

## Netflix to film Garcia Marquez's '100 Years of Solitude'

Netflix said Wednesday it has acquired the film rights to "One Hundred Years of Solitude" by Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez and will turn it into a Spanish language TV series. Rodrigo Garcia and Gonzalo Garcia Barcha, the sons of the late Colombian author, "will serve as executive producers on the series, which will be filmed mainly in Colombia," the on-demand streaming giant said in a statement. "One Hundred Years of Solitude," considered a masterpiece that defined "magical realism" as a literary genre, was published in 1967. It centers around seven generations of the Buendia family in the fictional Colombian town of Macondo.

"For decades our father was reluctant to sell the film rights" to the book "because he believed that it could not be made under the time constraints of a feature film, or that producing it in a language other than Spanish would not do it justice," said Garcia. But

in the current "golden age" of TV series, with quality writing and directing "and the acceptance by worldwide audiences of programs in foreign languages, the time could not be better," he said. Garcia Marquez was a leading member of the "Latin American boom" of authors of the 1960s and 70s that included Nobel laureates Octavio Paz of Mexico and Mario Vargas Llosa of Peru.

"One Hundred Years of Solitude" has been translated into 46 languages and sold some 50 million copies worldwide. Netflix has had success with shows and movies that are fully or partially in Spanish, such as the series "Narcos" and their Oscar-winning feature film "Roma." Garcia Marquez, whose work includes "Chronicle of a Death Foretold" (1981) and "Love in the Time of Cholera" (1985), died in April 2014 at the age of 87. —AFP



In this file photo taken on May 30, 2007 Colombian author Gabriel Garcia Marquez, sitting with his wife Mercedes Barcha, is asked by admirers to dedicate them books, before boarding the train to his hometown Aracataca in Santa Marta, Colombia. —AFP photos

## TURKISH POP STAR'S CASE HIGHLIGHTS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

When Turkish pop star Sila reported her partner's physical violence to police, it was a rare moment in Turkish history: a celebrity speaking out against her abuse. Ahmet Kural, a famous actor, is accused of beating the singer, whose full name is Sila Gencoglu, in October. Kural's trial begins on Thursday in Istanbul, one day before International Women's Day, celebrated with a march in the metropolis, and rallies in other cities. For Sila's lawyer, Rezan Epözdemir, her case is a powerful moment for Turkish women since victims do not usually come forward.

Rights groups say Turkish laws to help protect victims have improved. But traditional patriarchal attitudes dominant in conservative society as well as a lack of awareness often prevent women from speaking out against abuse. "It is extremely significant that a woman who experienced violence freely sought her rights and took legal action, and for her case to be at the centre of debate," Epözdemir told AFP. Kural faces up to five years in jail for charges including actual bodily harm, which the television and film actor denies.

Activists say the number of Turkish women murdered by their partners is rising and more suffer physical or sexual abuse by partners or male relatives. In 2018, 440 women were killed in murders linked to their gender, according to the women's rights group We Will Stop Femicide, compared with 210 in 2012. Interior Minister Suleyman Soylu last November said 133,809 women had been victims of violence in 2017 while in the first 10 months of 2018, the number was 96,417.

A 2014 government study found 38 percent of Turkish women had been subjected to either physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lives. Canan Gullu, head of the Federation of Women Associations of Turkey (TKDF), said after Sila's action, there were "many more calls" to their emergency hotline from female victims of abuse empowered by the singer's actions. Gullu said more women had become aware of their rights and the law that protects them from violence. —AFP



## Zorba composer Mikis Theodorakis in hospital with 'heart problem'

Renowned Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis, who wrote the music for the classic 1964 film "Zorba the Greek", has been hospitalized in Athens for over a week after suffering heart problems, a hospital source said yesterday. Theodorakis, 93, was transferred on February 26 to the private Iatriko Kentro clinic in a northern suburb of the capital, the source said. The composer penned what is probably the best-known piece of Greek music, the theme tune to Zorba, an instrumental which is still played and danced to around the world.

He has been hospitalized several times in recent years due to heart problems, including in August last year. Local media said Theodorakis had been taken to hospital in "secrecy" last Wednesday and that his health was under control. The hospital source said an official update is due to be given on the state of Theodorakis's health. Theodorakis is also known in Greece as an icon of resistance against World War II Nazi Germany, as a militant communist in Greece's 1946-49 civil war and as an activist against the military junta that ruled Greece from 1967-74.

Theodorakis has remained a high-profile political campaigner, most recently protesting against the Greek government agreeing to the naming of the newly titled North Macedonia. In 2012 riot police used tear gas against him during an anti-austerity demonstration outside parliament. —AFP

## Singapore axes controversial Swedish metal band's gig

Singapore yesterday axed a gig by a Swedish metal band with Satanic beliefs—whose performances have involved throwing pig's blood onto revelers—just hours before it was due to go ahead. Regulators had initially granted permission for the concert by Watain, a group of black-clad, tattooed rockers, as long as they removed songs deemed religiously offensive from their performance. But they decided to cancel the show shortly before its scheduled start after advice from the conservative city-state's home affairs ministry.

The ministry "expressed serious concerns about the concert, given the band's history of denigrating religions and promoting violence, which has potential to cause enmity and disrupt Singapore's social harmony," said the Infocomm Media Development Authority, which regulates public entertainment. "Watain is known for its Satanist views and some of their previous controversial performances involved animal carcasses and throwing pig's blood on its audience," the statement added.

It said the band also "espouses anti-Christian views and advocates Satanism through their songs and endorses violence". Ethnically diverse Singapore has tough laws against criticizing religion or race to prevent a repeat of bloody race riots that rocked the country in the 1960s. Ahead of the event, an online petition was posted on the website change.org calling on the government to ban Watain as they "do not represent the culture which we want in our youths".

The petition said that "subliminal messages in their songs include death and suicide". Some online commentators were angered by the ban, saying that people should be allowed to make up their own minds about the group, but others welcomed it. "Just looking at the stage is enough to tell this is a Satanic performance," wrote Wilkie Ong Keng Soon on the Facebook page of Singaporean broadcaster Channel News Asia, adding the ban was the "right thing to do". —AFP

