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Cabo Verde in World Cup spotlight. 5 prominent Cape Verdeans in Mass.



Janson McNair
The Enterprise

June 20, 2026, 5:04 a.m. ET



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Watch Brockton celebrate Cape Verde's stunning World Cup upset

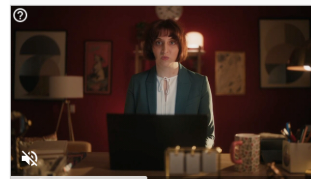
See Brockton residents take to the streets to celebrate after Cape Verde tied Spain against all odds in Cabo Verde's first ever World Cup game.

After an electric World Cup debut, Cabo Verde was put on the map, garnering national attention after holding Spain to a scoreless draw.

Brockton streets [erupted](#) in celebration following the win, as the city is home to nearly 20,000 Cape Verdeans residents, the most of any city in the United States.

Located off the coast of [West Africa](#), Cabo Verde has a population of around 500,000. There are more than 70,000 people of Cape Verdean

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Brockton World Cup celebration left at least 5 people shot, 1 stabbed

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descent in Massachusetts.

With such a healthy population, Cape Verdeans are making their mark in the Bay State. Here's a few prominent figures with Cape Verdean roots making an impact in the area:



State Sen. Liz Miranda holds up the Cape Verdean flag ahead of the Boston Legacy FC match on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, during Cape Verdean Heritage Night at Gillette Stadium. Sam Pausman/The Enterprise

Senator Liz Miranda

Senator Liz Miranda serves the Massachusetts Senate's 2nd Suffolk district. She assumed office in January of 2023.

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"In the Legislature, Senator Miranda has advanced a bold agenda focused on closing the racial wealth gap and expanding opportunity," according to her [campaign website](#). "Her work spans health equity, environmental justice, housing, voting rights, and economic development. She authored landmark legislation establishing Environmental Justice population designations in Massachusetts and helped secure equity and workforce inclusion in the state's clean energy and offshore wind industries."

Miranda's parents are [Cape Verdean](#), and she is from the Roxbury area.

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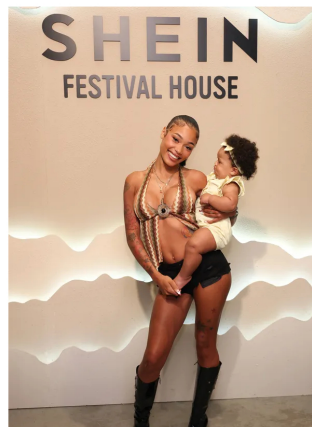
Cape Verde World Cup celebrations and chaos in Brockton

- Police ask public to ID suspects tied to Brockton World Cup shootings
- Security increased for Brockton World Cup watch parties at Campanelli
- Update: Brockton cops confirm 5 shot, 1 stabbed amid World Cup chaos
- 📸 See Brockton fans jump for joy at Cape Verde's 2nd World Cup stunner
- 📸 See Brockton's impromptu parade celebrating Cabo Verde's stunning draw
- Cabo Verde stuns with World Cup draw against Spain
- At least 9 arrested after Cape Verde fans take over Brockton streets

Coi Leray

[Coi Leray](#) is a rapper and singer from the Boston area. Her Cabo Verdean heritage comes from her father's side, as he is Cabo Verdean as well as Puerto Rican.

"The past few years have been a whirlwind for Coi. The Boston-born and New Jersey raised star first cracked the Top 30 of the Billboard Hot 100 at the start of 2021 with her RIAA Certified Platinum hit single 'No More Parties,' making her late-



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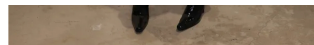
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night television debut by performing the track on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," according to her [iMdb](#) profile. " By the Spring of '21, Coi graced the cover of XXL Magazine as part of their coveted Freshman class, racking up award nominations everywhere-from Favorite Female Hip-Hop Artist at the 2021 American Music Awards to Best Female Hip-Hop Artist and Best New Artist at the 2021 BET Awards."

She's collaborated with artists including Chief Keef, Lil Tecca and Nicki Minaj.



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA - MARCH 24: Coi Leray attends the SHEIN Festival House on March 24, 2026 in Los Angeles, California. (Photo by Monica Schipper/Getty Images for SHEIN) Monica Schipper, Getty Images For SHEIN



Sabura Summer Camp co-founders Aminah Fernandes Pilgrim and Leny Monteiro listen as a few of their young counselors recount what it's like to work with the kids in Brockton on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. Mark Jarret Chavous/The Enterprise

Aminah Pilgrim

[Aminah Pilgrim](#) is an associate professor in the Africana Studies department at the Berklee College of Music.

"She joined Berklee's Liberal Arts and Sciences Department in 2020, teaching African American Women's History and Hip-Hop History and Context," according to the school's [website](#). "Her areas of research include late 19th- and 20th-century African American history, African American women's history, African diaspora studies, Cabo Verdean studies, critical education research, and hip-hop studies."

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Pilgrim is also a prominent community figure in the Brockton area, as she is the [co-founder](#) of Sabura Youth Programs in Brockton.

"Her community organizing and advocacy focuses on children, youth/gang violence, antiracist education, the school-to-prison pipeline, immigrant transitions, and women's empowerment," according to the [school](#). "She is

an advocate of teaching using civic engagement and has empowered many to make a difference in this field. She is the founder of HipHop Initiative (2004), cofounder of Sabura Youth Programs (2013), and cofounder of Poderosa, an international conference on Cabo Verdean women (2016)."

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Claire Andrade-Watkins

Claire Andrade-Watkins is a filmmaker and professor at [Emerson College](#).

"Historian/filmmaker Claire Andrade-Watkins, PhD, a second generation Cape Verdean American, is an interdisciplinary scholar of African and African American history with a focus on Cape Verdean American history, Post-colonial French and Portuguese-speaking African cinema, cinemas of the Africana diaspora, and Black American film/filmmakers," Emerson College said on its [website](#). "Dr. Andrade-Watkins is the first academic tenure track professor of color in the college, and the first Full Professor of color in Visual and Media Arts before migrating to the Institute for Liberal Arts & Interdisciplinary Studies."

Brockton Mayor Moises Rodrigues



Brockton Mayor Moises Rodrigues speaks at the NAACP Brockton Area Branch and Family and Community Resources, Inc.'s White Ribbon Event Thursday morning, May 14, 2026, at the Shaw's Center. The White Ribbon Campaign is the world's largest male-led movement working to end violence against women and girls. *Mark Jarret Chavous/The Enterprise*

Mayor Moises Rodrigues is Brockton's first mayor of color. Rodrigues is a Cape Verdean [immigrant](#), and he took office in January of this year.

"Moises M. Rodrigues has been a respected community leader in Brockton with over 25 years of experience in public administration, social services and local activism," the Mayor's Office said on its [website](#). "He served as Communications Director for the City of Brockton and was the city's first Black Interim Mayor during a time of emergency transition. Mayor

black interim mayor during a time of emergency transition. Mayor Rodrigues spent 13 years on the Brockton City Council."

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Rodrigues is currently facing a pair of complaints about interactions with students in the Brockton Public School system.

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GROUP A						
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South Korea	3	1	2	0	-1	3
Czech Republic	3	0	2	1	-4	1
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