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Rayana ready for round 2

JASON ACAR

"I HAVE never had 'easy' fights, which I think is a good thing; but yes, she was definitely the toughest opponent I've ever fought."

These were Cape Town Muay Thai boxing star Rayana Ameerodien's thoughts on her Womens Bantamweight World Muay Thai Championship Title fight in Bangkok earlier this month. She tussled with Nongkarn from Thailand in her first world title fight.

Ameerodien went the distance with the champion in five adrenaline pumping rounds that saw the fight come down to the judges' decision.

The fight was close, but swung in favour of the defending champion according to the judges.

"I accepted the judges' decision because it could have gone either

way," she says.

But Ameerodien is sure to be looking for revenge, and this time she has home advantage. After challenging the champion to a rematch, Ameerodien secured a title bout to take place in Cape Town on 5 July, at the Sons of Africa Muay Thai Tournament at Ratanga Junction.

Ameerodien is confident: "I realize I am lucky to get another shot, so this time it will be a different story. I'm going to be a lot more dominant, and a lot more confident, since I will have the support of my people at the fight!"

She has started training for the fight already, and will also undergo six weeks hard work with a Thai trainer before stepping into the ring.

"I could not have achieved what I have without the support of a strong team in Cape Town and Thailand. When I fight here my Thailand team will be in my

corner, and I am looking forward to making them and South Africa proud!"

But it is not all about winning for Ameerodien.

"In my world title fight in Thailand I wore 'Woman Stand Up' on my shorts. To me the fight is about much more than winning; it's about being in there fighting for the rights of others, and being an inspiration to other women who need to hear my message."

The Sons of Africa tournament will feature Africa's top Muay Thai fighters, as well as four-time World Muay Thai Champion Ramazan "The Punisher" Ramazanov.

For more information, check out www.muaythaisa.com.

FIGHTER: Rayana Ameerodien fought for the Women's Bantamweight Muay Thai World Championship in Bangkok. Photo: Supplied

