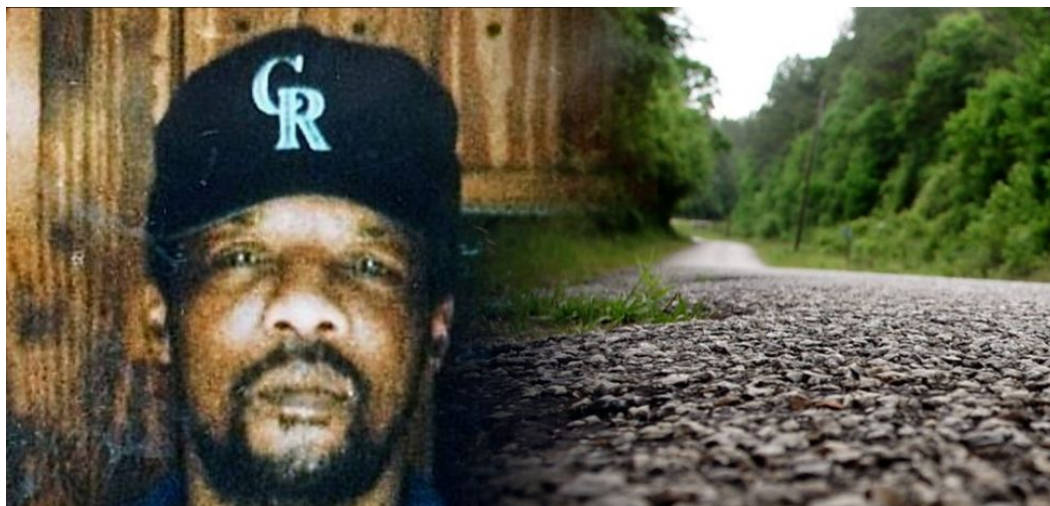
Sometimes, it can take more than a century.

More on this story



What a young jogger's murder exposes about America

8 August





Who was Emmett Till?

23 July 2013

Related Topics

Racism

US politics

Joe Biden

Recommendations by Taboola

BBC

What's at the bottom of China's mysterious giant sinkhole?

BBC

The earthquake that changed the course of history

BBC

The sad fate of a tree that changed the world

BBC

The 2,000-year-old 'skyscrapers' still puzzling archaeologists

30 Defunct Chains Americans Stopped Eating At

ADVERTISEMENT

MoneyWise.com | ADVERTISEMENT

The gift they will actually use

ADVERTISEMENT

Tile | ADVERTISEMENT

40 Of The Best Motorcycles Ever Built

ADVERTISEMENT

Brake For It | ADVERTISEMENT

Ocean Exploration Through the Decades

Travel through time and discover the important events and inventions in underwater exploration.

Before You Renew Amazon Prime, Read This

ADVERTISEMENT

Capital One Shopping | Sponsored

Keep losing your things? Use Tile to find them.

ADVERTISEMENT

Tile | ADVERTISEMENT

A Visual History of the Honda Civic

ADVERTISEMENT

Car & Driver | ADVERTISEMENT

Our Nuts Are Freshly Roasted To Order

ADVERTISEMENT

Nuts.com | ADVERTISEMENT

Shop Now

Engineer Buys Old Plane and Converts it Into a Home

ADVERTISEMENT

BridesBlush | ADVERTISEMENT

Maharashtra: Missing girl found after nine years recounts ordeal

bbc

Residents put through 'hell' by 'man cave' neighbour

Did you know you can view old yearbooks online?

ADVERTISEMENT

Reconnect with your graduating class by signing up on Classmates.com. Find your high school alumni, plan a reunion & view over 60 years' worth of yearbooks

Classmates | Sponsored

Groundbreaking Tool Keeps Up with Post-Covid Business Boom

ADVERTISEMENT

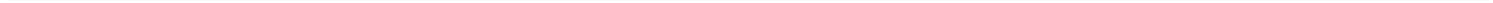
Thryv | ADVERTISEMENT

How Well Do You Know this California Icon?

ADVERTISEMENT

Visit California | ADVERTISEMENT

Learn More



Top Stories

Daughter of Putin ally killed in Moscow blast

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-60679930>

ADVERTISEMENT



Demi Lovato is back, and this time she's angry



Greece promotes smaller islands but locals are unconvinced



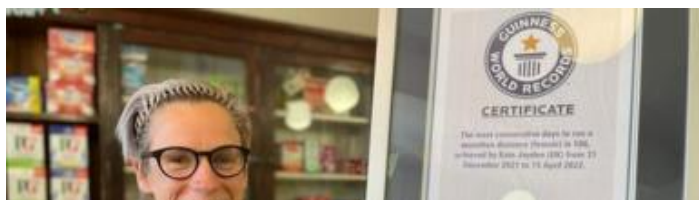
Missing girl found after nine years describes ordeal



The new sound of dance music sweeping the world

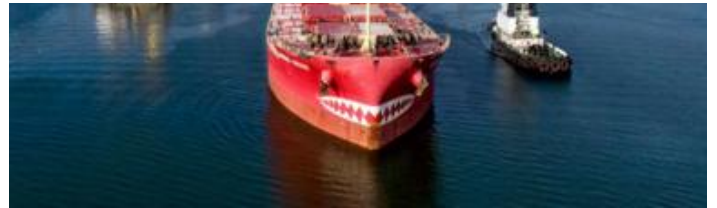


'Everything we get is through selling cannabis'





Peace at a price in the Taliban's heartlands



How much grain is being shipped from Ukraine?

Elsewhere on the BBC



Turkey's massive subterranean city



The language with no known origin



Why overthinkers struggle with remote work

- 4 Secure Ukraine nuclear sites, Western allies urge
- 5 Tyson Fury in knife plea after cousin's death
- 6 Map may show evidence of sunken Welsh kingdom
- 7 Singapore to end ban on gay sex
- 8 Demi Lovato is back, and this time she's angry
- 9 Somalia hotel siege ends leaving more than 20 dead
- 10 The pomp and celebrations as new Zulu king crowned

BBC News Services

On your mobile

On smart speakers

Get news alerts

© 2022 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. [Read about our approach to external linking.](#)