

= Saido Berahino =

Saido Berahino (born 4 August 1993) is an English professional footballer who plays as a striker for Premier League club West Bromwich Albion .

Having fled his native Burundi as a child , he received political asylum in Birmingham , and credits football with helping him integrate into English society . Berahino joined West Bromwich Albion at the age of 11 and turned professional seven years later . He spent time out on loan at Football League clubs Northampton Town , Brentford and Peterborough United ; the latter two spells were ended prematurely by a feud with his manager Uwe Rösler , and a knee injury , respectively .

Berahino made his first starts for West Bromwich Albion in the 2013 ? 14 season , with highlights of that campaign including a hat @-@ trick against Newport County , and the winning goal at Old Trafford against Manchester United . In his second full season , he recorded 20 goals in 45 games across all competitions . Following that successful campaign , Berahino became involved in a lengthy transfer saga involving Tottenham Hotspur , straining his relationships with manager Tony Pulis and West Bromwich Albion chairman Jeremy Peace .

Berahino represented England at all youth levels from under @-@ 16 to under @-@ 21 , and was part of their under @-@ 17 team which won the 2010 European Championship . He was called up for the first time to the senior team in November 2014 .

= = Early life = =

Born in Bujumbura , the capital of Burundi , Berahino played football as a child with a ball of plastic bags tied up with laces . His father was killed in 1997 during the Burundian Civil War . He travelled to England alone at the age of 10 , fleeing the ongoing war to join his mother , brother and sisters who had already been granted asylum in Newtown , Birmingham . He could not locate his family on arrival , and was put in a care home . After his mother Liliane was traced , immigration officials had to administer a DNA test to confirm their relationship .

Berahino attended Aston Manor School , where he gained ten GCSE certificates and competed in basketball and athletics in addition to football . His childhood friends included Ateeq Javid and Recordo Gordon , both of whom went on to play County Championship cricket for Warwickshire . Initially speaking only French and having played street football in his native Burundi , Berahino attributed his love for the sport with helping him integrate quickly into English society .

= = Club career = =

= = = West Bromwich Albion = = =

Berahino signed for the West Bromwich Albion Centre of Excellence in 2004 at under @-@ 12 level , joining from inner @-@ city team Phoenix United . He progressed through the youth system of the Baggies and in summer 2011 , he signed a professional contract with them .

= = = = Loans = = = =

On 20 October 2011 , Berahino joined League Two side Northampton Town on a one @-@ month loan deal . He made his professional debut for the Cobblers two days later in 2 ? 1 defeat to Bradford City at Valley Parade , playing the full 90 minutes . Three days after that , he scored his first senior goal against Hereford United , albeit in a 1 ? 3 home loss at Sixfields . His loan was extended twice , on 3 November and on 5 January 2012 . Two days after his first extension , Berahino scored twice away to Gillingham , a goal in each half of a 4 ? 3 loss . He ended his spell with 6 league goals in 14 appearances for Northampton , although they were struggling in League Two .

On 9 February 2012 , Berahino went out on loan again , this time at a higher level than before , by

joining League One side Brentford through to the end of the season . He made his debut five days later , replacing Marcus Bean at the end of a 2 ? 1 loss at Colchester United . In the next game , at Griffin Park on the 20th , he came on for Gary Alexander in the 28th minute and scored in each half of a 4 ? 0 win against Carlisle United . He also scored both goals in a 2 ? 0 win over Exeter City on 6 March , after which the club 's caretaker manager Alan Kernaghan praised him by saying : " Saido got the nod and he did well , but this was win [sic] built on a strong defensive performance as shown by another clean sheet . " Due to arguments with new manager Uwe Rösler , the loan spell with Brentford ended early and he returned to West Bromwich Albion on 3 April , having scored 4 goals in 8 appearances .

Berahino made his debut for West Brom as a substitute against Yeovil Town in a League Cup second round tie on 28 August 2012 , replacing Shane Long for the final six minutes of a 4 ? 2 away win .

He signed on loan for Championship club Peterborough United on 1 October , in a deal until 2 January 2013 . The following day , he made his debut in a 2 ? 0 win at Barnsley , replacing Emile Sinclair after 65 minutes . On 27 October , Berahino scored twice in a 3 ? 0 win over Derby County . At Peterborough United , manager Darren Ferguson said that Berahino would play more regularly . He played ten matches on his loan spell , which was cut short by a knee injury .

= = = = 2013 ? 14 season = = = =

At the start of the 2013 ? 14 season , manager Steve Clarke suggested that Berahino should become West Bromwich Albion 's main centre forward , instead of the club signing a new one . Of their strikers from the previous season , Romelu Lukaku had left for Everton and Peter Odemwingie had fallen out of favour at the club .

On 27 August 2013 he made his first start for West Brom in a League Cup tie against Newport County and scored a hat @-@ trick in a 3 ? 0 home win . He made his first league appearance for the Baggies when he came on as a substitute in a 2 ? 0 home defeat against Swansea City on 1 September 2013 , replacing Scott Sinclair for the last 15 minutes of the match . On 28 September , he replaced the injured Sinclair in the first half and scored his first Premier League goal , the winner in a 2 ? 1 win against Manchester United at Old Trafford . He scored again on 2 November , opening a 2 ? 0 home win over Crystal Palace . Berahino extended his contract with West Bromwich Albion on 2 December , committing him to the club until June 2017 .

Berahino scored the last goal of a 3 ? 3 draw away to West Ham United at the Boleyn Ground on 28 December . His penalty four days later won the match against Newcastle United , ending a 10 @-@ match streak without a win for the team , and on 26 April he again netted the only goal , to defeat West Ham at home .

= = = = 2014 ? 15 season = = = =

Berahino scored both of West Brom 's goals in their first game of the 2014 ? 15 Premier League season , a draw against Sunderland on 16 August 2014 . He scored twice more for the Baggies on 28 September , netting in either side of the half @-@ time whistle as West Brom defeated Burnley 4 ? 0 . He equalled his league tally from the previous season with a penalty in a 2 ? 1 loss to Liverpool on 4 October , having won the penalty after being fouled by Dejan Lovren .

On 20 October 2014 Berahino again scored against Manchester United , netting West Brom 's second in a home Premier League fixture which ended 2 ? 2 . He converted an added @-@ time penalty at The Hawthorns against Crystal Palace on 1 November to secure a draw with the same score . His good start to the season prompted the club to consider a new contract worth over £ 50 @,@ 000 per week , but discussion of it was put on hold in late November due to his arrest on suspicion of drink driving .

On 3 January 2015 in the FA Cup third round , Berahino scored four goals in a 7 ? 0 win against Gateshead . He did not celebrate any of these goals , which brought questions to new manager Tony Pulis who explained " you should go and see him in the dressing room , he 's more happy in

there " . Berahino later stated " I was just handling business and acting professionally and that 's it " .

In February 2015 , West Bromwich Albion abandoned their contract talks with Berahino , and said they would consider offers above £ 20 million to sell him at the end of the season . The club had been put off by his conduct , as well as an unauthorised interview with Sky Sports in which he declared that he was playing in order to get a transfer to a " bigger " club . On 11 February , Berahino scored his 10th goal of the Premier League season , and fifteenth overall , concluding a 2 ? 0 home win over Swansea City . Three days later , he scored the team 's final goal in a 4 ? 0 defeat of West Ham United to put the Baggies into the quarter @-@ finals of the FA Cup for the first time since 2008 . On 28 February , Berahino netted his 17th goal of the season across all competitions , scoring the only goal of the game after 72 seconds for a league victory against Southampton .

Away at Manchester United on 2 May , he conceded a penalty by handling Antonio Valencia 's cross , but Boaz Myhill saved from Robin van Persie and West Bromwich Albion won 1 ? 0 . Sixteen days later , Berahino scored twice in a 3 ? 0 win over recently crowned league champions Chelsea , the second goal was his 20th of the season , a penalty after he was fouled by John Terry . He finished the season with the club 's Player 's Player of the Year Award .

= = = 2015 ? 16 season = = =

In August 2015 , West Bromwich Albion rejected a bid estimated at £ 15 million for Berahino to sign for Tottenham Hotspur , with the club valuing him at £ 25 million . After the bids , Pulis left Berahino out of his squad for the game against Chelsea on 23 August , replacing him with new record signing José Salomón Rondón . When interviewed after the match , Pulis stated that Berahino was left out because previous events in the transfer market had been " disruptive " . The following day , the club rejected Berahino 's transfer request . After they rejected a fourth bid for the player on transfer deadline day , Berahino stated he was unhappy with the conduct of his club and wrote on Twitter that he would never play for the club again under chairman Jeremy Peace ; he was fined for these comments . On 7 September , Pulis told the press that all parties had reconciled , and that Berahino was training again as normal .

Berahino returned as a substitute for Albion in 0 ? 0 draw against Southampton on 12 September , receiving a mixed reception . He started a week later against local rivals Aston Villa , scoring the only goal of the game by deflecting James Morrison 's shot into the net . The following week against Everton , he opened the scoring and Albion went on to lead 2 ? 0 before eventually losing 2 ? 3 . After the international break , Berahino scored the only goal in home win against Sunderland on 17 October , exploiting a fumble by their goalkeeper Costel Pantilimon . From 31 October until the end of the calendar year , Berahino did not start a single game , with Pulis saying that " He 's lucky to be on the bench , never mind starting . He 's a smashing kid but lets himself down at times . "

In January 2016 , Berahino scored in a 2 ? 2 draw against Bristol City in the third round of the FA Cup , but did not appear in the squad for the replay . Pulis attributed this to an infection , and re @-@ stated that he wanted to keep the player at West Bromwich Albion by the end of the month 's transfer window . He returned for the next round on 30 January , scoring both goals in a 2 ? 2 home draw against former loan team Peterborough . The next day , Newcastle made a £ 21 million bid for the player . However , Berahino remained at West Bromwich Albion ; on 26 February he apologised for having threatened to strike . On 16 April , Berahino had two penalty kicks saved by Heurelho Gomes in a 1 ? 0 home loss to Watford .

Stoke City tabled an offer of £ 17 million , potentially rising to £ 20 million , for Berahino in July 2016 . West Bromwich Albion rejected that bid and an equal one from Crystal Palace .

= = International career = =

Regarding his allegiance in international football , Berahino said in 2013 :

Berahino made appearances at various youth levels for England . He represented England under

@-@ 17 as they won the 2010 European Championship in Liechtenstein , scoring the equaliser in the final group game as they came from behind to defeat Turkey 2 ? 1 . In 2012 , he represented the under @-@ 19 team at the European Championship in Estonia , helping them reach the semi @-@ finals before losing in extra time to Greece .

He was called up to the England under @-@ 21 squad for the first time for the match against Scotland on 13 August 2013 . He scored on his England under @-@ 21 debut on 6 September , a European qualifier against Moldova in his side 's 1 ? 0 win , this game was also Gareth Southgate 's first game in charge . Four days later , Berahino equalised for a 1 ? 1 draw against Finland in the next qualifier away in Tampere . On 15 October , Berahino scored twice in a 4 ? 0 qualifying win against Lithuania , taking his tally for the team to 4 goals in 3 games .

Berahino was yellow @-@ carded after the first of his two goals in a 3 ? 0 win against Finland under @-@ 21 in a European qualifier on 15 November 2013 , for lifting his shirt to reveal a message to his late father , who died in the Burundian Civil War . He was voted the 2014 Under @-@ 21 Player of the Year by fans , finishing ahead of Harry Kane with 16 % of the vote after a year in which he scored at a rate of a goal every other game , including three to help the team qualify for the European Championship . Berahino has the all @-@ time third @-@ highest goal tally for the England under @-@ 21 side with 10 goals in 13 appearances , behind Francis Jeffers and Alan Shearer .

On 6 November 2014 , England manager Roy Hodgson ? who promoted Berahino to the West Bromwich Albion first team in 2011 ? named Berahino in his squad for the first time , ahead of a UEFA Euro 2016 qualifying match against Slovenia at Wembley Stadium on the 15th and a friendly against Scotland at Celtic Park three days afterwards . Berahino did not take part in either of the senior England matches for which he was called up .

In March 2015 , Berahino was approached to represent his native Burundi at international level , a decision which can be taken as he has not played for England in a competitive senior international .

Berahino was named in the England under @-@ 21 squad for 2015 UEFA European Under @-@ 21 Championship in the Czech Republic but withdrew through injury on 18 June , to be replaced by Benik Afobe .

= = Style of play = =

In October 2013 , Berahino told The Daily Telegraph that the strikers he aims to emulate are Samuel Eto 'o , Didier Drogba and Jermain Defoe " because of their movement and the way they finish " .

When interviewed by BBC Sport in February 2015 , West Bromwich Albion manager Tony Pulis said that Berahino could be a " top class player " but that he needed " direction " .

Berahino 's England under @-@ 21 manager Gareth Southgate has said that he has an ability to create space on the pitch for his teammates , and has become physically and mentally stronger since he began working with him . West Bromwich Albion goalkeeper Ben Foster stated that Berahino is more committed in training than other players of his age , and follows a healthy diet . His former West Bromwich Albion teammate Steven Reid said that Berahino 's attitude to training improved as a result of dealing with two " turning points " , namely his expulsion from Brentford and knee injury at Peterborough .

= = Personal life = =

Berahino supports Manchester United . He is a Christian and regularly studies the Bible with his mother .

In April 2014 , Berahino apologised to West Bromwich Albion after videos of him inhaling nitrous oxide for recreational purposes were discovered by the media . He confessed that " This was very poor judgement on my part and not the right example to be setting . At the time , I wasn ' t fully aware of the serious health risks involved but now I know , I won ' t be doing it again " . However , Berahino denied allegations that he drove 120 miles under the influence of the substance .

On 22 October 2014 , Berahino was arrested on the M6 near Lymm , Cheshire , on suspicion of drink driving . He was charged with the offence in January 2015 , and admitted to it before North Cheshire Magistrates in Runcorn , who gave him a 12 @-@ month driving ban and a fine of £ 3 @, @ 400 .

In April 2015 , Berahino set up his own charity foundation to help WaterAid improve the lives of disadvantaged people in Britain and abroad . He stated " Having grown up in Burundi , I know only too well the devastating impact the lack of access to clean water or sanitation can have on families " . His manager Pulis said that " His story is an inspiring one and this shows what I have been saying for several months now about his attitude and his growing maturity " .

= = Career statistics = =

As of matches played 29 April 2016 .

= = Honours = =

= = = International = = =

England Under @-@ 17

UEFA European Under @-@ 17 Championship : 2010

= = = Individual = = =

England U21 Player of the Year : 2014