

THE BRC ZIMBABWE DEBATE

June-July 2003

The Toledo Spiders



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The Toledo Spiders

Alkalimat, Abdul

From: Bill Fletcher [bfletcher@TransAfricaForum.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 04, 2003 1:58 PM
To: bfletcher@transafricaforum.org
Subject: Statement on Zimbabwe

TransAfrica Forum
News
~~~~~

For Immediate Release  
June 3, 2003  
Contact: Salih Booker (202) 546-7961 at Africa Action  
Bill Fletcher, Jr. (202) 223-1960 at TransAfrica Forum

### AFRICAN AMERICAN LEADERS SEND LETTER TO ROBERT MUGABE CONDEMNING POLITICAL REPRESSION IN ZIMBABWE

Black trade union officials, Africa advocacy groups and Church organizations call for African diplomatic intervention and an unconditional dialogue among Zimbabweans to create a transition to democratic rights for all.

Tuesday, June 3, 2003 (Washington, DC) - Progressive leaders among leading African American organizations, trade unions, church and advocacy groups today released an open letter to Zimbabwean President, Robert Mugabe, to oppose the political repression underway in that country.

Highlighting long historical ties to the independence movements of Zimbabwe, the signators described the current crackdown on political opposition as, "in complete contradiction of the values and principles that were both the foundation of your liberation struggle and of our solidarity with that struggle."

The letter to Mugabe follows a process over the past several months where progressive African Americans have held a series of meetings with representatives of the Zimbabwean government and of Zimbabwean civil society both here in the U.S. and in Zimbabwe. The group concluded that it is time that African American progressives make a public statement on the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe that so negatively affects the people of that proud country with whom the signatories have stood in solidarity for many decades.

Africa Action executive director, Salih Booker, said today that "We have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe to state clearly where we stand. And we stand for human rights and against the repression of the Mugabe regime directed against Zimbabwe's African majority."

TransAfrica Forum President Bill Fletcher urged immediate action by the African Union. "The situation in Zimbabwe is crumbling quickly. The African Union needs to intervene as a credible authority before other external forces exploit what is a crisis, not only for Zimbabwe, but the continent."

The full text of the letter is below. The signators of the letter are:

William Lucy, President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

Willie Baker, Executive Vice President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
Salih Booker, Executive Director, Africa Action  
Bill Fletcher, Jr., President, TransAfrica Forum  
Horace G. Dawson Jr., Director Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, Howard University  
Patricia Ann Ford, Executive Vice President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Julianne Malveaux, TransAfrica Forum Board Member  
Rev. Justus Y. Reeves, Executive Director Missions Ministry, Progressive National Baptist Convention  
The Coordinating Committee, Black Radical Congress (BRC)

###

OPEN LETTER TO ZIMBABWEAN PRESIDENT ROBERT MUGABE

3 June, 2003

Dear President Mugabe,

We are writing today to implore you to seek a peaceful and just solution to your country's escalating national crisis. Those signed below are Americans of Africa descent - many of them representing major organizations of civil society in the United States - who have worked for decades to support the liberation movements of Africa and the governments that followed independence which promoted and protected the interests of all of their nation's people. We form part of an honorable tradition of progressive solidarity with the struggles for decolonization, and against apartheid and imperialism in Africa.

We have strong historical ties to the liberation movements in Zimbabwe, which included material and political support, as well as opposition to U.S. government policies that supported white minority rule. In independent Zimbabwe we have sought to maintain progressive ties with the political party and government that arose from the freedom struggle. At the same time our progressive ties have grown with institutions of civil society, especially the labor movement, women's organizations, faith communities, human rights organizations, students, the independent media and progressive intellectuals. In Zimbabwe today, all of our relations and our deep empathy and understanding of events there require that we stand in solidarity with those feeling the pain and suffering caused by the abuse of their rights, violence and intolerance, economic deprivation and hunger, and landlessness and discrimination.  
(more)

We do not need to recount here the details of the increasing intolerant, repressive and violent policies of your government over the past 3 years, nor the devastating consequences of those policies. The use of repressive legislation does not, in our respectful view, render such actions justifiable or moral, because of their presumed "legality". We represent a long tradition of opposition to unjust laws. We have previously expressed to your representative in Washington, DC, our humanitarian concerns about the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Zimbabwe as well as that of the famine triggered by the recent southern African drought and exacerbated by the economic policies and food distribution practices of your government. We have shared our concerns that land redistribution in Zimbabwe be used to fight the poverty of the majority and not to promote the narrow interests of another minority. But most of all, we have communicated clearly that we view the political repression and

erway in Zimbabwe as intolerable and in complete contradiction of the values and principles that were both the foundation of your liberation struggle and of our solidarity with that struggle.

Today, Mr. President we call upon yourself and those among the ruling party who truly value democracy, and wish to protect the future of all of Zimbabwe's citizens to take extraordinary steps to end your country's



political crisis and place it upon a path toward peace. We ask that you initiate an unconditional dialogue with the political opposition in Zimbabwe and representatives of civil society aimed at ending this impasse. We call upon you to seek the diplomatic intervention of appropriately concerned African states and institutions, particularly South Africa and Nigeria, and SADC and the African Union, to assist in the mediation of Zimbabwe's civil conflict.

Mr. President, the non-violent civil disobedience that is growing in your country - such as that which took place on Mother's day in Bulawayo - is increasingly met with police brutality and excessive force. Such trends in the abuse of human rights are not only unacceptable, they are threats to your country's stability and they are undermining the economic and political development your people desire and deserve. We believe that a peaceful solution is possible for Zimbabwe if you find a way to work with others in and outside of your government to create an effective process for a transition to a more broadly supported government upholding the democratic rights of all.

Sincerely yours in struggle,

William Lucy, President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
Willie Baker, Executive Vice President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists  
Salih Booker, Executive Director, Africa Action  
Bill Fletcher, Jr., President, TransAfrica Forum  
Horace G. Dawson Jr., Director Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, Howard University  
Patricia Ann Ford, Executive Vice President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Julianne Malveaux, TransAfrica Forum Board Member  
Rev Justus Y. Reeves, Executive Director Missions Ministry, Progressive National Baptist Convention  
Coordinating Committee, Black Radical Congress  
(end)

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To contact Bill Fletcher, send email to:  
[bfletcher@transafricaforum.org](mailto:bfletcher@transafricaforum.org)

Questions or comments? Send email to:  
[info@transafricaforum.org](mailto:info@transafricaforum.org)

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Subj: **Re: Letter to Mugabe from African American Leaders**  
Date: 6/6/2003 8:17:59 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
From: Amirib  
To: eastsidearts@yahoo.com

Signers of the Letter to Mugabe,

**THIS LETTER , THOUGH IT MAY HAVE SOME "NEUTRAL" MERIT, IN THE COURT OF NEVER-COLONIAL, NEVER-WHITE SUPREMACY, NEVER-SLAVERY, NEVER-RACIST CONTROL OF THE MEDIA, NEVER-US IMPERIALISM ABOUT TO UNMASK AS STRAIGHT OUT FASCISM, IN THE WORLD WE ALL S H O U L D K N O W & ARE VICTIMS OF, TO ATTACK MUGABE WITH SUCH ARCH-LIBERAL WHEEZ, IS COMPLETELY OFF THE WALL!**

**THE WHITE RACIST IMPERIALIST ENTITY WANTS TO KEEP ITS COLONIAL GRABBED LAND...MORE THAN ANY OTHER CONSIDERATION! DO YOU HEAR THEM MAKE THE SAME PLEAS FOR HUMANITARIAN CONDUCT IN ANY OF THE OTHER HELLS WE KNOW THEY MAINTAIN OR BOLSTER?**

**THE US WOULD NOT EVEN TAKE A DIRECT STAND ON SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID. THE US HAS MORE PRISONERS THAN ANY INDUSTRIAL NATION IN THE, MAINTAINS THE DEATH PENALTY ALONE OF ALL THOSE NATIONS, HAS LET THOUSANDS OF PALESTINIANS BE SLAUGHTERED BY THE BUTCHER SHARON, INVADED AND MASSACRED THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ BASED ON THE OUTRIGHT LIES OF WMD, AND WE STILL DO NOT HAVE THE FACTS ABOUT 911. WE KNOW BUSH &c KNEW IT WAS COMING!**

**AND YOU ALL HAVE THE UNDISGUISED NEGROSSITY TO ATTACK MUGABE. BAH, HUMBUG. AS A MEMBER OF THE BRC , I WANT IT KNOWN THAT I HAVE NO CONNECTION WITH SUCH DISGUSTING "KNEE CULT" ANTICS AS YOUR STATEMENT AT ALL.**

**WHAT'S MORE I AM SURPRISED AT, BUT EVEN MORE, ASHAMED OF ALL OF YOU!**

**UNITY & STRUGGLE,**

**AMIRI BARAKA, NJ AND NEWARK SCHOOLS POET LAUREATE**

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** S. E. Anderson [ebontek@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 09, 2003 2:30 PM  
**To:** brc-council@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** [BRC-COUNCIL] BRC Members Opposed to NC Sign-on to June 3, 2003 Mugabe Letter

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "S. E. Anderson" <ebontek@earthlink.net>  
\*\*\*\*\*

As members of the Black Radical Congress, we are NOT supporters of the BRC Coordinating Committee's endorsement of the 3 June 2003 statement on the current crisis unfolding in Zimbabwe.

1. The statement was made in the Black Radical Congress's name without a national membership discussion. Something as world-important as the Zimbabwe crisis needs discussion among our rank and file. How can a letter which purports to be a critique of Mugabe's undemocratic methods itself emerge from an undemocratic process?

Was the decision to put out the June 3 statement as the BRC arrived at democratically? NO!

2. Is our main international task opposition to US global domination? (See our "Freedom Agenda") YES! The main thing here, as we know from Angola, is that people can differ on a point of policy, but we can all agree on opposition to US imperialist policy. This is our task: to defeat our own ruling class and not pretend to be able to instruct others on how to run their countries. Even when we-as national leaders- have our own views, it is not the proper political approach for us to unilaterally make them the views of our national organization.

Is the Zimbabwe government part of the global front against US rule? YES!

3. In addition, the substance of the letter ignores the international context and the history of colonialism and imperialism surrounding the issue of Mugabe's rule and the issue of land. It can justly be criticized because it objectively makes the hand of white supremacy and imperialism invisible in its discussion. That hand is present as it has been lately in similar situations in the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and most recently Cuba... surreptitiously spreading money and resources to opposition figures and organizations, manipulating trade agreements and access to debt rescheduling, and feeding the western press with carefully crafted disinformation about what is a complex situation on the ground in Zimbabwe.

4. Does our solidarity with the African Revolution require us to enter into discussions with African Revolutionaries to build international solidarity for mutually beneficial action in global resistance? YES! Our point here is that we need to listen to what the people from Zimbabwe have to say. Has the BRC met with the Zimbabwean reps in DC or the UN? Have we asked for the SAPES comrades to make a speaking tour of the US with organizational reps? This was what we Black Radicals used to do in the African Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) days. The task here is discussion and exchanges of information. Maybe we need a delegation to go and speak with Mugabe and ZANU directly.

5. Let's be clear about Mugabe's regime: There is legitimate opposition to Mugabe's rule inside Zimbabwe. At the same time,

this opposition, as must Mugabe, must proceed in a way which does not give the imperialists and their local representatives an opening to exploit and defeat the Zimbabwean revolution and recolonize the Zimbabwean people. The question that must be asked of those who signed the letter are:

a. What have they done to get imperialism off the back of the Zimbabwean people since independence?

b. What opposition have they raised to the misuse of the legitimate desire for democracy to reverse the gains of the people everywhere and usher in the return of reaction?

Of course, in no area where the imperialists have meddled are the masses of the people better off after the "return of democracy" than before. Witness the standard of living in the former USSR, East Germany and the Balkans after "democratization."

Progressive Blackfolk publicly condemning Mugabe and his followers falls right into the Bush-Blair strategy of imperial rule. The signers of the 3 June statement objectively help to legitimize the white supremacy and imperialism. They have not only taken an anti working class position, but also reflects a lack of clarity about the "preemptive strike" and "regime change" strategy of US imperialism.

The Bush-Blair imperialists now operate with the fascistic viewpoint of "either you're with us or you're a pro-terrorist enemy combatant." Why? Because they are the most powerful force in the world... with no other oppositional superpower. This means that our tasks now- if we are truly Black and Radical- is to spend our time educating and mobilizing our fundamentally workingclass mass base here in the US to help bring revolutionary change within the belly of the Beast and to alter the balance of power internationally in favor of the worldwide struggles against imperialism.

Putting out high sounding statements against Mugabe in this new fascist period may or may not get one off the Homeland Security/Patriot Act's "White" List. These statements, however, rarely get read by everyday Blackfolks. They get read by white liberals, by the US intelligence and foreign policy infrastructure, and a few Black petty bourgeois forces inside and outside the US. It eventually filters out into the Media Monopoly as an endorsement of US African foreign policy by progressive Black leaders.

In other words, this kind of statement buttresses the Right's African foreign policy because they now can and will use it to put a Black liberal spin on their imperialist policies towards Africa. Look at the historical role of the middleclass or, more accurately, petty bourgeois liberals -especially the intellectuals- in paving the way for the defeat of the working people. These same liberals trample on substantive democracy and hide behind stagnant procedures of voting and empty elections designed to demobilize and demoralize the masses.

The question of the right of Africans to reclaim their land stolen through enslavement and colonialism gets lost, buried and trivialized by US Black public figures who pose as radical oppositional forces to capital speaking only about how bad Mugabe is.

The priority for us in the BRC, right here and now, in this new age of unipolar imperialism and white supremacy is to inform Blackfolk inside the US about the struggles and problems of our Sisters and Brothers fighting to reclaim their land in Africa, in Columbia, in Brazil, or right here in South Carolina. It is in this context that we discuss the current crop of African leadership and popular struggles.

Not in the NY Times or Washington Post or CNN or FoxNews....

Signed,

Sam Anderson <ebontek@earthlink.net>  
Bill Sales <saleswil@shu.edu>  
Nellie Hester Bailey <nelliehester@yahoo.com>  
Saladin Muhammad <SALADIN62@aol.com>  
Abdul Alkalimat <abdul.alkalimat@utoledo.edu>  
Sandra Rivers <sistanina2@earthlink.net>  
Churne Lloyd <clloyd81@hotmail.com>  
Brother Simba <msimbamw@aol.com>

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** S. E. Anderson [ebontek@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 10, 2003 10:55 PM  
**To:** contehb@aol.com; hcampbe1@twcny.rr.com; blackantiwar@yahoogroups.com; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; brc-ny-metro@yahoogroups.com; brc-reparations@yahoogroups.com; CRussman@aol.com; s\_chaka@hotmail.com; uniup@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** zoharah@religion.ufl.edu; womeninislam@usa.net; wfoster@mec.cuny.edu; WaliTinnie@aol.com; TheBlackList@topica.com; nayoline@hotmail.com; NEWS@NNPA.ORG; nyc\_finet10026@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] An Open Letter To Our People In Regards to Zimbabwe

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "S. E. Anderson" <ebontek@earthlink.net>  
\*\*\*\*\*

An Open Letter To Our People,

Many Years Ago Malcolm X reminded Us That Land Is The Basis Of All independence. President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe in his revolutionary policy of land redistribution and reform has set an example for African People around the globe. For this reason he has been the object of a vicious media attack that has recently escalated. . This escalation has included articles featuring the names a few Black turncoats making thinly disguised calls for "Regime Change." The historical examples of Grenada, Panama, Afghanistan and Iraq should reveal what The U.S. Government and those serving as their mouthpieces have planned next.

We The Undersigned Serve Notice That:

1. We unconditionally Support President Mugabe's Record of Revolutionary African Land Reclamation, Redistribution and Reform and want to see more of it not only in Zimbabwe but in North and South America, the Caribbean around the world.

2. We oppose all Calls For Regime Change In Zimbabwe

3. We will neither participate nor tolerate a U.S. instigated War or "Dirty Tricks Campaign" In Zimbabwe

4. We call on all Africans in America and Supporters of Justice to write to your elected officials and make it clear: HANDS OFF PRESIDENT ROBERT MUGABE AND THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE!

If You Support These 4 Points JOIN US IN A DEMONSTRATION At 12 Noon Saturday June 28 at the Harlem State Office Building at 125th Street and Adam Clayton Boulevard.

Yours In Struggle And Victory,

Coltrane Chimurenga, Viola Plummer, Bob Law, CEMOTAP, Professor Leonard

Jeffries, Professor James Small, Betty Dopson, Elombe Brath,  
Dr. James  
McIntosh, Friends of Zimbabwe, Africans Helping Africans, Patrice  
Lumumba  
Coalition, The Code Foundation, the Harriet Tubman-Fannie Lou  
Hamer  
Collective, the Masses United for Human Rights, National Black  
United Front,  
Millions for Reparations, Joan Gibbs, Black Veterans for Social  
Justice,  
Blacks Against the War, etc. etc

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Omowale Clay [omowaleclay56@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2003 10:23 AM  
**To:** mrv1616@aol.com; nurses2000@rcn.com; muhammad@anticolonialmedia.com; cybrgrace7@aol.com; contehb@aol.com; Djenneba@hotmail.com; Hermans@datatone.com; Info@menofrespect.com; Kfunny@hotmail.com; GhanaUnion@aol.com; Tibbsread@aol.com; hcampbe1@twcnny.rr.com; laacra@hotmail.com; LEWISLUMSR@earthlink.net; Crush32@juno.com; CharlesOwens@msn.com; criticalman@earthlink.net; Gilyardman@aol.com; JTTCJTTC@aol.com; Mitale@aol.com; TundaNonga@t\_online.de; ebontek@earthlink.net; blackantiwar@yahoogroups.com; comments@allafrica.com; Sareadi@aol.com; Mitayopotojsi@hotmail.com; lmaanzo@newschool.edu; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; Cab\_Brooks@msn.com; BurnardWhite@aol.com; Dukes@tbwt.com; Editors@unityfirst.com; Bosiaart@aol.com; Oridota@online.fr; ZeldriaKelly@aol.com; Afuj@mail.com; April832@aol.com; jonas@laughingdiablo.com; Thickwoods@hotmail.com; Fair@fair.org; brotom@lava.net; Taharka98@aol.com; Shiriki@gwi.net; Seanderson@mail.com; Karali@gis.net; HABUKAR@city.toronto.on.ca  
**Subject:** [blackantiwar] Open letter to Zimbabwe People

The following Press Release is being sent out worldwide to firmly plant African and progressive people's feet on the side of President Mugabe and the Zimbabwean people's right to land reform, and against the Western (Britain & US) led conspiracy to engineer regime change of the democratically elected government of Zimbabwe. To sign on write to Info@ZimbabweFriends.org

PLEASE FORWARD THIS PRESS RELEASE TO ALL CONTACTS AND MEDIA.

Press Release:  
June 10, 2003  
New York City, New York

### Open Letter to the People of Zimbabwe

First and foremost, our greetings to you must begin with a thank you Zimbabwe! Thank you for your leadership and courage in your land redistribution program. On behalf of the millions of Africans in the United States, we are proud and closer to freedom because of you. We are writing today to declare our full and continued support for your efforts to correct the historical and criminal injustices of British colonialism, which stole the lives, labor and land of the people of Zimbabwe. The Freedom Fighters of Heroes Acre have nurtured the Zimbabwean nation, its unity and its right to sovereignty. No one gave Zimbabwe its freedom, and no one has the right to dictate with remote control the path of its development or independence. Today, under the leadership of its democratically elected President Robert G. Mugabe, Zimbabwe has completed the largest return of indigenous land in the history of Africa and, in fact, of most parts of the world.

AFRICA IS NOT AN EXTENSION OF EUROPE, BUT SOME AFRICANS ARE...

President Mugabe declared that Africa is not an extension of Europe; however, it should be pointed out that some Africans behave as if they are in fact an extension of Europe and its policies for re-colonization of Africa. Zimbabwe's wars of national liberation against Rhodesia were for fundamental change -- change from colonialism to sovereignty, indeed independence. The foreign enemies of Zimbabwean independence will continue to try to separate the Zimbabwean people from the elected government of President Robert Mugabe and its leading party, ZANU-PF. They have created and funded the Movement for Democratic Change to accomplish this mission. Similarly, we Africans in America have also seen some of our own people take up political, and even armed struggle against the interests of the many for their own selfish



gains.

We want to make it clear that those individuals and organizations wishing to align themselves with the foreign policies of Tony Blair and George Bush through propaganda films, articles and letters in many instancesY Have extensive relations with the US State Department, Council on Foreign Relations and intelligence agencies; Represent themselves, and not their organizations; they lack constituencies and have never represented the interests of the overwhelming majority; Receive funding from the US Government as well as from multinational corporations, private foundations or conduits for such. These individuals claim to have Aa long history of work in the struggle for African Liberation.@ This claim is belied by their actions. However stated, they support the goal of Blair and Bush for regime change and for the intervention and destabilization of the Zimbabwean economy.

It is no accident that these various forms of propaganda do not mention that MDC has openly called for the overthrow of the duly elected government of President Mugabe. By any national standard (especially that of the United States), this position is generally viewed as an act of sedition. Nor is there any mention of armed attacks, murder and the destruction of property in Zimbabwe.

Factually, under the leadership of President Mugabe, it was the government that sought and received diplomatic solutions to the crisis in Zimbabwe. It sought intervention on the part of African countries and Presidents, specifically the African Union, the Non-Aligned Movement, and SADC. They in turn have given their support to the government of President Mugabe. The Presidents of South Africa, Nigeria and Malawi have already indicated that Zimbabwean People must resolve the issues in Zimbabwe.

Clearly, the issue of land reform is in fact the center of all motion, propaganda and treasonous acts against Zimbabwe. Moreover, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Stan Mudenge, said, ALet no one suffer from any illusions that the people of Zimbabwe as well as the forces of law and order will ever tolerate a retrogression of land reform.@

We of the African Diaspora will continue to wholeheartedly support the duly elected government and the leadership of ZANU-PF, as we continue to build support on behalf of land reform.

On behalf of clarity,

December 12th Movement - Africans Helping Africans - Black Veterans for Social Justice - Blacks Against the War - Elombe Brath - CEMOTAP - Coltrane Chimurenga - Betty Dopson - Friends of Zimbabwe - Joan Gibbs - Harriet Tubman-Fannie Lou Hamer Collective - Prof. Leonard Jeffries - Bob Law -Rev. Herbert Daugtry - Dr. Arthur Lewis - Masses United for Human Rights - Dr. James McIntosh - Millions for Reparations - National Black United Front - Patrice Lumumba Coalition - Viola Plummer - Prof. James Small - The Code Foundation - Jitu Weusi - Llist still growing...

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** S. E. Anderson [ebontek@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2003 10:09 AM  
**To:** contehb@aol.com; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; blackantiwar@yahoogroups.com; brc-ny-metro@yahoogroups.com; brc-fightback@yahoogroups.com; brc-council@lists.tao.ca  
**Cc:** Tajudeen28@hotmail.com; woods@loyno.edu; uniup@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** [BRC-COUNCIL] From Voice of America News: "African-American Groups Condemn Zimbabwe's Mugabe"

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "S. E. Anderson" <ebontek@earthlink.net>  
\*\*\*\*\*

>From the US's International Imperperialist Propaganda Media Machine...

.....

>From (Voice of America) VOA News, 4 June

>

>

> African-American groups condemn Zimbabwe's Mugabe

>

>

> David Gollust

>

>

> Some prominent African-American political activists have made public a

> letter sent to Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe condemning political

> repression by his government, and calling for "unconditional dialogue" on a

> transition to more broadly-supported leadership in Harare.

The open letter

> is signed by leaders of eight African-American trade union organizations and

> Africa policy groups, and it reflects what its authors say is growing

> apprehension in the U.S. black community about the course of events in

> Zimbabwe. The document, made available to the news media Wednesday, cites

> what are termed "the increasing intolerant, repressive and violent" policies

> of the Mugabe government and the "devastating consequences" of those

> policies, including widespread poverty and famine. Mr. Mugabe is urged to

> take "extraordinary steps" to end the country's crisis by opening an

> "unconditional dialogue" with the opposition aimed at an "effective process

> for a transition to a more broadly-supported government that upholds the

> democratic rights of all." It also calls on him to seek the diplomatic

> intervention of concerned African countries and institutions including the

> African Union in mediating the conflict.

>

>

> A signatory and spokesman for the group, Bill Fletcher, president of the

> Washington-based TransAfrica Forum, says the criticism of Mr.

Mugabe was  
> made with mixed feelings, since the Zimbabwean leader is remembered  
as a  
> hero by many for his leading role in ending minority white  
rule in what was  
> then Rhodesia in the 1970s. But he told VOA there is worry  
in the  
> African-American community now that the confrontation between  
Mr. Mugabe and  
> his opponents might soon degenerate into an armed conflict  
that would be a  
> disaster for the region and beyond. "It appears that President  
Mugabe is  
> more interested in holding onto power than he is in bringing  
about, or  
> bringing Zimbabwe back from the precipice where it currently  
stands, a  
> precipice which means one more step and the country may find  
itself in armed  
> conflict," he said. "And so, yes, we feel that the time has  
come for the  
> president of Zimbabwe to step forward, recognize that he has  
made very  
> important contributions, but that a new leadership must emerge  
that draws  
> from the best elements of the ZANU-PF (ruling party) and the  
best elements  
> of the MDC [main opposition party] as well as other forces  
that are there on  
> the ground."  
>  
>  
> Though the Bush administration has also been a persistent critic  
of the  
> Mugabe government, Mr. Fletcher distanced himself and the letter's  
other  
> signatories from the policies of both the U.S. and British  
governments,  
> which he said have been "disingenuous" in their seemingly exclusive  
critical  
> focus on Zimbabwe. "There are countless other situations on  
the continent of  
> Africa alone where there are undemocratic practices being undertaken  
where  
> there's been silence from both of these governments," he said.  
"And it  
> therefore appears to most people that the interest was piqued  
by the land  
> seizures, and specifically because the land seizures were of  
white farm  
> owners. Now while TransAfrica Forum disagrees with President  
Mugabe on the  
> way the land seizures took place, we don't disagree that land  
redistribution  
> needed to take place. In fact we would suggest that it needed  
to take place  
> years ago." Mr. Fletcher said his group was fearful that in  
the wake the  
> Iraq war, the major powers might try to force "regime change"  
on Zimbabwe,  
> but said outside intervention or destabilizing tactics would  
be neither  
> necessary nor helpful. He said he and his associates went public  
with the  
> criticism of Mr. Mugabe after a number of unproductive meetings  
with  
> representatives of his government.

**Alkalimat, Abdul**

---

**From:** jamala rogers [jamala7@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 2:58 AM  
**To:** BFC Feminist; unity Fightback; BRC Discuss  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] Clarifying Process

On behalf of the BRC Coordinating Council, I'd like to clarify the process of issuing statements, making endorsements or in the case of the letter to President Mugabe, signing off on letters. The CC strives to be inclusive and as democratic as possible. We are the elected body that is empowered by the membership to make decisions in between National Council meetings. The CC's signing of the letter on Zimbabwe is in compliance with process guidelines agreed upon by the Council some time ago. We encourage the principled debate, sharing of facts and recommended readings that is currently underway on BRC-Discuss. The BRC is a united front and discussing our differences is a healthy and necessary part of achieving a greater levels of unity.

Jamala Rogers

---

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6/13/2003

**Alkalimat, Abdul**

---

**From:** Wangaza@aol.com

**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 8:59 AM

**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; brc-feminist@yahoogroups.com; brc-fightback@yahoogroups.com

**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Clarifying Process

Perhaps I missed something in both the discussion and "the process," but on what published agenda did the plan to attack Zimbabwe appear? I certainly would like to have been in on THAT discussion.

efia nwangaza

6/13/2003

Alkalimat, Abdul

From: gary hicks [big\_g19462002@yahoo.com]  
To: brc-fightback@yahoogroups.com; BFC Feminist; BRC Discuss  
Cc:  
Subject: [BRC-DISC] Re: [BRC-FIGHTBACK] Clarifying Process  
Attachments:

Sent: Fri 6/13/2003 1:44 PM

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: gary hicks <big\_g19462002@yahoo.com>  
\*\*\*\*\*

<<The CC's signing of the letter on Zimbabwe is in compliance with process guidelines agreed upon by the Council some time ago>>

Jamala:

Thanks for the communique below. Given, however, the clause in that statement above, and given some of our short memories, can you or someone on the CC re-issue a copy of those guidelines to our listservs?

Gary Hicks  
Boston MA

--- jamala rogers <jamala7@yahoo.com> wrote:  
> On behalf of the BRC Coordinating Council, I'd like  
> to clarify the process of issuing statements, making  
> endorsements or in the case of the letter to  
> President Mugabe, signing off on letters. The CC  
> strives to be inclusive and as democratic as  
> possible. We are the elected body that is empowered  
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> necessary part of achieving a greater levels of  
> unity.  
>  
> Jamala Rogers  
>  
>  
> -----  
> Do you Yahoo!?  
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<http://calendar.yahoo.com>

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Horace Campbell [hgcc@twcny.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 10, 2003 6:25 PM  
**To:** brc-council@lists.tao.ca  
**Cc:** saleswil@shu.edu; S. E. Anderson  
**Subject:** [BRC-COUNCIL] realities of life for the Zimbabwean Working peoples-response to comrade Anderson + co

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "Horace Campbell" <hgcc@twcny.rr.com>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Within the Black Radical Congress

Need for Debate on realities of life for the Zimbabwean Working peoples

Horace Campbell

June 2003

Charles Taylor and Jonas Savimbi as freedom fighters

At the beginning of June 2003 an arrest warrant was issued for Charles Taylor, the President of Liberia. While he was on a visit to Ghana the indictment for war crimes was unsealed and any government should arrest Charles Taylor if he travels outside of Liberia. The indictment charges Taylor with "bearing the greatest responsibility" for war crimes (murder, taking hostages); crimes against humanity (extermination, rape, murder, sexual slavery); and other serious violations of international humanitarian law (use of child soldiers) in Sierra Leone. It is generally agreed in West Africa that Charles Taylor is one of the single greatest causes of spreading wars in West Africa. This was an important development in so far as it sent a message to leaders across Africa that crimes against humanity will be prosecuted. The era of impunity of African dictators has come to an end. Africans overseas must stay abreast of these developments so that they can take the lead in opposing African dictators. More importantly, Black radicals must not wait for the establishment of special courts or truth commissions to oppose violators of human rights in Africa. This is the second major leader in Africa to be declared a war criminal.

In 1998, Jonas Savimbi was declared a war criminal by the leaders of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC). Before he could be arrested and brought to trial he was killed in battle in Angola, in February 2002. Savimbi had been involved in warfare as a business and ensnared numerous governments (Zambia, Rwanda, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Togo among others) in the business of procuring weapons, selling diamonds, procuring fuel and food and bribing leaders. Jonas Savimbi had justified his war in the name of defending the interests of the African population against whites and mixed race Angolans. For over thirty five years Savimbi had been presented to

certain sections of the African population outside of Angola as a freedom fighter and liberator. During the Cold War, while he was aligned to the most conservative forces in the USA, certain political forces supported Savimbi even in the face of clear evidence of his alliance with the forces of the apartheid government in South Africa. Savimbi pursued a campaign of death and destruction in the Angolan countryside. It is not too late for a thorough summing up of the experience of the relationship of the Black radical community to the Savimbi experience. This is especially important for the younger members of the progressive community.

#### Context for discussion Zimbabwe today

That Savimbi was supported by many African descendants in the United States and beyond was an indication of the need for clarity of what constituted liberation in Africa. Throughout the continent of Africa leaders such as Laurent Kabila (Democratic Republic of the Congo) and Foday Sankoh (Sierra Leone) manipulated the symbols of liberation to promote carnage, gender violence, arbitrary arrests, insecurity and destruction across Africa. From Eritrea to Uganda and from Namibia to Zimbabwe there are leaders who came to power through major sacrifices of the ordinary people. These leaders have integrated themselves into repressive state institutions while claiming to carry forward the traditions of liberation. Since the end of apartheid, the limitations of the liberation model based on the charismatic guerilla leader has become apparent, where the leadership advances their personal lust for power while forgetting the basic goals of uplifting the living standards of the most exploited.

In the examples noted above, instead of liberation becoming the foundation for a new mode of politics, the militarist and masculinist leadership turned the victories of the people into a never ending nightmare of violence and military repression. In the specific case of the AIDS pandemic, the patriarchal leadership has failed to mobilize resources to provide health care for the people. Instead, these leaders have succumbed to the most conservative and uninformed opinions on the origins and sources of the AIDS pandemic. The myths of the relationship between Aids and virginity reached such ridiculous proportions that in Zimbabwe local leaders instituted virginity tests. This is the same country where the leader became distinguished as the leading opponent of persons of the same sexual orientation. Organized attention to the AIDS pandemic is the most urgent issue in Africa, especially Zimbabwe where there are over 2500 persons dying every week.

These experiences of repressive leaders masquerading as freedom fighters have been compounded by the major divide over the question of the politics of Zimbabwe. In 1980, when the Rhodesian settlers were removed from power, a previous generation celebrated the victory of the peoples of Zimbabwe. Can it be said that in the year 2003 the political leadership of Zimbabwe is carrying forward a policy of empowering the ordinary Zimbabweans?

#### Despots and anti imperialism

All dictators and despots claim to be acting on behalf of the people. More importantly, the anti-imperialist movement since the era of Bandung has made itself felt on the world stage. Hence, the most undemocratic, misogynist and homophobic leaders represent themselves as anti-imperialist forces. That



leaders, such as Saddam Hussein and Slobodan Milosevic, in the past, represented themselves as anti-imperialist fighters should not blind citizens of the planet of the reality of the discredited nature of patriarchal nationalism. The fact that forces such as Osama Bin Laden are anti-imperialist does not mean that progressives should support the politics of Bin Laden.

## Mugabe and Castro

In September 2000, President Mugabe was feted at a ceremony in Harlem as a great anti-imperialist leader. The struggles over land and the support for the government of Laurent Kabila had been used as examples of Mugabe's distinguished role as an African freedom fighter. For those who organized this meeting and placed Mugabe on par with Fidel Castro, there was no contradiction in the reality that the government of Zimbabwe represented a section of the population that unleashed violence on the society.

When progressives compare leaders such as Robert Mugabe and Fidel Castro they are doing a major disservice to the sacrifices of the Cuban and Zimbabwean peoples. This is because in both cases the peoples are suffering because of sanctions imposed by US imperialism. In both cases, the leaders are held up as anti-imperialist forces. However, the similarities end there. In the specific case of the Cuban people, the political leadership did not seize the land of the rich landowners (gusanos) to hand it over to Cuban capitalists. Secondly, and more importantly, the Cuban leadership has steadfastly paid attention to the health and education of the Cuban people. Hence, while there are serious economic problems in Cuba, it cannot be said that the Cuban leadership has enriched itself at the expense of the people. Moreover, there are no accounts of the people of Cuba suffering while the Cuban leadership goes on shopping sprees at the palaces of the same imperialists that they are supposed to oppose. The wife of Robert Mugabe is now rivaling Imelda Marcos in the outlandish expenditures in imperialist capitals while the majority of the Zimbabwean people go without food, fuel and medicine.

This provides a context for analyzing the conditions of the people of Zimbabwe in a period when the government of Zimbabwe represents itself as a force that is recapturing the land for the people. The conditions in Zimbabwe have deteriorated so sharply that the ordinary people are suffering beyond description. Last week (June 2-6, 2003) the military carried out another violent exercise of crushing worker protests. Arbitrary arrests, assaults, torture, and general intimidation of the public characterized government's response to a week of mass action. Poor urban residents and university students were attacked and beaten by riot police and the army. The repression went to the point of intimidating those in hospitals.

In this context of repression and popular opposition to an unpopular government, there is a major need for clarity on what is going on in Zimbabwe. It is a contradiction in terms to repress the people in one's society and to act as a major force for peace and anti-imperialism. This is the concrete lesson of the recent manipulation of the symbols of anti-imperialism by Saddam Hussein in Iraq. Those who support peace must oppose US imperialism and oppose the interference of the imperialists (US and European Union), but this opposition to imperialism must not provide blinders so that repressive regimes are supported.

This is the context for deepening the discussion of Zimbabwe by progressive

humans every where and Black radicals in particular.

## Land and liberation in Zimbabwe

The increased division in the progressive world over the land question in Zimbabwe requires a thorough examination of the concept of liberation and liberation support. The first and most fundamental question is the question of the quality of the lives of the majority of the working people. The question of liberation should no longer be judged on the basis of the actions of great leaders or revolutionary parties. The conditions of the working people, landless workers, communal farmers, women, students, youth and poor urban sufferers were deplorable under colonialism and the working conditions of the majority continues to be deplorable, whether they work for blacks or whites. By the end of the year 2002 the settler class had been liquidated as a political force in Zimbabwe.

These settlers have been replaced by African capitalists. The landless workers and poor women in Zimbabwe are no better off today than they were working for white settlers. This is the concrete reality and it is there for anyone who cares to grasp the situation of Zimbabwe beyond the rhetoric of leaders. Radical rhetoric as a disguise for state repression has been developed into an art form by the leadership in Zimbabwe. Instead of sending another delegation to speak to President Mugabe, the authors of the letter should support sending a delegation to Zimbabwe to speak to communal farmers, farm workers, plantation workers, poor women, youth, students and human rights activists. Can one imagine if it was suggested that in order to get a clear understanding of the conditions of Black people in the USA a delegation from Zimbabwe came to the USA and spoke to Bush, Powell and Clarence Thomas? The conditions in Africa require far more seriousness than sending another delegation to support President Mugabe.

Most freedom loving persons instinctively support the legitimate struggles of the Zimbabwean peoples for the return of the land seized by the settlers. The return of the land to the African people is a democratic question and there can be no contestation over the rights of Africans to take back the land seized by colonial settlers. In the period of the struggle for independence (1980) the issues of land along with the conditions of working peoples were the key questions. At that historical moment the leaders of ZANU and Mugabe articulated the demands of the people, and at that historical moment the leadership could claim support from decent peoples everywhere. This was the moment when the political leadership of Zimbabwe was aligned to the anti-imperialist forces.

In the present moment, the political leadership in Zimbabwe has degenerated and this degeneration affects every aspect of the society, including the legitimate requirement of the land being returned to the toilers. Africans everywhere instinctively rally to the support of the Zimbabwean people in the face of the propaganda war waged by the British and US governments. Progressive humans and Black radicals need to reflect on the essence of the nature of the redistribution of land since the expropriation of the settlers is now complete and the anti-democratic nature of work, handling pesticides, absence of health care and lack of proper conditions for farm workers continue.

Different conceptions of land reform

There are contesting positions on the land question in Zimbabwe. I will seek to shed light on the broad outlines of this debate.

1. The first is that of the ruling party (ZANU-PF) that the land should be returned to the African capitalist class. This is after twenty-three years in power. In Zimbabwe, this is called the nationalist approach. This approach had been discredited because of the political degeneration and repression of the leadership. For radicals outside of Zimbabwe the important question is to grasp the class content of this nationalism.

2. The second is that of the International Human Rights activists who deplore violence against white landowners and support the sanctity of 'private property'. There was the view that there should have been a slower and steady transfer of the land. This position is taken by many international NGO's that support welfarist measures for the society. The World Bank and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) support the welfarist approach. There is overlap between the social forces supporting the second position since those in the United Nations are still wedded to the kind of reform that privileges "Africans who can modernize agriculture."

3. The third position is that of the agricultural workers union. This is the position that the first priority is the health and safety of the farm workers. This position starts from the fact that all schemes for land distribution must start with the poorest in the society, the communal farmers and farm workers, especially women. This position is called the workerist position.

4. The fourth position that is taken by those who want real change is the transformation approach that calls for the structural transformation of the relations on the land. This calls into consideration the issues of water, seeds, fertilizer, crop and outreach services along with the infrastructure for agriculture and agricultural communities. The reality is that without fundamental transformation exploitation can wear a black face as well as a white face.

For Africans overseas it is important to support the struggles for the land but it is my view that the last two positions stated above should be the ones that are supported. These positions on the land are being debated daily in Zimbabwe. The first two approaches are those of the government of Robert Mugabe and those who oppose the government (the Commercial Farmers Union and their supporters in Britain and the USA). Those who support the current large farmers both black and white do not want a transformation of the relations on the land.

The third position is that of the workers, women and landless. It is very important for Africans overseas to hear the position of the General Agricultural and Plantation Workers Union. The fourth position of the transformation of the relations on the land is one that has been taken by Sam Moyo, by the women of Zimbabwe fighting for citizenship rights and by those supporting a twenty first century approach to the issues of genetically modified foods, genetically modified seeds and the question of the patenting of plants and genetic materials in Africa. While the Mugabe

government was busy seizing the land foreign pharmaceuticals and researchers appropriated the knowledge of the medicine from the snake bean tree and patented the medicine in the USA. Plants, seeds, water and the infrastructure for agricultural production is as important as land. In the short and medium term the opportunistic farm seizures in Zimbabwe will benefit the large agri-business firms that will make peons out of the new landowners in the absence of a strategy for financing the change in the agricultural techniques.

## Transformation and empowering the working peoples

In the past twenty three years this writer has been an active participant in the debates on the transformation of the agricultural sector in Zimbabwe. I was brought up in the generation that supported materially and politically the struggles of the peoples of Zimbabwe and Southern Africa against apartheid. I have sought to engage the discussion on the future of the working peoples in the recent book, *Reclaiming Zimbabwe: The Exhaustion of the Patriarchal Model of Liberation*. (David Phillip, Cape Town and Africa World Press, USA). As a member of the Black Radical Congress it is my firm belief that if we take seriously the ideas of the freedom agenda, then the opposition to imperialism cannot lead to the support of despots who exploit African workers and expend scarce resources fighting wars while hundreds of thousands require decent health care.

The research and writing of this book benefited from those Zimbabweans inside and outside the Zimbabwean society who oppose the militaristic and brutal rule of the Mugabe clique. These are the anti-imperialist forces in Zimbabwe that support the rights of the working people of Zimbabwe. It must be acknowledged that there are forces of the official opposition in Zimbabwe (MDC) who have made alliances with British and US imperialists. It would be a mistake, however, for progressive persons overseas to consider that all opposition to the Mugabe and ZANU government is pro-imperialist.

A related point is to bring to the fore the work of scholars such as Sam Moyo, Tandi Nkiwane, Brian Raftapoulos, Rudo Gaidzanwa and many others who start from an anti-imperialist position. This writer benefited from working with Sam Moyo while he was the Director of Research at SAPES/SARIPS in Harare. His books, *The Land Question in Zimbabwe*, and *Land Reform under Structural Adjustment*, along with numerous journal articles spelt out the issues of land reform from the point of one dedicated to the working people. The removal of Sam Moyo from SAPES/SARIPS at the beginning of 2002 contained all of the signs of the undemocratic and arbitrary forms of politics that is practiced not only by the regime, but by the spokespersons of the regime. Hence, when my friends from the BRC call for members to read the documents of SAPES/SARIPS it is not clear whether these comrades are calling on the members to read the writings of Sam Moyo or the writings of the undemocratic elements mired in court battles over the treatment of workers. This writer welcomes the call for progressives to closely follow the debates from among the working peoples in Zimbabwe. It is imperative at this moment to move beyond a superficial journalistic reading of "Land Reform in Zimbabwe."

All over Southern Africa cultural artists such as Thomas Mapfumo, Oliver Mtukudzi and Hugh Masakela are singing songs calling on Mugabe to step down. In his latest album, *Everything Must Change*, Masakela called on Mugabe to respect the wishes of the Zimbabwean and Southern African peoples. These cultural artists sing the songs that reflect the aspirations of the most oppressed in Southern Africa.

## Plantation and agricultural workers in Zimbabwe

In a statement reproduced in the Daily News of September 6, 2002, the General Secretary of the Plantation Workers (GAPWUZ) argued that he was "disappointed that the government chose to resettle rich people and senior government officials ahead of farm workers and land hungry villagers, crowded in the communal areas across Zimbabwe."

Clarence Sungai, the General Secretary of GAPWUZ, said: "We have always said the government should consider farm workers first because they are the immediate casualties of this land redistribution programme. Less than 7 000 farm workers have been resettled out of 150 000 who were affected by the exercise."

The stories of the rich persons receiving land have overshadowed the real crisis of hunger, food shortage and the upheavals in the rural areas of Zimbabwe.

The story of the move of the President's wife (Grace Mugabe) to personally claim the Iron Mask Farm and House was a story of the obscene land grabbing by members of the present military, police, security and political rulers in Zimbabwe. (The media described the 3,000-acre Iron Mask Farm in this way: Tucked into a valley between two dramatic hills, Iron Mask, founded by Mrs. Matthews and her first husband in 1967, is one of the most beautiful farms in the Mazowe area. The house itself has oak-paneled interiors, sloping roofs and a commanding view. Pretty cottages on the grounds and two swimming pools add to the attraction).

The media is replete with stories of the political careerists seizing farms and creating more hardships for already exploited workers. More than 300,000 farm workers have been rendered homeless by this grabbing of land by the political class.

The plantation workers of Zimbabwe have not yet matured to the point of the landless workers' movement in Brazil, where they can organize popular land occupations. These popular land occupations in Brazil have forced the state to support the landless workers movement.

In the Zimbabwe situation, the propaganda of the British and the US media in support of the settlers has made it virtually impossible to generate a movement that is independent of the opportunistic and repressive land seizures that has been initiated by the present government of Robert Mugabe. In the absence of a clear popular movement, many anti-imperialist forces seek to support the land seizures of Mugabe while separating themselves from the repression. This position needs to be re-examined especially in light of the experiences of repressive leaders (such as Forbes Burnham of Guyana, Mengistu of Ethiopia and Idi Amin of Uganda) who used progressive anti-imperialist rhetoric to mask repression and violence.

There are concrete ways to contact the forces that are calling for workers rights and for transformation. At the forefront of these calls is the Congress of South African Trade Unions. It will be important to get the

positions of COSATU. This position of the General Secretary of COSATU on "Zimbabwe: Lessons for South and Southern Africa" was given on 14 February, 2001 and can be read on the World Wide Web.

The most important point for Black radicals is the reality that land cannot be farmed without labor. The whites enjoyed cheap and coerced labor. It is important that as important as the seizure of land from whites, Black radicals stress the need for the workers on the land to be paid a living wage and to be protected from pesticides and other hazards of farm labor. Alongside land reform there is a need to change the conditions of exploitation on the land.

The British and US media is preoccupied with the displacement of the white settlers, but the chaotic displacement is enriching a few while bringing untold hardship to the majority of Zimbabweans.

#### Workers perspectives

The seizure of the land is more or less complete in Zimbabwe. It is most important that Black radicals continue to engage the issues from the perspective of the ordinary Zimbabwean. There are ten points that are worth using as a litmus test to decide whether the political leadership in Zimbabwe is worthy of support in this period:

- a.. Response to the AIDS pandemic and leadership on the question of health care for the people
- b.. Violence and discrimination against women, including rape, violation and virginity tests
- c.. Question of peace and the use of the resources of the country to fight war or support peace. Soldiers in business enriching themselves and intimidating the population
- d.. Use of war veterans against innocent civilians, whether students, workers, opposition elements and the press
- e.. Hunger in the rural areas and the chaotic conditions caused by the manipulation of the land issue
- f.. The government new act, Water Act of 1998 that privatized water and made it more inaccessible for the poor, especially women
- g.. The question of the rights of workers and the rights of trade unions to organize autonomously
- h.. African women in Zimbabwe should have the same rights to citizenship as males
- i.. Progressive activists must oppose the persecution of cultural workers and artists
- j.. Radicals and those who want an end to state violence must support the efforts of the mediating forces of President Obasanjo and President Mbeki (African Union) to find a peaceful solution to the present political differences in the society.

These points provide a basis for the engagement with the Zimbabwean society and the Zimbabwean people. African liberation in the 21st century requires a different standard from the period of the glorification of great males.

#### Concluding comments

As a member of the Executive Council of the BRC, this writer acknowledges the fact that the statement on Mugabe was not widely circulated in the National Council before it was released. Hence, it is correct for members of the BRC to raise questions as to the process of the posting of the statement that was signed by the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Africa Action, TransAfrica Forum, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Progressive National Baptist Convention and the Coordinating Committee of the Black Radical Congress. However, the BRC is a democratic organization and it is expected that the Coordinating Committee will make decisions that are in the interests of the organization.

The difference of opinion in the BRC is important and all attempts to circumvent democratic discussion must be opposed.

Having said this, however, the fact that the Coordinating Committee took the initiative to sign on to a statement that opposes the repression of African workers in Zimbabwe should be discussed by all members of the BRC. Gone are the days when Black people should support leaders on the basis of past revolutionary actions. The leadership of Zimbabwe must be judged on the basis of the current relationship with the Zimbabwean people.

The open letter to Robert Mugabe was circulated in the week of intense repression against the workers of Zimbabwe. Unfortunately, those who hail the anti-imperialist credentials of Mugabe are silent on this matter.

It is a fact that to advance democracy there must be information, education and open debate. I hope that this debate can continue in a manner that will clarify to members the realities of the conditions of the workers and poor farmers of Zimbabwe.

Horace Campbell

June 9, 2003

----- Original Message -----

From: "S. E. Anderson" <ebontek@earthlink.net>

To: <brc-council@lists.tao.ca>

Sent: Monday, June 09, 2003 1:29 PM

Subject: [BRC-COUNCIL] BRC Members Opposed to NC Sign-on to June 3, 2003  
Mugabe Letter

>  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
> This Message Is From: "S. E. Anderson" <ebontek@earthlink.net>  
>  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
>  
> As members of the Black Radical Congress, we are NOT supporters  
> of the BRC Coordinating Committee's endorsement of the 3 June  
> 2003 statement on the current crisis unfolding in Zimbabwe.  
>

> 1. The statement was made in the Black Radical Congress's name  
> without a national membership discussion. Something as world-important  
> as the Zimbabwe crisis needs discussion among our rank and file.  
> How can a letter which purports to be a critique of Mugabe's  
> undemocratic methods itself emerge from an undemocratic process?  
>  
> Was the decision to put out the June 3 statement as the BRC arrived  
> at democratically? NO!  
>  
> 2. Is our main international task opposition to US global domination?  
> (See our "Freedom Agenda") YES! The main thing here, as we know  
> from Angola, is that people can differ on a point of policy,  
> but we can all agree on opposition to US imperialist policy.  
> This is our task: to defeat our own ruling class and not pretend  
> to be able to instruct others on how to run their countries.  
> Even when we-as national leaders- have our own views, it is not  
> the proper political approach for us to unilaterally make them  
> the views of our national organization.  
>  
> Is the Zimbabwe government part of the global front against US  
> rule? YES!  
>  
> 3. In addition, the substance of the letter ignores the international  
> context and the history of colonialism and imperialism surrounding  
> the issue of Mugabe's rule and the issue of land. It can justly  
> be criticized because it objectively makes the hand of white  
> supremacy and imperialism invisible in its discussion. That hand  
> is present as it has been lately in similar situations in the  
> former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and most recently Cuba.  
> surreptitiously  
> spreading money and resources to opposition figures and organizations,  
> manipulating trade agreements and access to debt rescheduling,  
> and feeding the western press with carefully crafted disinformation  
> about what is a complex situation on the ground in Zimbabwe.  
>  
> 4. Does our solidarity with the African Revolution require us  
> to enter into discussions with African Revolutionaries to build  
> international solidarity for mutually beneficial action in global  
> resistance? YES! Our point here is that we need to listen to  
> what the people from Zimbabwe have to say. Has the BRC met with  
> the Zimbabwean reps in DC or the UN? Have we asked for the SAPES  
> comrades to make a speaking tour of the US with organizational  
> reps? This was what we Black Radicals used to do in the African  
> Liberation Support Committee (ALSC) days. The task here is discussion  
> and exchanges of information. Maybe we need a delegation to go  
> and speak with Mugabe and ZANU directly.  
>  
> 5. Let's be clear about Mugabe's regime: There is legitimate  
> opposition to Mugabe's rule inside Zimbabwe. At the same time,  
> this opposition, as must Mugabe, must proceed in a way which  
> does not give the imperialists and their local representatives  
> an opening to exploit and defeat the Zimbabwean revolution and  
> recolonize the Zimbabwean people. The question that must be asked  
> of those who signed the letter are:  
>  
> a. What have they done to get imperialism off the back of the  
> Zimbabwean people since independence?  
>  
> b. What opposition have they raised to the misuse of the legitimate  
> desire for democracy to reverse the gains of the people everywhere  
> and usher in the return of reaction?  
>  
> Of course, in no area where the imperialists have meddled are  
> the masses of the people better off after the "return of democracy"  
> than before. Witness the standard of living in the former USSR,  
> East Germany and the Balkans after "democratization."  
>



> Progressive Blackfolk publicly condemning Mugabe and his followers  
> falls right into the Bush-Blair strategy of imperial rule. The  
> signers of the 3 June statement objectively help to legitimize  
> the white supremacy and imperialism. They have not only taken  
> an anti working class position, but also reflects a lack of clarity  
> about the "preemptive strike" and "regime change" strategy of  
> US imperialism.

>

> The Bush-Blair imperialists now operate with the fascistic viewpoint  
> of "either you're with us or you're a pro-terrorist enemy combatant."  
> Why? Because they are the most powerful force in the world. with  
> no other oppositional superpower. This means that our tasks now-  
> if we are truly Black and Radical- is to spend our time educating  
> and mobilizing our fundamentally workingclass mass base here  
> in the US to help bring revolutionary change within the belly  
> of the Beast and to alter the balance of power internationally  
> in favor of the worldwide struggles against imperialism.

>

> Putting out high sounding statements against Mugabe in this new  
> fascist period may or may not get one off the Homeland Security/Patriot  
> Act's "White" List. These statements, however, rarely get read  
> by everyday Blackfolks. They get read by white liberals, by the  
> US intelligence and foreign policy infrastructure, and a few  
> Black petty bourgeois forces inside and outside the US. It eventually  
> filters out into the Media Monopoly as an endorsement of US African  
> foreign policy by progressive Black leaders.

>

> In other words, this kind of statement buttresses the Right's  
> African foreign policy because they now can and will use it to  
> put a Black liberal spin on their imperialist policies towards  
> Africa. Look at the historical role of the middleclass or, more  
> accurately, petty bourgeois liberals -especially the intellectuals-  
> in paving the way for the defeat of the working people. These  
> same liberals trample on substantive democracy and hide behind  
> stagnant procedures of voting and empty elections designed to  
> demobilize and demoralize the masses.

>

> The question of the right of Africans to reclaim their land stolen  
> through enslavement and colonialism gets lost, buried and trivialized  
> by US Black public figures who pose as radical oppositional forces  
> to capital speaking only about how bad Mugabe is.

>

> The priority for us in the BRC, right here and now, in this new  
> age of unipolar imperialism and white supremacy is to inform  
> Blackfolk inside the US about the struggles and problems of our  
> Sisters and Brothers fighting to reclaim their land in Africa,  
> in Columbia, in Brazil, or right here in South Carolina. It is  
> in this context that we discuss the current crop of African leadership  
> and popular struggles.

>

> Not in the NY Times or Washington Post or CNN or FoxNews....

>

> Signed,

>

> Sam Anderson <ebontek@earthlink.net>  
> Bill Sales <saleswil@shu.edu>  
> Nellie Hester Bailey <nelliehester@yahoo.com>  
> Saladin Muhammad <SALADIN62@aol.com>  
> Abdul Alkalimat <abdul.alkalimat@utoledo.edu>  
> Sandra Rivers <sistanina2@earthlink.net>  
> Churne Lloyd <clloyd81@hotmail.com>  
> Brother Simba <msimbamw@aol.com>

>

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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From: Gerald Horne [gchorne@email.unc.edu]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2003 1:53 PM  
To: National council BRC  
Subject: [BRC-COUNCIL] Response to Horace Campbell

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: Gerald Horne <gchorne@email.unc.edu>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Horace Campbell, of course, is a thoughtful and prolific commentator and I appreciate the fact that he took the time and effort to express his sentiments at length.

However, a no. of questions come to my mind after perusing his remarks: Of all the items that the BRC could tackle publicly concerning Africa, should Zimbabwe be a priority? On page A3 of today's NY Times is a picture of Bush and Museveni of Uganda meeting in the White House, this despite the fact that his "no-party" system is a thinly disguised cover for a "one-party" system (while the opposition in Zimbabwe is hegemonic in local Harare councils and is represented in Parliament); this despite the fact that Uganda has been more than complicit in the 3 million deaths--yes, 3 million deaths that have wracked neighboring Congo.

African-Americans have a special responsibility for Liberia, a state founded by some of our ancestors, and that state is now descending into anarchy. Is the human rights situation in Zimbabwe more pressing than that in Liberia? Speaking of Liberia, Prof. Campbell notes correctly that there is a war crimes indictment hanging over the head of Charles Taylor of Liberia. I hold no brief for this leader with blood on his hands but we should consider if this developing system of borderless jurisdiction will ever be used against other war criminals--e.g. Bush and Blair--or whether in the current dispensation it will easily morph into yet another tool for neo-colonialist manipulation. Moreover, the South Africans and others who were negotiating with Taylor to stand down, felt used and sandbagged after the "secret" indictment of him was announced while he was negotiating peace in neighboring Ghana. Accra, of course, allowed him to depart for Monrovia. But what kind of message does that send, for example to Zimbabwe? Mugabe should be coaxed into stepping down by other Africans, then--voila!--an indictment of him is produced unbeknownst to the Africans who had been negotiating with him? Minimally, this puts African leaders like Mbeki of South Africa in the position of being satraps of London and Washington--not a healthy development, I would think.

What does BRC have to say about the US base at Djibouti? Or its pallid response to the TB, Malaria, fund? Or-speaking of patriarchy, which informs an important component of Prof. Campbell's intervention--what about the rancid male supremacy of Swaziland, which makes developments in Zimbabwe seem mild by comparison? What about still smoldering colonial questions in Western Sahara, Reunion, etc.?

In short, the list of pending emergencies in Africa is lengthy and, as a matter of priority, should Zimbabwe be at or near the top of the list? London and Washington seem to be doing an "effective" job of easing the path for Mugabe's departure and a question that should be considered is if a small resource-poor grouping like BRC should, likewise, make this a priority.

Both Prof. Campbell and his interlocutors who he has responded to both

have pointed to past global examples--e.g. Savimbi in Angola or Eastern Europe before 1989--as negative examples to be avoided. One point to consider is who comes after ZANU-PF? Prof. Campbell, if I recall correctly, observes that the settlers have been defeated politically; our own experience in the post-Civil War U.S. South suggests that in order for this to occur, they would have to be defeated economically--and this has yet to occur in Zimbabwe. This is one reason why the opposition's ties to Rhodesians have raised grave concern on the continent. Moreover, the maturity of the MDC leader who--whether he discussed the murder of Mugabe is a separate matter, as charged in a treason indictment--met with the known finagler and former Mossad agent, Ari Ben-Menashe of Iran-Contra infamy, for reasons that remain murky, is also a matter of concern on the continent (even by those who would like to see Mugabe depart). It is evident that the MDC is fundamentally an anti-Mugabe coalition that would split into its constituent elements if it ever assumed power. Just like anti-colonial struggles quickly evolve from matters of "home rule" to "who shall rule at home?", it is not beyond the realm of imagination to suspect that after this split, all-important London and Washington would not back the trade union elements within the anti-Mugabe coalition, but instead would back the Rhodesians and pro-business elements. Would the working class of Zimbabwe be better off at that juncture?

This is one reason, I think, why press accounts have suggested that mediators from South Africa and Nigeria have backed some sort of grand coalition between ZANU-PF and MDC (of course, their "quiet diplomacy" hampers our ability to understand altogether what has been proposed by them, just as it stands as an example we should consider emulating).

In any case, once again, I appreciate Prof. Campbell's thoughtful remarks and look forward to further interventions by him--and others who may not share his sentiments.

[Cross-posting or publishing messages that appear on BRC-COUNCIL to a non-BRC medium is prohibited, without \*explicit\* permission from the message author. Failure to obey this rule may result in your expulsion from the list]

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BRC-COUNCIL: Black Radical Congress - National Council Representatives

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<www.blackradicalcongress.org> | BRC | <blackradicalcongress@email.com>

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**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** nellie hester [nelliehester@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 1:54 PM

**To:** Onaje Muid--NCOBRA; Muntu; Monica Moorehead; alton maddox; leola maddox; Black Liberation; Hany Khalil; Gerald Horne; Joan Gibbs; WBAI News Dept.; Don; Theresa ElAmin; Shirley Campbell; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; Bob Brown; ProLibertad Campaign; Horace G Campbell; bashlefi@aol.com; Blacklist; blacktel4justice@aol.com; BlackWorldEvents

**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] Harlem Forum on Zimbabwe and Mugabe on June 22

## **UPTOWN BRECHT FORUM IN HARLEM**

### **"Zimbabwe & Mugabe: Governance, the Land Question and its Impact Worldwide"**

**Sunday, June 22, 2003**

**4 to 7 PM**

**St. Mary's Church 521 West 126th St. (West Harlem)**

**(Between Amsterdam and Old Broadway)**

**Travel: #1, #9, C or A trains to 125th St.**

#### ***Guest speakers:***

***Horace Campbell, Black Radical Congress and author of upcoming book on Zimbabwe.***

***Viola Plummer, December 12 Movement and an international Election Observer in Zimbabwe for the recent election.***

***Invited buy not yet confirmed: Professor Gerald Horne, author, writer, lecturer.***

***Representative of the Zimbabwean Government (TBA)***

***Zimbabwean Opposition Representative (TBA)***

***Join us for an evening of informative discussion and analysis.***

This special called forum on Zimbabwe is prompted in part by recent developments in the US African American progressive community that is decidedly divided on transpiring events in Zimbabwe, specifically land redistribution policies of the Mugabe government and the manner in which those policies are achieved. The June 3rd open letter to President Robert Mugabe signed by "Americans of Africa descent-many of them representing major organizations of civil society in the US" called on Mugabe to "work with others in and outside of your government to create an effective process for a transition to a more broadly supported government upholding democratic rights of all." The groups' main spokesperson, Bill Fletcher, Jr., President of TransAfrica (and a member of the National Coordinating Committee of the Black Radical Congress) distant their position from the regime change rhetoric of US President George Bush and UK Prime Minister Tony Blair but insist "it is time for a new

6/16/2003

progressive leadership to emerge in Zimbabwe , a leadership that from the best elements of ZANU-PF and the MDC."

This letter was followed by a June 3rd letter to the Zimbabwean People signed by a broad coalition of grassroots leaders declaring on behalf of millions of Africans in the US, "full and continued support for efforts to correct the historical and criminal injustice of Britian colonialism, which stole the lives, labor and land of the people of Zimbabwe." In the letter the group noted "MDC has openly called for the overthrow of the duly elected government of President Mugabe ... by any national standard (especially that of the US ), is generally viewed as an act of sedition." The letter raised, among others points, US government & multinational private entities funding non-profit organizations commonly referred to as civil society, as having a possible influence on civil societies assuming pro-US and European positions against Mugabe's land reform campaign.

The discussion has sparked internal discussion within the Black Left on the timing of the initial open letter to Mugabe that some have charged is possibly linked to the Ford Foundation funding of \$100,000 to the Black Radical Congress. Black activists cite a 12/15/01 article by James Petras on The Ford Foundation and The CIA. However, no one has offered proof of the allegation other than the fact the BRC is a grant receipt of the Ford Foundation.

For additional information on the Ford Foundation and its collaboration with t he CIA log on to a documented case of philanthropic collaboration with the secret Police. The document is available at <http://www.ratical.org/ratville/CAH/FordFandCIA.html>.

Panelists will also address Mugabe's local governance policies and its domestic impact.

We urge all BRC members attending the weekend national conference June 20th through the 22nd that ends at 2 PM on Sunday 6/22 to attend.

For additional information contact Nellie Hester Bailey at this e-mail address or at 212-316-2240.

---

Do you Yahoo!?

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**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** John Woodford [johnwood@umich.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 2:27 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Harlem Forum on Zimbabwe and Mugabe on June 22

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Nor do CIA fronts come out and confess. Sometimes the details of such propaganda operations come out much later, when the operation is over and the damage is done (or attempted).

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Just ask yourselves the question asked by Cicero, Lenin and others: "cui bono?" "For whom the good." That is, who stands to benefit from the denunciation of and attack against Zimbabwean independence? Who benefits from the smokescreen, the interference, the attempted "foothold" in Africa? That's how you figure out such matters. That is the mode of proof of such allegations.

No "radical" should have to have this explained to him or her..

nellie hester wrote:

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**Alkalimat, Abdul**

---

**From:** nellie hester [nelliehester@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 3:56 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Cc:** joanbgibbs@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Harlem Forum on Zimbabwe and Mugabe on June 22

Dear John,

Hope you can make it to the forum to raise these points. Your question, "who stands to benefit from the denunciation of and attack against Zimbabwean independence" is at the core of this explosive debate. Personal attacks against anyone, including me, won't get us any closer the answer. Interestingly enough, I lifted the Ford Foundation reference from an earlier BRC posting sent by Abdul K, so you can hardly accuse me of planting this! But I am curious, John, did you see the open letter to Mugabe from Fletcher and company and the response it solicited from others as aiding and abetting the enemy? It's really simple, you can't have your cake and eat it to! This forum is not meant to be a pissing contest between two opposing forces in the Black left-- it is our sincere hope we can have a comprehensive discussion on what is happening in Zimbabwe, the escalating civil unrest, the land redistribution campaign and the recolonization aims of the US and the UK., it's impact not only only Zimbabwe, the African continent but the world. The open letters to Mugabe and the parties involved adds another complexity to a debate some of us are not willing to duck. Hope to see you on June 22nd.

NBailey, NYC

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

From: nellie hester [nelliehester@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Friday, June 13, 2003 5:37 PM  
To: brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
Subject: Re: [BRC-DISC] Harlem Forum on Zimbabwe and Mugabe on June 22

John,  
Your point is well taken. Still, hope to see you on June 22nd. NB

John Woodford <johnwood@umich.edu> wrote:

It's merely criticism and argument, Nellie. I'm not intending anything as a personal attack--and certainly not against you.

I didn't even know you were the one "speaking" in the release. I thought you were relaying it. My point was the notion that a "proof of the allegation" is required is irrelevant.

It's barking up the wrong tree.

I wasn't seeing the statement as anything "planted," but as a symptom of the wrong way--in my mind--of looking at the issue of the Mugabe letter. It's like the anti-Castro letter.

I saw no discussion about whether sending or joining in on such a letter was a good thing for the BRC to do.

Whether such things are done in a calculated fashion or people are duped into it is not the main point. The main thing is to figure out whether a stance or action serves the imperialist scum or opposes them.

It also illustrates why it's best not to have Ford Foundation ties.

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** John Woodford [johnwood@umich.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 5:34 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Harlem Forum on Zimbabwe and Mugabe on June 22

Didn't read it. Was on deadline.

I look on it as institutional aiding and abetting if the BRC has taken the step officially. Don't have any dea of which persons said what when or what the process is. But it's an error of commission or omission either way, I argue. Always open to rebuttal, however.

nellie hester wrote:

> John, Friday, 05/03 posting of Abdul Alkalimat. Is there an inference  
> here? And if so, why didn't it elicit an "aiding and abetting"  
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## Alkalimat, Abdul

**From:** John Woodford [johnwood@umich.edu]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 5:23 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Harlem Forum on Zimbabwe and Mugabe on June 22

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**From:** nellie hester [nelliehester@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 5:00 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Harlem Forum on Zimbabwe and Mugabe on June 22

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nellie hester wrote: UPTOWN BRECHT FORUM IN HARLEM  
"Zimbabwe & Mugabe: Governance, the Land Question and its Impact Worldwide"  
Sunday, June 22, 2003

## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

**From:** Horace Campbell [hgcc@twcny.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 7:05 PM  
**To:** BlackWorldEvents; blacktel4justice@aol.com; Blacklist; bashlefi@aol.com; ProLibertad Campaign; Bob Brown; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; Shirley Campbell; Theresa ElAmin; Don; WBAI News Dept.; Joan Gibbs; Gerald Horne; Hany Khalil; Black Liberation; leola maddox; alton maddox; Monica Moorehead; Muntu; Onaje Muid--NCOBRA; nellie hester  
**Subject:** [BRC-COUNCIL] Issues for the Harlem Forum

Dear Nellie,

Thank you for the announcement on the forthcoming Brecht Forum in Harlem scheduled for Sunday, June 22. at 4pm

When we first spoke on the phone with respect to my participation in this event, I noted my reservation with respect to the breadth of the topics to be discussed in one afternoon. It was my understanding that the Forum was being called so that there can be an open and frank discussion in the community on the present conditions in Zimbabwe. The issues of the land and the impact worldwide were issues that we agreed on.

It was my view that it was important to get the voices of Zimbabweans in this Forum.

You agreed to undertake to contact Zimbabweans.

Now that there is a public notice of the meeting, there is additional material to indicate that the Uptown Forum will also be discussing the matters of the Black Radical Congress.

This we did not agree on. There will be Congress at Seton Hall on June 20-22. All matters relating to the BRC can be discussed at the Congress. If this Uptown Forum is being called as a BRC meeting for BRC members, then I think that it will be appropriate to raise other matters relating to the BRC.

As the current publicity now stands I will have to reconsider my willingness to participate in this platform as it is constructed in your publicity.

Peace

Horace Campbell

June 13

----- Original Message -----

From: nellie hester

To: Onaje Muid--NCOBRA ; Muntu ; Monica Moorehead ; alton maddox ; leola maddox ; Black Liberation ; Hany Khalil ; Gerald Horne ; Joan Gibbs ; WBAI News Dept. ; Don ; Theresa ElAmin ; Shirley Campbell ; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca ; Bob Brown ; ProLibertad Campaign ; Horace G Campbell ; bashlefi@aol.com ; Blacklist ; blacktel4justice@aol.com ; BlackWorldEvents

Sent: Friday, June 13, 2003 12:54 PM

Subject: Harlem Forum on Zimbabwe and Mugabe on June 22

UPTOWN BRECHT FORUM IN HARLEM

"Zimbabwe & Mugabe: Governance, the Land Question and its Impact Worldwide"

Sunday, June 22, 2003

4 to 7 PM

St. Mary's Church 521 West 126th St. (West Harlem)

(Between Amsterdam and Old Broadway)

Travel: #1, #9, C or A trains to 125th St.

Guest speakers:

Horace Campbell, Black Radical Congress and author of upcoming book on Zimbabwe.

Viola Plummer, December 12 Movement and an international Election Observer in Zimbabwe for the recent election.

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** gary hicks [big\_g19462002@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 13, 2003 9:53 PM  
**To:** brc-council@lists.tao.ca; BlackWorldEvents; blacktel4justice@aol.com; Blacklist; bashlefi@aol.com; ProLibertad Campaign; Bob Brown; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; Shirley Campbell; Theresa ElAmin; Don; WBAI News Dept.; Joan Gibbs; Gerald Horne; Hany Khalil; Black Liberation; leola maddox; alton maddox; Monica Moorehead; Muntu; Onaje Muid--NCOBRA; nellie hester  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-COUNCIL] Issues for the Harlem Forum

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: gary hicks <big\_g19462002@yahoo.com>  
\*\*\*\*\*

i agree with horace.

i am taking time out next weekend to attend a crucially needed meeting of the brc. i fully expect the conference at seaton hall to lead to some tighter and higher unity, and a clear sense of what we will be doing in the next period of time.

the forum in harlem, as promoted on our listservs, can only serve as a wrecking and splitting function. this is not a time to be handing our enemies a clear shot at us on a silver platter.

as to the ford foundation question, i still stand by the decision made two years ago this month by the brc national council: please come up with a cogent, well-argued, alternative plan on how to raise funds for our congress. or hold off on the objections until something of that sort is made available.

--- Horace Campbell <hgcc@twcny.rr.com> wrote:

> Dear Nellie,  
> Thank you for the announcement on the forthcoming  
> Brecgt Forum in Harlem scheduled for Sunday, June  
> 22. at 4pm  
> When we first spoke on the phone with respect to my  
> participation in this event, I noted my reservation  
> with respect to the breadth of the topics to be  
> discussed in one afternoon.  
> It was my understanding that the Forum was being  
> called so that there can be an open and frank  
> discussion in the community on the present  
> conditions in Zimbabwe. The issues of the land and  
> the impact worldwide were issues that we agreed on.  
> It was my view that it was important to get the  
> voices of Zimbabweans in this Forum.  
> You agreed to undertake to contact Zimbabweans.  
> Now that there is a public notice of the meeting,  
> there is additional material to indicate that the  
> Uptown Forum will also be discussing the matters of  
> the Black Radical Congress.  
> This we did not agree on. There will be Congress at  
> Seton Hall on June 20-22. All matters relating to  
> the BRC can be discussed at the Congress. If this  
> Uptown Forum is being called as a BRC meeting for  
> BRC members, then I think that it will be

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-----

## Alkalimat, Abdul

**From:** Xblackxmanx@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 14, 2003 3:20 AM  
**To:** Xblackxmanx@aol.com; TheAfrikanConsciousnessCenter@yahoogroups.com; 1725topp@bellsouth.net; AAlkali@UTNet.UTledo.Edu; ajackmon@hotmail.com; Allah135@cs.com; alona3649@hotmail.com; Amirib@aol.com; askia@pressroom.com; Attia@aol.com; BADARIAN@aol.com; BASHLEFI@aol.com; bbstring@bellsouth.net; blackauteur@yahoo.com; BlackElectorate@cs.com; Blacklines@yahoogroups.com; blackrep@pacbell.net; brendasutton@hotmail.com; connierw@earthlink.net; coolpopa@; cristwellmuhammad@yahoo.com; cvgsheba@burningmail.com; dbailey@hfgsc.org; dbakeer107@aol.com.; Divajamiewalker@aol.com; drjuliahare@pacbell.net; eastsidearts@yahoo.com; ebontek@earthlink.net; editor@sfbayview.com; elenas@mindspring.com; erica\_taber@yahoo.com; Eriecture1@aol.com; FAlim@sacbee.com; G1Rhythm@aol.com; gaylemba@netscape.net; ggrier@researchdatagroup.com; givebacktoblack@YAHOO.COM; goddessfiles@yahoo.com; HEALCO@aol.com; Hhasan2@aol.com; hurriyah@islc.net; lbespirit51@aol.com; Jhdoyle98@hotmail.com; joeradical@yahoo.com; jrswriter@comcast.net; Julian\_Carroll@dot.ca.gov; KALAMU@aol.com; Kevinpowe@aol.com; lisamadams@hotmail.com; lovelife@sirius.com; Natralieb@aol.com; nefjackmon@hotmail.com; nhare@blackthinktank.com; Omowale32@aol.com; orfenegro@netscape.net; pamelay@csufresno.edu; prodeternal@hotmail.com; rudolphlewis@hotmail.com; SOA@egroups.com; SuninleoNY@aol.com; superle@pacbell.net; swright@solano.cc.ca.us; TheAfrikanConsciousnessCenter@yahoogroups.com.; theblacklist@topica.com; timothy\_simon@rsco.com; Trinada@aol.com; unite\_n\_resist@yahoo.com; whywewrite@hotmail.com.; WORDSLANGER@aol.com; writealim@yahoo.com; WSAB1@aol.com; yture@mindspring.com; yvonne\_bynoe@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Negroes and Mugabe

### Third World People

"Major" so-called "Black radicals", who used to call themselves Third World internal colony Americans, are now joining forces with the Voice of America (the U.S. State Department) in providing ideological cover for Anglo-American invasion/re-colonization of Zimbabwe -- the same way and with the same ideological cover that they devised to carry out the Cold War, occupy South Vietnam and South Korea,

aide the Contras in Angola, Nicaragua, and Afghanistan -- and presently Bosnia, Serbia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq -- by demonizing the leader as a "dictator" and "tyrant" who violate the "human rights" of his "own people". Thus, their military aggressions are preceded by and accompanied with ideological justification that their "intent" is not occupation but "liberation" of the people of the nation from "tyranny" and "dictatorship", sexism, "ethnic cleansing", and so on. The Israelis made the same "argument" against "Arafat" and the U.S. against "Castro".

Only an ignorant fool cannot see the ideologico-political pattern. But, the African-American so-called "radical" who are leading Anglo-America's ideological assault on Zimbabwe are neither ignorant nor are they fools. They have obviously, therefore consciously went over to the side of Anglo-American imperialism -- one of whom, Bill Fletcher in the Voice of America Forward (below) was consciously interviewed by Voice of America, elaborating on his attack on the government of Zimbabwe.

Ostensibly attacking the individual "Mugabwe": qua "corrupt dictators", &c., it is the same old ideological precursor to bombing, invasion and occupation. Today, these "African-American" (actually American-American) "leaders" are attacking Zimbabwe is in now way different than the Bill Clinton/Madeline Albright G.W.B./Colin Powell political and ideological attacks on the governments of Serbia, Afghanistan, Iraq -- and always Cuba -- by demonizing the individual head of state and spewing ideological propaganda for domistical consumption to tell the Anglo-American public it is not an attack on a sovereign country but upon the "dictator oppressing his own people".

Similarly they are, with the support of self-styled African American leaders letter, isolating Zimbabwe, ostensibly attacking Mugabe the Individual. But do a comparison to the rhetoric in the African-American group below to that of the State Department and the Voice of America denouncing "Slobodan Milosevic" on the eve of bombardment and invasion/occupation of Serbia/Kosovo by Anglo-American imperialism, the Taliban and "Saddam Hussein" prior to bombing, invading and occupation by U.S. and British forces of Afghanistan and Iraq. They presented, therefore, their open aggression and occupation as "liberation"

One Negro -- Horace Campbell -- openly associates Mugabe with Milosevic and said that like them he should be "prosecuted"!

Similarly the so-called Black progressives say they wrote the Open Letter below ostensibly on behalf of the Zimbabwean workers and peasants to "free" them for "Mugabe"! They have consciously and deliberately placed their Skin-significance at the service of Voice of America, that is the U.S. State Department and ultimately the Pentagon! These attacks demonizing "Mugabe" are consciously placed in context of the existing Anglo-American economic and political sanctions in place on Zimbabwe.

Writing on behalf of Voice of America, that is the ideological arm of U.S. imperialism, David Gollust circulated recent attacks on Zimbabwe ostensibly as attacks on "Mugabe", introducing their attack on Zimbabwe thus:

Some prominent African-American political activists have made public a letter sent to Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe condemning political repression by his government and calling for "unconditional dialogue" on a transition to more broadly-supported leadership in Harare..."

Isn't this the same thing the Voice of America on the eve of U.S. invasions of Serbia and Iraq, their mass murder of Serbian and Iraqi people and destruction of their country, that "Slobodan Milosevic" and "Saddam Hussein" were ideologically portrayed as "dictators", evil tyrants and so on.

The Voice of America goes on to quote their acknowledged "prominent" Negro leaders of the 21st century, thus:

The open letter is signed by leaders of eight African-American trade union organizations and Africa policy groups, and it reflects what its authors say is growing apprehension in the U.S. black community about the course of events in Zimbabwe. The document, made available to the news media Wednesday, cites what are termed "the increasing intolerant, repressive and violent" policies of the Mugabe government and the "devastating consequences" of those policies, including widespread poverty and famine."

(from Voice of America)

So what's next? The bombs to start dropping on Zimbabwe, mass killing and destruction ostensibly to "liberate" the "people of Zimbabwe" from a "brutal dictator"? But, Anglo-American imperialism is not just represented by the BBC, CNN, VOA, &c. in this propaganda offensive. Rather, they have on their team "Some prominent African-American political activists" and "African-American trade union organizations and Africa policy groups".

These are the Negro "leaders" which VOA is praising for denouncing "Mubabe"?

William Lucy, President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists;  
Willie Baker, Executive Vice President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists;  
Salih Booker, Executive Director, Africa Action;  
Bill Fletcher, Jr., President, TransAfrica Forum;  
Horace G. Dawson Jr., Director Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center, Howard University;  
Patricia Ann Ford, Executive Vice President, Service Employees International Union (SEIU);  
Julianne Malveaux, TransAfrica Forum Board Member;  
Rev Justus Y. Reeves, Executive Director Missions Ministry, Progressive National Baptist Convention;  
Coordinating Committee, Black Radical Congress.



This list of "prominent" Negro "leaders" actually do not represent African-Americans, and are largely unknown (or even heard of) in the Black community they claim have a "growing apprehension ... about the course of events in Zimbabwe." Did they do a poll in the Black community? Of course not! And VOA know that they didn't. It is an out-right lie! I doubt that these VOA declared "prominent" Negroes even polled the organizations they are supposing to "lead".

In any case, whereas the Black political leadership in the sixties were principled participants in the Third World Liberation Movement the Negroes who signed on to the attack on Zimbabwe are unprincipled opportunists partisans in this instance of Anglo-American imperialist policy in South-Central Africa.

In the Black Power/Black Pride of the 60s Black folk in the United States with the leadership of Black radicals or/and revolutionaries such as Martin Luther King Jr., Robert F. Williams, Malcolm X, John Coltrane, Muhammad Ali, Stokely Carmichael, H Rap Brown, Amiri Baraka, Archie Shepp, Huey Newton, Nathan Hare and Harry Edwards among others, challenging American racism and imperialism in every facet of American domestic life and in its foreign policy: such as King denouncing the aggression in Vietnam and Muhammad Ali, and Marvin X refusing to participate in that aggression. We rejected the demonization of Mao and Castro who were being denounced by the State Department, Radio Free Europe, and the Voice of America as "godless communists", "dictators", and so on.

We then had the respect of real Third World liberation and revolutionary movements. Today, the signers of the Open Letter to Mugabe have no respect in any serious revolutionary but do in fact have the respect, and encouragement of the State Department, the Voice of America and undoubtedly the CIA when they distribute it throughout Africa!

I am posting an informational ideologico-political contrast. The Letter by Americans to Mugabe AFTER a Letter by actual Third World People who denounce U.S. imperialism and its War Crimes in Iraq. Saddam Hussein was never the real issue. Only a fool would believe that U.S. imperialist policy in the Middle East, that Anglo-American imperialism would spend billions of dollars in weapons and equipment for the purpose of so-called liberating Afghan women from the veil or the Iraqis from a "dictator". Only a fool like Horace Campbell or Bill Fletcher would believe and promote such an idea in relation to Mugabe and Zimbabwe.

I am posting an actual Third World document in the form of their letter attacking U.S. imperialism's murdering destruction of Iraq. This Letter will be followed by the pseudo-African American -- actually American-American Letter attacking Zimbabwe. The Negro "letter" is presented in the way it is being circulated by the CIA and State Department operatives in America and Africa, with its congratulatory Forward by the Voice of America.

The Third World Letter calls for a War Crimes Tribunal

comprised of former colonial and simi-colonial peoples of the Third World. No African Americans who claim to be an internal colony in the sixties have signed on to this Third World call. Instead they are calling for regime change in Zimbabwe.

Lil Joe

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Gerald Horne [gchorne@email.unc.edu]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 14, 2003 10:54 AM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] Zimbabwe's Next President?

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: Gerald Horne <gchorne@email.unc.edu>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Since Zimbabwe seems to be the subject of much discussion, it might be useful to stay abreast of developments there: this is an article from a recent issue of the pro-ZANU-PF 'Herald' of Harare. Note that President Mugabe is approaching his 80s and, obviously, will be leaving office sooner rather than later.

Mnangagwa opens up  
MILLIONS have kept guessing the route of his political career with speculation rife that he is the president-in-waiting. Is he really?

"I have no aspirations for presidency at all . . . Im above average in intelligence, how do you aspire for a position where there is no vacancy? My only wish is to continue serving the country, confided the Speaker of Parliament, Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa, recently.

He is viewed, in some circles, as a hard, ruthless man "very vicious when his path is crossed".

"People think that Im a hard person but those close to me know that Im as soft as wool. But of course I stick to my principles. Maybe thats where the hardness comes from. I stick to principles no matter what it takes.

"I have gone through a lot of pain, suffering and torture in my life . . . I hardly wish anyone any suffering which is why I have always been against the death penalty because I myself missed it by a whisker. For instance I only use one ear because the other one was injured through torture under the Rhodesian regime.

But would he kill if he had to?

"Ive seen a lot of death in my life, I dont want to kill. War is not nice, Ive gone through it.

During the Smith era, the Speaker who was actively involved in the liberation struggle was at some point condemned to death and brutally tortured at the then notorious "Butcher House 20A a room at the Harare Central Prison where he was detained.

War, as it was, the gruesome treatment he describes to have been subjected to prisoners at the so-called Butcher House makes ones skin crawl.

"There was an iron bar with hooks similar to the ones used for hanging

carcasses in most butcheries. Fixed across the roof in that room. So we were chained in leg irons which were then hooked to the bar so that we hung with our heads facing down. We were tortured whilst in those positions.

Earlier during the initial stages of the war in 1965, Cde Mnangagwa was arrested for blowing, in the previous year, a locomotive engine in the then town of Fort Victoria, now Masvingo.

He was sentenced to death but escaped with a 10-year-jail term on an age technicality.

He has ever since strongly opposed the death penalty and during his tenure as the minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs he reduced by six, the offences that called for capital punishment.

A qualified lawyer and father of 12, Cde Mnangagwa was born in Zvishavane in the royal family of the Mapanzure chieftainship. Mapanzure is therefore his last name.

He did part of his schooling in Zvishavane and then went to a school in Zambia where he was expelled for complaining about the diet. He then enrolled for industrial building and architecture at Hodgson Technical College, also in Zambia, but was again expelled this time for burning some property at the school. He had then become an activist of the Zambian United National Independence Party (Unip).

His academic life stopped briefly then and he became a full-time Unip youth league member rising to the rank of secretary. When Unip came into power in 1962 under the leadership of former President Kenneth Kaunda, Cde Mnangagwa was recruited by Zapu.

He was posted to Egypt for military training in 1963 but that same year, he led a rebellion against the Zapu leadership and was detained. He joined Zanu in Tanganyika and was among the first group of five to undergo military training in China. Upon his return to the country the following year, he began recruiting and sending young people to China and Ghana for military training.

In 1965 he was captured and jailed for blowing a locomotive engine, an offence he had committed the previous year.

Prison gave him an opportunity to carry on with his studies and he did both his ordinary and advanced levels before undertaking a law degree.

Upon completion of his jail term he was deported to Zambia where he was received by the late freedom fighter Cde Josiah Tongogara. He rejoined Zanla and was hosted in that country by the Tongogara family.

In Zambia, Cde Mnangagwa completed his law degree and was admitted to the bar as an advocate.

But immediately after being confirmed as a lawyer he went to Mozambique to rejoin the struggle.

He has ever since been an active politician and was in charge of security as a Special Assistant to President Mugabe from 1977 to 1990.

He first met President Mugabe in 1963 in Tanganyika. "In 1964 I used to guard his house in Highfield.

Cde Mnangagwa has worked closely with the President for the past 40 years.

But doesn't his kind of life experience harden a person?

"My adulthood solidified me. . . I'm still a simple villager with village upbringing philosophy.

Cde Mnangagwa met his late wife Jayne, Cde Tongogaras sister, during his stay with the family soon after his release from prison.

"I met her through Tongogara when I left prison. Tongogara was always very busy so most of the time it was just me and her at home . . . She was my first girlfriend and I quickly married her.

Jayne died of cancer on January 31 last year.

Was he a good husband? "As a husband you cant assess yourself. I suppose if one had a normal lifestyle they would become better husbands. But in politics its not like that because sometimes you work until the early hours of the next day.

"My wife was very accommodating. She had come to accept my way of life. Her death, he says, was a big blow to him and his family.

"My wife, she was a pillar. I miss her. We were very close and she was the solid one in the family, more solid than I was. She was always solving most of the problems in the family.

The Speaker has 12 children, eight girls and four boys. Some of his daughters are at universities in the US, Britain and South Africa, and his sons are still at Prince Edward School.

As a father, "I havent been a good father because I hardly found time to talk to my children. At times my children would say to me dad when did you come back when I hadnt been away. I would arrive home when they were sleeping and leave before they were up. I have more time now that Im Speaker but my girls are grown up now.

His favourite food: "I still love my sour milk and mufushwa (dried vegetables).

Cde Mnangagwa describes his upbringing as having been fairly comfortable in a rural set-up. His father is his role-model.

"I was quite close to my father. He was anti-settlers because my family was moved from the better productive areas in Zvishavane to rocky areas. He always said that if he had been younger he would have gone to school and fought the white man. I always felt that I had to correct that (the land imbalance).

The Speaker is also a businessman with interests in dairy farming, horticulture and transport.

"I began dairy farming in 1983 and now Im into horticulture. I also have a cross-boarder transport firm run by my daughter. I do a lot of farming with my brothers growing wheat and soya beans in Kwekwe. I also buy shares on the stock market.

He has also been linked to other business interests including the Tribune Newspaper partly-owned by businessman Mutumwa Mawere.

"I have nothing to do with that newspaper neither have I done business with Mawere.

"I only dealt with him when I was appointed head of a committee of five Government officials which was set up to help indigenous people acquire businesses. I helped Mawere acquire Shabane and Mashaba Mines, from which I understand he has grown. That has nothing to do with me.

He was also cited, in a United Nations report, as one of the Zimbabweans allegedly involved in the plundering of resources in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

However, the Security Council has since cleared Zimbabwe and the said individuals.

Commenting on the allegations, Cde Mnangagwa said "I was the co-chairman of a committee of the joint ministers of Zimbabwe and DRC set to promote trade between the two countries.

"We agreed that we should create economic arms owned by ZNA (Zimbabwe National Army) and FAC (Armed Forces of Congo). We did form that and received concessions to deal in diamonds, mining, timber and electricity. But when I left even the diamond project had not begun operating. They were still in the process of establishing a mine.

"The allegations are of course false. Im aware that the recent sitting of the Security Council has cleared Zimbabwe and the individuals who had been listed.

"Our involvement in the DRC was above board. The looters in that country were Uganda and Rwanda.

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## **Was it so urgent for the BRC-CC to sign onto the June 3 Statement before the BRC National Meeting?**

The decision by the BRC Coordinating Council to put out the June 3 statement “condemning” Mugabe without broad democratic discussion and agreement was a major error, especially as we prepare for the BRC National Meeting on June 22, where the question about the survival and viability of the BRC will be of major concern.

It disregards the actual level of unity and tensions within the BRC’s history over questions of democracy. The fact that many or all of current BRC-CC signing onto the statement will be transitioning off of the BRC-CC in less than 3 weeks before the June 22 national meeting further reflects the lack of united front political sensitivity in the decision. While not disputing the “clarification” issued about the BRC process of making statements, it is mechanical as a justification for this type of decision at this time.

The June 3 statement now seems to have arisen to the level of a fundamental question decisive for the unity of the BRC, and one that may dominate and influence the climate of debate and cooperation at June 22 BRC National Meeting. It could unfortunately become the basis for a major split at a time when the need for strategic anti imperialist unity among African Americans and People of African decent is so critical. Such a split would not only be premature, it would obscure the real difficulties and necessary compromises in forging a united front.

Liberation organizations like the PLO, ANC and the Vietnam NLF with a longer histories and greater consolidation than the BRC, have often postponed taking public positions on major questions until their major bodies have met. Why was it so urgent for the BRC to sign onto a statement condemning Mugabe prior to a discussion and decision at the BRC National Meeting?

Yes, open discussions and debates around the conditions impacting the democratic and human rights of the Zimbabwean masses and others are definitely part of the critically important political education needed within and outside of the ranks of the BRC. But discussion and debate are not decisions; they help to create the climate and broad consensus for making tough decisions.

There will be differences within the BRC on a host of questions. Part of the principle of building the BRC must be unity and independence—that organizations and individuals have a right to express their views outside of the framework of the BRC if they do not represent the democratically arrived at views of the BRC.

A major reason for a BRC is that no one organization or progressive class tendency in this critical period can lead the African people’s struggle inside the US as a national anti imperialist force on their own.

The inability to mobilize the national mass character of the Black community throughout the US in opposition to the war against Iraq and “war on terrorism” was/is largely do to the fragmentation of the African American liberation movement.

The increasing US state repression and rising fascism—Patriot I and II, stepped up racist police murders, expanding military and prison industrial complexes and US led military aggression

internationally, dictates the need for Black radical and mass organizations to establish an anti imperialist Black united front.

Many of us in the BRC belonging to Black liberation organizations saw it as a national process and framework for reuniting and rebuilding the fragmented African American liberation movement as the main base and social force in the struggle for African American self-determination and in support of the liberation of Africans and other oppressed peoples worldwide. We did not expect that the main character of the BRC after 4 years in existence would be a debating society and a collection of individuals issuing grand statements without a corresponding practice and national mobilizations.

This is contrary to most of the national Black united fronts, including the Congress of African People who mobilized the breath of the Gary Black Political Assembly, ALSC who mobilized major national demonstrations and boycott campaigns. The BRC was not able to deepen, further politicize and give unified national organizational forms to the sentiment galvanized by the Million Man, Million Woman and Million Youth Marches. The organizations with individual and direct representation in the BRC have not worked any closer together around joint actions in their areas. The base of the BRC is not deeply rooted in the Black working class organizations and communities.

How does the BRC help to refocus attention on and help deepen the international sentiment of anti-racist unity and mandate of the World Conference Against Racism? How will it help to unite and promote the mass character of the reparations movement within the US? What are the main strategic questions beyond the general agreement around the Freedom Agenda that will represent the basic glue for the BRC?

Key to building the anti imperialist Black united front is the coming together of a core of Black liberation organizations that bring forth the initial mass bases that help to begin the anchoring process of the front in manifesting its program among the masses. It must be more than a collection of individual radicals trying to constitute a "radical" pole in a fragmented African American liberation movement.

The Fight-back organizing that brought together various organizations within four regions was a very important step toward rectifying some of the weaknesses of the BRC. However, the work around this outreach did not continue. The process of building for the upcoming BRC National Meeting did not consciously connect to the Fight-back outreach, did not encourage discussions throughout these regional networks around key questions to be addressed at the meeting.

These seem to be some of the main questions confronting the BRC that will decide its viability as anti imperialist Black united front.

Saladin Muhammad

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** SALADIN62@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 15, 2003 10:31 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; brc-council@lists.tao.ca; brc-fightback@yahoogroups.com  
**Subject:** [BRC-COUNCIL] Urgency of BRC signing June 3 letter



THEREI~1.DOC

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** nellie hester [nelliehester@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 15, 2003 11:29 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Harlem Forum on June 22nd

Dear Horace,

The Brecht Forum program on "Zimbabwe & Mugabe: Governance, the Land Question and its Impact Worldwide" will take place on Sunday, June 22nd at St. Mary Church, 521 West 126th St. as scheduled. It is regrettable you have decline to particpate especially at this critical time when events are unfolding in Zimbabwe that begs for a comprehensive balance analysis of the complex issues facing the country and its people. The Brecht Forum is committed to providing space for the facilitation of informative and challenging dialogue for progressive movement building. It is not our intent nor desire to side with one political position over another in the current controversy surrounding the government of Zimbabwe.

That being said I believe it is important to establish some facts in the matters you raised in the e-mail below. About two weeks ago I asked you to participate in a forum on Zimbabwe slated for a date in the latter part of July. Citing your unavailability you then suggested June 22nd that I agreed to. We both spoke strongly for the inclusion of voices from Zimbabwe and with that understanding you provided me with two Zimbabwean contacts opposing the current government. The telephone numbers were not in service nor were the parties listed. I immediately contacted you but it was several days later before you responded verfyfing the information was wrong and informing me you would not participate on the panel.

The notice sent out about the meeting was not intended to convey the impression the forum was on the Black Radical Congress and I fail to see how you can make such a blanket statement. The program will address as the title states, "Zimbabwe & Mugabe: Governance, the Land Question and its Impact Worldwide". I am in totally agree with you the matters of the BRC and any other related issues should be addressed in the upcoming meeting of the Congress scheduled for this weekend. In hindsight, the reference to the BRC was perhaps better omitted especially since it appeared to have caused some distraction from the main issues but we are committed to moving forward.

In conclusion, I wish to draw your attention to this past Friday evening's appearance of Susan Rice (former Special Assistant on African Affairs in the Clinton Administration) on ABC Nightline's Special Report on Africa. Rice called for US intervention in Zimbabwe, i.e. regime change. Such an action would have enormous consequences for the people of Zimbabwe, the region and pose even greater threat to developing nations throughout the world. Again, it is regrettable you have decided not to share your experience and knowledge of the situation in Zimbabwe before an expecting audience in Harlem. Peace and solidarity, Nellie Bailey



## Alkalimat, Abdul

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From: John Woodford [johnwood@umich.edu]  
Sent: Monday, June 16, 2003 9:11 AM  
To: brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
Subject: Re: [BRC-DISC] Zimbabwe's Next President?

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: John Woodford <johnwood@umich.edu>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Africans will continue to have a screwed up mess over there as long as they continue this "royal family" b.s.  
The concepts of royalty, "special blood" and so on are retrograde carryovers from semi-feudal and feudal society. It's b.s. when the Europeans do it, the Asians, and the Africans as well. It's a big block to African progress.

Gerald Horne wrote:

> \*\*\*\*\*  
> This Message Is From: Gerald Horne <gchorne@email.unc.edu>  
> \*\*\*\*\*  
>  
> Since Zimbabwe seems to be the subject of much discussion, it might be  
> useful to stay abreast of developments there: this is an article from a  
> recent issue of the pro-ZANU-PF 'Herald' of Harare. Note that President  
> Mugabe is approaching his 80s and, obviously, will be leaving office  
> sooner rather than later.  
>  
> Mnangagwa opens up  
> MILLIONS have kept guessing the route of his political career with  
> speculation rife that he is the president-in-waiting. Is he really?  
>  
> "I have no aspirations for presidency at all . . . Im above average in  
> intelligence, how do you aspire for a position where there is no vacancy?  
> My only wish is to continue serving the country, confided the Speaker of  
> Parliament, Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa, recently.  
>  
> He is viewed, in some circles, as a hard, ruthless man "very vicious when  
> his path is crossed".  
>  
> "People think that Im a hard person but those close to me know that Im as  
> soft as wool. But of course I stick to my principles. Maybe thats where  
> the hardness comes from. I stick to principles no matter what it takes.  
>  
> "I have gone through a lot of pain, suffering and torture in my life . . .  
> I hardly wish anyone any suffering which is why I have always been against  
> the death penalty because I myself missed it by a whisker. For instance I  
> only use one ear because the other one was injured through torture under  
> the Rhodesian regime.  
>  
> But would he kill if he had to?  
>  
> "Ive seen a lot of death in my life, I dont want to kill. War is not nice,  
> Ive gone through it.  
>  
> During the Smith era, the Speaker who was actively involved in the  
> liberation struggle was at some point condemned to death and brutally  
> tortured at the then notorious "Butcher House 20A a room at the Harare  
> Central Prison where he was detained.  
>  
> War, as it was, the gruesome treatment he describes to have been subjected

**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** jamala rogers [jamala7@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 16, 2003 9:49 AM  
**To:** BRC Discuss  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] COSATU on Zimbabwe

Stop trying to humiliate opposition leaders

The Congress of South African Trade Unions condemns the Zimbabwe Government's continued arrest and re-arrest of leaders of the opposition MDC. This attempt to humiliate Morgan Tsvangirai other MDC leaders will solve nothing.

Instead we urge the government to treat the opposition as partners in negotiations to reach a settlement of the country's severe political and economic crisis.

The COSATU Central Executive Committee on 29 May 2003 resolved to support the call by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) for an interim government and the drafting of a new constitution on the basis of which fresh elections should be conducted. It further resolved to support the call by the international community for free political activity, the repeal of the draconian laws that limit freedom of speech and free political activity and the restoration of the rule of law.

The Zimbabwe government should learn from the history of apartheid South Africa, where the white minority government repeatedly used arrests, trials, torture and the abuse of human rights to remain in power, but were forced in the end to reach a negotiated settlement with the ANC and its allies.

The MDC, with their substantial electoral support, will have to play a role in any negotiations on a settlement in Zimbabwe, and we therefore urge the government to swallow their pride, release all political prisoners and open up talks with all parties and civil society organisations, as proposed by the ZCTU.

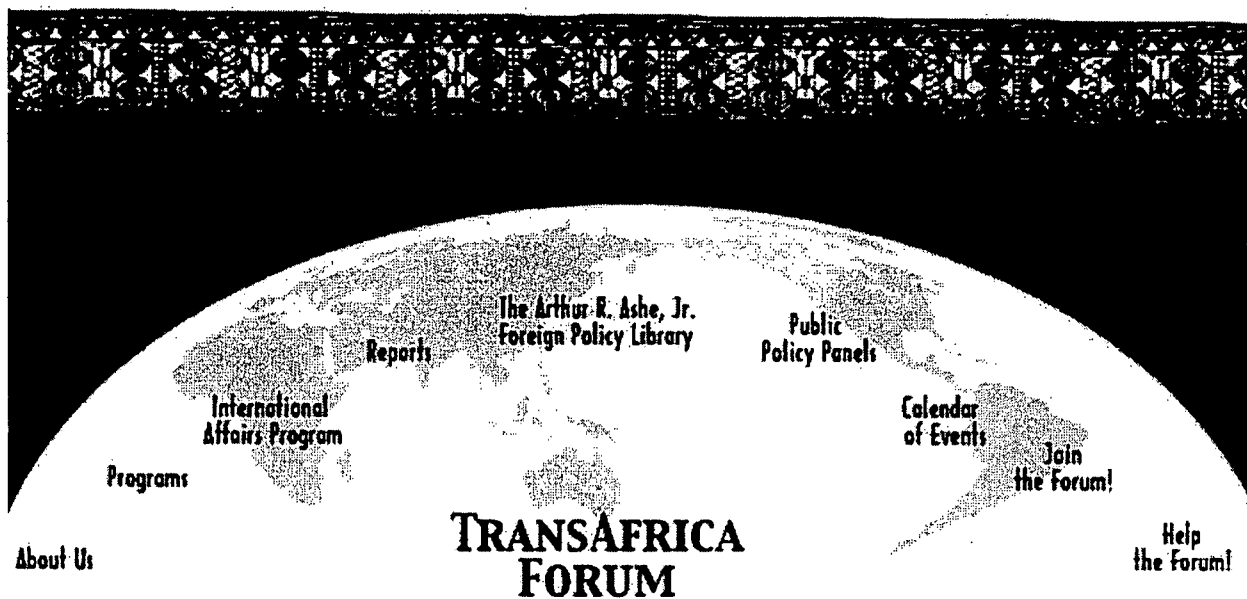
We welcome the statement by President Thabo Mbeki at the World Economic Forum that membership of the African Union will bind governments to a code of good governance. We urge him to bring pressure to bear on the government of Zimbabwe to apply the principles of good governance in that country and end the abuse of human rights.

Patrick Craven  
Acting COSATU Spokesperson

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6/16/2003



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## **Why We Spoke Out on Zimbabwe**

By Bill Fletcher, Jr., President of TransAfrica Forum

The decision to issue a statement strongly condemning the current regime of Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe was far from easy. President Mugabe had been a hero of mine and I had been a strong supporter of the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) during the national liberation war. Nevertheless, as with my other colleagues and co-signatories, it became clear that silence and inaction on the deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe was no longer acceptable. Indeed, it is not clear that failing to comment on developments there had ever been a proper course of action.

Many of us in the US who see ourselves as progressive have interpreted developments in Zimbabwe in very different ways. Honest people can disagree. At the same time, it is important for us to identify the source of the disagreement, particularly if we ever hope to overcome such disputes.

In the case of Zimbabwe, the rhetoric of the Mugabe regime is disconnected from the actual evolution of the country post-independence. The irony of the current rhetoric of President Mugabe is that its militancy stands in opposition to many of the practices that he himself followed in the years subsequent to the Lancaster House Agreements of December 1979 that brought about Zimbabwe's freedom in 1980. President Mugabe, the truth be told, supported the structural adjustment policies insisted upon by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank. In fact, it was largely the backward and anti-people economic policies of his government that resulted in the development of a major opposition movement in the late 1990s.

President Mugabe has convinced many people of good will, here in the USA, that his stand on land redistribution demonstrates his commitment to true Black majority rule in

Zimbabwe. What is strikingly odd about this is that land redistribution could have been conducted over the last 10 years (for the first ten, due to the terms of the Lancaster House Agreements, there was little that could be done). In fact, it needed to happen. The demand for land by agricultural workers and farmers was a real initiative. While it is absolutely the case that the US and Britain were to assist in subsidizing the land redistribution (and in fact reneged on this promise) the issue of land redistribution was largely ignored by President Mugabe's government until a mass opposition movement arose that challenged his, until then, undisputed leadership role. It was only at that juncture that President Mugabe championed immediate land redistribution, but in a manner that benefited not the mass of agricultural workers and farmers, but instead first and foremost the party faithful of the ZANU-PF-the ruling party.

Deciding to speak out on Zimbabwe does not mean that I or the other signatories either support or oppose the principal opposition movement: the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Rather, speaking out represents a concern that the current political repression conducted by the government is fueling fires that might ignite into civil war. The MDC, contrary to President Mugabe's propaganda, is neither a small clique of opponents nor agents of Western imperialism. They are a mass-based opposition that has often contradictory politics. That said, driving the country to the brink of civil war not only threatens the future of Zimbabwe, but as well threatens to destabilize Southern Africa as a whole.

A final point. Speaking out on Zimbabwe is also a 'preemptive strike' against the 'regime change rhetoric'-and possible actions-of the Bush administration and the Blair administration (in Britain). Both the USA and Britain have opportunistically seized upon the crisis in Zimbabwe over the last two years in order to focus attention on the plight of the white farmers. Despite many other human rights situations that have been far worse, both within Africa as well as globally, Bush and Blair have called attention to the alleged plight of the white farmers and their loss of land. We, who have signed this letter, share nothing in common with the politics or sentiments of Bush or Blair. We are, in fact, quite worried that in the triumphalism that has followed the US/British invasion of Iraq, that Bush and Blair may choose to opt for a military intervention (covert or overt) in Zimbabwe in order to install a regime more favorable to their imperial ambitions. Such a step would have a catastrophic impact region wide.

I believe, in issuing the open letter to President Mugabe, that Africans must resolve the situation in Zimbabwe. There is no role for the regime change mania of Bush and Blair. Yes, it is time for a new, progressive leadership to emerge in Zimbabwe, a leadership that draws from the best elements of the ZANU-PF and the MDC. A leadership that charts a course for Zimbabwe toward self-determined development and democracy. But that course must be developed by Africans, with the help of Zimbabwe's neighbors, and absent

the megalomania and interventionism of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue and 10 Downing Street.

[Note: for excellent background reading I would suggest Patrick Bond & Masimba Manyanya, *Zimbabwe Plunge: Exhausted Nationalism, Neo-liberalism and the Search for Social Justice*. Published by Merlin Press, 2002].

This page has been hit 105 times.

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**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** Lisa Brock [lbrock@igc.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 19, 2003 3:44 AM  
**To:** brc-council; brc-discuss  
**Subject:** [BRC-COUNCIL] Zimbabwe Crisis

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "Lisa Brock" <lbrock@igc.org>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks Jamala for posting the recent COSATU statement.

Below is an earlier piece written by the General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions in 2001. I thought it a good one as well, as it details a lot of the history that many people may not know or may have forgotten. In fact, I would direct all those interested to go to the COSATU web site as it has been following events and developing ongoing analysis on Zimbabwe for years. Also, I would encourage those of you who know music to look for interviews of Thomas Mapfumo, Zimbabwe's most well known "nationalist" musician, who after lending his voice and his creative talent to the liberation struggle, can no longer live in Zimbabwe because he long ago (before the white settler issue, which is not his issue) refused to be silent about the disparity in wealth between Government officials and the people.

I also want to register my support for the letter addressed to President Robert Mugabe and signed onto by the BRC CC, the Coalition of Black Trade Unions, TransAfrica, Julianne Malveaux, et. al. And I applaud Horace Campbell for his well-researched and thoughtful piece. His is especially welcome as he is a longtime scholar/activist of southern African politics who has spent much time in Zimbabwe and with Zimbabweans. I also know that Professor Campbell is a longtime supporter of the Zimbabwean peoples liberation project and has spent much time there over the years; so his critique is all the more valuable.

Lisa Brock

\*\*\*\*\*

Johannesburg  
February 14, 2001

Speech by Zwelinzima Vavi - COSATU General Secretary  
At Conference on the Crisis in Zimbabwe  
Hosted by the South African Institute of International Affairs

Thank you Chairperson, Distinguished guests; Ladies and Gentlemen;

Let me start by thanking the organizers for inviting me as a keynote speaker at this Conference. The issue before this Conference has far-reaching political, social and economic consequences for Zimbabwe and the Southern African region. This conference provides an opportunity to reflect on the situation in that country, the challenges confronting the people of Zimbabwe and the region, the nature and extent of the 'crisis'.

The history of Zimbabwe has deep personal meaning for me and many activist of my generation. When Zimbabwe was liberated in 1980 and ZANU installed as the new governing party I was a young activist in the Eastern Cape. The liberation of Zimbabwe was a source of inspiration to me and many others it inspired us to double our efforts to defeat apartheid. More importantly the wave of deconlisation that swept through Africa particularly the liberation of Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe proved to us that the enemy

**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** John Woodford [johnwood@umich.edu]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 19, 2003 10:21 AM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Zimbabwe Crisis

The COSATU speech is one thing--and a good one-- but the letter addressed to Mugabe is quite another. It's a commercial endorsement for Uncle Sam.

Analyzing Zimbabwe's predicament--even helping certain elements of the opposition like the former ZAPU groupings, or exposing the fact that the US put ZANU/Mugabe in power in the first place: all well in good.

But a letter to Mugabe, as if he would be listening to reason and such critiques?. That's pure media grandstanding. An empty gesture *timed with US gov't intrigues*, just like the counter-revolutionary letters about Castro put out by various so-called public intellectuals. Earlier, he hopped dutifully on the anti-Milosevic bandwagon and watched (and abetted) the dismemberment of Yugoslavia, which was the imperialist's goal.

Actions that provide an excuse and cover for US/British intervention in Zimbabwe in particular, and East Africa regionally, are ipso facto assistance to imperialism.

It was the Cubans who checked S. Africa and convinced the imperialists they'd better toss the apartheid regime aside and work on a fall-back position. The monopoly corporations figured they'd better cut their losses. Did a certain wing of them decide to abandon Rev. Sullivan and back TransAfrica? You know, they do that kind of thing. Read any of the exposes of CIA backing of liberal-intellectual cultural institutions during the Cold War, if you doubt it..

And now here is the BRC, funded if only with a Ford Foundation pittance to keep a p.r. voice going. And what does the BRC CC do? Send a letter to Mugabe, giving a "radical" and "Black nationalist" fig leaf for the naked Samola imperialist as he contemplates what form his strategic interference in Africa should take.

When Lumumba was alive, there were Black folks criticizing him for being "Marxist."

Right, "Mugabe is no Lumumba"--that's not the point. The point is, this recent letter to him is not really a letter to him at all. It's a commercial endorsement for Uncle Samela.

Lisa Brock wrote:

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This Message Is From: "Lisa Brock" <lbrock@igc.org>

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks Jamala for posting the recent COSATU statement.

Below is an earlier piece written by the General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions in 2001. I thought it a good one as well, as it details a lot of the history that many people may not know or may have forgotten. In fact, I would direct all those interested to go to the COSATU web site as it has been following events and developing ongoing analysis on

6/19/2003

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** YusufNuruddin7@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2003 9:29 AM  
**To:** repconinfo@yahoogroups.com  
**Subject:** [repconinfo] NYTimes.com Article: Freeing a Nation From a Tyrant's Grip

This article from NYTimes.com  
has been sent to you by yusufnuruddin7@aol.com.

Colin Powell, Secretary of State, usurps op-ed page of New York Times to call for regime change in Zimbabwe. Government is now unabashedly seizing control of the media.

yusufnuruddin7@aol.com

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### Freeing a Nation From a Tyrant's Grip

June 24, 2003  
By COLIN L. POWELL

A brave man recently met with me and described how life in his country has become unbearable. "There is too much fear in the country, fear of the unknown and fear of the known consequences if we act or speak out," explained Pius Ncube, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Yet Archbishop Ncube speaks out fearlessly about the terrible human rights conditions in Zimbabwe, and is threatened almost every day with detention or worse.

For hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans, the worst has already come. Millions of people are desperately hungry because the country's once-thriving agricultural sector collapsed last year after President Robert Mugabe confiscated commercial farms, supposedly for the benefit of poor blacks. But his cynical "land reform" program has chiefly benefited idle party hacks and stalwarts, not landless peasants. As a result, much of Zimbabwe's most productive land is now occupied by loyalists of the ruling ZANU-PF party, military officers, or their wives and friends.

Worse still, the entire Zimbabwean economy is near collapse. Reckless governmental mismanagement and unchecked corruption have produced annual inflation rates near 300 percent, unemployment of more than 70 percent and widespread shortages of food, fuel and other basic necessities. Is it any wonder that Zimbabweans are demanding political change, or that President Mugabe must rely on stepped-up violence and vote-rigging to remain in office?



On June 6, the police again arrested Mr. Mugabe's most prominent opponent, Morgan Tsvangirai. They paraded him in a courtroom in shackles and leg irons before releasing him on bail on June 20. His offense? Calling for work stoppages and demonstrations to protest economic hardship and political repression.

Like Myanmar's courageous opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Mr. Tsvangirai wages a nonviolent struggle against a ruthless regime. Like the Burmese junta, President Mugabe and his Politburo colleagues have an absolute monopoly of coercive power, but no legitimacy or moral authority. In the long run, President Mugabe and his minions will lose, dragging their soiled record behind them into obscurity. But how long will it take? How many good Zimbabweans will have to lose their jobs, their homes, or even their lives before President Mugabe's violent misrule runs its course?

The United States - and the European Union - has imposed a visa ban on Zimbabwe's leaders and frozen their overseas assets. We have ended all official assistance to the government of Zimbabwe. We have urged other governments to do the same. We will persist in speaking out strongly in defense of human rights and the rule of law. And we will continue to assist directly, in many different ways, the brave men and women of Zimbabwe who are resisting tyranny.

But our efforts are unlikely to succeed quickly enough without greater engagement by Zimbabwe's neighbors. South Africa and other African countries are increasingly concerned and active on Zimbabwe, but they can and should play a stronger and more sustained role that fully reflects the urgency of Zimbabwe's crisis. If leaders on the continent do not do more to convince President Mugabe to respect the rule of law and enter into a dialogue with the political opposition, he and his cronies will drag Zimbabwe down until there is nothing left to ruin - and Zimbabwe's implosion will continue to threaten the stability and prosperity of the region.

There is a way out of the crisis. ZANU-PF and the opposition party can together legislate the constitutional changes to allow for a transition. With the president gone, with a transitional government in place and with a date fixed for new elections, Zimbabweans of all descriptions would, I believe, come together to begin the process of rebuilding their country. If this happened, the United States would be quick to pledge generous assistance to the restoration of Zimbabwe's political and economic institutions even before the election. Other donors, I am sure, would be close behind.

Reading this, Robert Mugabe and his cohorts may cry, `<object.title class="Movie" idsrc="nyt_ttl" value="253913">"Blackmail."` We should ignore them. Their time has come and gone. As Archbishop Ncube has said, "Things in our country can hardly get worse." With the perseverance of brave Zimbabweans, strengthened commitment from their neighbors, and the strong support of the international community, we can rescue the people of Zimbabwe. This is a worthy and urgent goal for us all.

Colin L. Powell is secretary of state.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/24/opinion/24POWE.html?ex=1057461337&ei=1&en=>

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Gale Daggs [gdag@prodigy.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 23, 2003 11:48 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; laborpartypraxis@yahooogroups.com; MaryLouise Patterson; Bill Fletcher; Li'l Joe  
**Cc:** JEAU BOND; HUMBERT R. BROWN; BILL SALES; AJAMU DILLAHUNT; CAPPY PINDERHUGHES; DAMIS BELL  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] Venezuela Rank in File Denounce Labor Bureaucracy in Bed With Capital, CIA

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "Gale Daggs" <gdag@prodigy.net>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Labor signing on to the letter on Zimbabwe seeks to give a similar credibility as happened in Venezuela and our endorsement the same. Please read, as I stated at the conference....Labor in the US is aligned with the Democratic Party and their foreign policy agenda is the same as the Republicans....the activities abroad of the AFL-CIO suggest that we have to be cautious with the Labor Unions....however many times they are on the right side of history and the people especially domestically, We have to do case by case examinations before signing on.

The model the Imperialist( UK and US)is using to devastate Zimbabwe is the same model they tried to use in Venezuela but was unsuccessful. Four workers strikes in a country already devastated in a few short months can cause a basic break-down of civil authority as in Somali and civil war. The labor unions striking in Zimbabwe are the tools of the US , UK and the white farmers in control of over 90% of the land and they constitute 1% of the population, while the other 99% are starving to death. Morgan Tysiangri, the head of the Movement for Democratic change, the union leader of the opposition to Mugabe is aligned with the interest of London and DC. We cannot join this coming catastrophe by complicity. Anytime we are on the same side of an issue with Voice of America, Bill First, Majority leader of the Senate and its millionaire majority, it is cause to be wary.

The situation in Zimbabwe is going to get worst before it gets better, 8 million people are in danger of starving and others dying of AIDS. Sanctions by the US government, cessation of funds from the IMF and labor strikes in an attempt to bring down the government because it is vulnerable, is sounding the deathkneel for millions. Strikes wrecked the economy in Venezuela that has more resources and no starvation or drought and some health infrastructure. All of these factors are resulting in a tremendous depopulation. The most productive people between the ages of 25-35 are dying from AIDS the highest in Southern African. Many children are without parents and are either being cared for by other children or grandparents. If Mugaba needs to be ousted as some think, the timing will only slid the country to further catastrophe that maybe irreversible for many decades as it gains momentum in time.

The West is not to be trusted in the commitments they make. With all the world watching, the US has not rebuilt the Balkans, Afganistan and Iraq is proceeding seemingly in the same vein. The promises to rescue Heavily in Debted Countries has not been kept by the international financial institutions, controlled by the US and secondly by the British. And unfortunately, there is not a Soviet Union. The general tone of the bill passed in congress on Zimbabwe is that if they get rid of Mugabe, they will restore some funds. Tomorrow I will write a bit more in detail on that bill and the sanctions by the Bush administration.

We need to examine the position of the Congressional Black Caucus more thoroughly on Zimbabwe, and they do have a written proposal and have backed the bill sponsored by Bill First and passed by the Senate and put pressure on the committees responsible for African Affaires to do something about the

situation. You can find out more by researching on google Zimbabwe and the US.

Read the following by Venezulean supporters of Chavez, position on the recent effort by the CIA through the striking labor unions to bring down the government. Gale

----- Original Message -----

From: "Gale Daggs" <gdag@prodigy.net>

To: <brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca>

Sent: Monday, May 26, 2003 4:42 PM

Subject: [BRC-DISC] Fw: [laborpartypraxis] Venezuela Rank in File Denounce Labor Bureaucracy in Bed With Capital, CIA

>  
\*\*\*\*\*  
> This Message Is From: "Gale Daggs" <gdag@prodigy.net>  
>  
\*\*\*\*\*  
>  
>  
> >  
>  
> > OPEN LETTER TO JOHN SWEENEY, President of the AFL-CIO,  
> > American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations  
> > From the Global Women's Strike  
> >  
> > April 2, 2003  
> >  
> > 1. Why we write: trade unions in Venezuela appeal to people in the US  
> >  
> > In July 2002, at a meeting in Venezuela [1] we met a number of leaders  
> of  
> > trade unions and community organizations who were calling for the arrest  
> of  
> > the corrupt leadership of CTV (Workers Confederation of Venezuela),  
> > especially its president Carlos Ortega, whom they accused of being CIA.  
> >  
> > The CTV leadership has lent working class credibility to a military coup  
> and  
> > ongoing attempts by the Venezuelan rich white racist elite on behalf of  
> the  
> > international oil industry, the corporate media and the US government to  
> > bring down the Venezuelan government. President Hugo ChÃ¡vez FrÃ¡s was  
> put  
> > in power by a popular movement in a landslide election in 1998. Since  
> then  
> > this government has represented Venezuelaâ€™s poor, overwhelmingly  
people  
> of  
> > color.  
> >  
> > The trade unionists complained to us that the CTV leadership had  
> benefited,  
> > and continues to benefit, from the support of the AFL-CIO. They asked  
for  
> > â€˜solidarity and respect from North American people for our peaceful  
and  
> > democratic process which represents the great majority of our people, of  
> > women, poor people and those in greatest need.â€™  
> >  
> > According to trade union federations CUTV, CGT and FBT, by December 2002  
> CTV  
> > had lost the support of: 70% of the oil workersâ€™T, 95% of energy sector  
> > workers, 60% of central administration workers, 100% of industrial  
workers  
> â€™"

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Yemi Toure [ytoure1@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2003 4:19 PM  
**To:** mediablacks@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Report on Zimbabwe From Ground Level

|||<>|||//\V/\|||O|||//\V/\|||<>|||

From: panafas@yahoo.co.uk [<mailto:panafas@yahoo.co.uk>]

16 June 2003 weekly column

REPORTING ZIMBABWE  
By Lester Lewis

Watching the dawn break over Zimbabwe, the orange sky on the horizon is like a sash between the earth and the blue sky. Flying over Africa through the night is an uneventful experience except for the American spy satellite that is spying on Africa. It is the brightest object in the night sky. To me, this is a hostile act on the part of America.

When our plane comes in to land, it suddenly begins to climb, goes round in a circle and comes in to land again. Approaching the runway, it suddenly starts climbing again. This time, it does circle but continues to climb higher and higher in the morning sky. All the time, it is gaining speed.

Then the Captain announces that he has diverted to Lusaka in Zambia. He had intended to divert to Bulawayo but there is no fuel at there. The stewardess announces that Lusaka is a refueling stop. On the way, I look for The Smoke that Thunders misnamed the Victoria Falls. I do not catch a glimpse but we fly over a River that I assume to be the Zambezi.

After taking on fuel, we fly to Harare and land without any problem. The earlier attempts were aborted because the runway was enveloped in a fog and could not be seen by the captain. The fuel problem in Zimbabwe has messed up my planed schedule. I had planned to travel overland to South Africa. But I am advised against this because of the fuel problem. I want to visit an old woman in Masvingo; 300 kilometers from Harare but can not do so because of the fuel problem. The Member of Parliament for Mashonaland Central can not take me to

his constituency because there is a fuel problem.

There does not seem to be a shortage of fuel to get me to Mature in Manicaland.

Only my hosts are likely to be engaged on pressing security problems at that time. I had noted in Lusaka that it was British Petroleum that was refueling the

aircraft. In Harare, I note that all the petrol stations are foreign owned.

British newspapers and the BBC World Service anti-Zimbabwe claim that motorists

have to queue for two days to buy petrol, but this is a deliberate lie.

True,

there are queues at petrol stations as motorists await deliveries. My host was

in the queue for less than one hour.

Harare is a bustling city with wide streets lined with Jacaranda, Msusa and Mutondo trees. Despite shortages of fuel, there are large numbers of vehicles on

the roads. Queues at petrol stations are not half as long as people overseas are

led to believe. But there is a shortage of foreign currency needed to buy fuel

and this shortage of fuel is causing enormous damage to the economy.

The Government does not have the necessary foreign exchange (forex) to buy fuel. Neither does it have the forex needed to pay for electricity imported from Mozambique. One would have thought that given the extremely close relationship between ZANU-PF and FRELIMO the ruling party in Mozambique, some kind of arrangement could have been made to supply electricity on credit.

During the period when apartheid was still rampant in Southern Africa, the apartheid rulers had armed and trained RENAMO to cause havoc in Mozambique.

The Zimbabwe Army cleared the corridor between Mutare in Zimbabwe and the Mozambican port of Beira for goods to be transported between the two countries, this earning much needed income for the FRELIMO Government.

The shortage of fuel and electricity is harming economic production. The two car assembling plants, Leyland Mutare and Master Willowvale are not assembling cars since there is this lack of power. When the African

Scientists Network formed by Tom Dalgety of Guyana and Godfrey Marawanyika of Zimbabwe offered to work with the Government to provide Zimbabwe with all its energy requirements. The then Minister in charge of the Ministry was not interested. I understand that he has since been relieved of his Cabinet Post.

Mr Maranyika is an expert on solar energy and biotechnology, working with the

Centre for Renewable Energy and Environmental Technology. They are specialists

in using solar, biomass and wind to provide energy. He has agreed to take responsibility for the building of a prototype biogas plant in the Gambia.

This

will provide biogas for cooking, lighting, refrigeration, and fuel for

stationary engines and gasifiers for stationary engines applications. A byproduct of using human and animal waste for producing biogas is the production of organic fertilizer.

In his garden, along with his chickens, bananas, sugarcane, tomatoes, maize, beans, and fruit trees, he has a solar cooker and a solar energy. He produces biogas in his garden using rotting fruits. These low technology applications can be replicated especially in rural areas, which have yet to receive the electricity supply.

One wonders why SADEC and the African Union do not develop a programme of using biomas, solar energy and wind to generate energy that is so much needed to kick start industrial development. Dr. David Gazi, a Zimbabwean scientist teaching in Britain has ideas to develop fuel cell technology that could revolutionise the production of energy, but the authorities have not given him the help that he needs.

In a radio phone-in programme, an official of the National Economic Development Forum is saying that Zimbabwe must industrialise. He says that what is needed is a policy. He does not talk about he necessity for a well thought out plan, a time-scale and a programme of implementation. Chen Chimutengwende, the Member of Parliament for Mashonaland Central says that there is a policy to industrialise Zimbabwe, but "it is not adequately designed.

You can not industrialise when you are in a state of war. Industrialisation occurs when there is no major conflict within society and the economy is functioning normally. If the level of conflict is too high the economy is operating under siege as is the case in Zimbabwe, then a lot of economic policies can not be implemented."

One of the elements in the Pan African Programme for Africa to regain its lost power and restore its past glory calls on African industrialists to master the manufacturing process from the manufacturing of machine tools to the production of finished goods. No potential manufacturer working on his own will be capable of doing this. This process calls for State; regional and continental initiatives for the short, medium and long term. Then, Africa will be able to produce what it consumes and consume what it produces.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) is openly boasting that it

will wreck the economy unless President Mugabe leaves power. But if President Mugabe were to give up the Presidency, the MDC will still have to contend with the well-organised machine of the ruling ZANU-PF party that is the majority party in Parliament, in local Councils and which controls the state machinery.

My host tells me that the MDC is an urban party confined to the towns and cities. It is not known in the rural areas. Most of the population live in the rural areas and they know only ZANU-PF. Considering that the mass action called by the MDC the week starting on 2nd June was a massive flop, the MDC boasts of its ability to shut down the country at will.

But was the closing of businesses a stay-away as the MDC claims or was it a lock out? The Government newspaper, The Herald, claims that there was no stay away, there was a lockout. The Government is convinced that it was a lockout -. It had made threats against the 300 leading businesses that control the economy, most of which are British owned. Now the Government has produced plans to take away the licenses of those businesses that lock down their businesses and lock out their workers in solidarity with the MDC. Chen Chimutengwende takes the view that some businesses can close and their licenses can not then be taken away. Others can have their licenses taken away. It is a matter of dealing with them company by company on a case by case basis.

He says, "The majority of companies are either Anglo-South African or Anglo-American. They control the economy. The only sector that has seen success is the land and banking sectors where Blacks have moved in a significant way."

The Government has also said that it will take action against providers of public services such as banks, schools, financial institutions and public transport fleets that shut down in solidarity with the MDC. The process of indigenisation is to be used to transfer ownership on indigenous Zimbabweans.

Among the war veterans and ZANU-PF youth, there is much anger that Indian owned businesses shut down in solidarity with the MDC.

Culturally speaking, Zimbabwe is a very anglicised society. One hardly sees any

Zimbabwean men or women dressed in African apparel. European style of dressing

is the norm. All the politicians in their European suits set the example that

others follow. On a visit to London, local artist Albert Nyathi said, "Zimbabwean youths adopted American culture because of what they saw on Zimbabwe television."

So one wonders when the ruling party is going to heed Frantz Fanon's call for

re-Africanisation. One wonders when they are going to start promoting African

culture rather than Euro-American culture in their television programmes.

Looking at the children's programmes listed in The Herald, one sees Preston

Pig, Postman Pat, New Andrews Family, The Mummy, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Gypsy Girl. So there is definitely a need for the Africanisation of children's programmes on Zimbabwe television. African stories, which teach ethics and moral values, can be animated and made into television programmes for children.

Questioned about the education system, Chimutengwende says that the education

system was not properly reformed. " We didn't properly reform", he says,

"This

is reflected in the political and cultural orientation of our young people.

As a

result of this, most of our universities are mostly staffed with right wing,

pro

west lecturers.

"This is shown by their writings and speeches. They even made an appeal to the

United States and Britain to do an Iraq on Zimbabwe. This shows the extent of

their Eurocentric nature and their anti-African stance. They are against the idea of an African Union but support the idea of a European Union. They are like

that because they are western educated. It is a matter of choice. People like

Kwame Nkrumah were educated in the West but they did not chose to be pro-Western.

" They are like parrots mouthing the phraseology of the G8 countries like the

introduction of good governance. They become champions of good governance despite its content. They hope to attract western funding for their research projects.

"NGOs are mainly western funded and you know that he whom pays the piper calls the tune. Dr. Shakespear Moya's party is a National Party for Good Governance.

NGOs, because they are western funded are more political than developmental. They are agents of western countries."

For Zimbabwe, the main hope for the future is the Land Reform Programme that took economic power out of the hands of Whites and put it in the hands of Blacks. The Government is saying that by next year, agricultural production would take off and Zimbabwe would once more be self-sufficient in food.

Others

are telling me the opposite. It seems that some senior members of ZANU-PF have fallen short of the radical ideals of President Mugabe.

An internal audit carried out by the Government have found that some people have

more that one farm contrary to Government policy. Commercial farms are 2500 hectares in size. I am told that in one case, a senior member of ZANU-PF forcibly removed peasants who had taken over a farm previously owned by



whites.

This is a reflection of greed. It is anti-African and a deviation from African culture that emphasises that the needs of all must be met.

Dr. Nathan Shamuyarira tells me, "Many of the workers who were on farms have been given plots on which to farm for themselves, whether they are from Malawi, from Zambia or from Mozambique. In some areas, all farm workers are now employed. Previous farm workers are now landowners.

" There was a campaign among farm workers to encourage them to apply for farms but there was resistance. They were organised by White farm owners to counter our Land Reform Programme." Asked about stories in the British media that farm workers from other African countries were deported, he responds vehemently, "Not a single farm worker has been deported. We gave them land and we gave them citizenship." One local paper, The Sunday Mirror, published an article on 15 June entitled Land Reform Displaces Thousands. The writer Antwell Nduyemba reported "75 per cent of the estimated 400,000 farm were rendered jobless and homeless by the land redistribution exercise undertaken between 2000 and last year." The article claimed, "former farmhands are destitute and collectively, they are facing a humanitarian crisis."

Chen Chimutengwende responds to criticisms of the land Reform Programme in these words, "there are lots of problems with land reform like in any revolution. But they can be corrected. These are problems that the government has enumerated and are in the process of correcting. The important issue is the principle that land must be given to the Blacks and this is what has happened. All other problems associated with Land Reform are secondary and fortunately, they are correctable."

The problems that afflict Zimbabwe today are problems created for it by Western imperialism and their financial institutions like the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The Government made a mistake by adopting an IMF Structural Reform programme. After the first phase, they told the Government that they had done very well but to get assistance under the second phase, imposed conditions that would mean they Government had no say in economic development and would lose control of their currency.

They called for privatisation of the Reserve Bank. These were conditions too far and the Government did not accept them. Since then, the IMF and World Bank have laid siege to the Zimbabwe economy. Spurred on by Britain, which has lost control of the Zimbabwean economy, the European Union imposed illegal economic sanctions and illegal travel bans on 72 leading members of ZANU-PF.

US election stealer George Bush has also imposed illegal sanctions and illegal travel bans on Zimbabwe. He has called for a regime change in Zimbabwe. He did get a regime change in Venezuela but he masses of Venezuelans, most of whom are of African descent, restored their hero Hugo Chavez to power.

A three-month business strike by the Venezuelan businesses resulted in defeat

for the enemies of Chavez. The Venezuelan masses stood solidly behind Chavez. To

me, this is proof if proof was needed of Mao Tsetung's dictum that the masses

are the real makers of history. In Zimbabwe, the masses are solidly behind President Mugabe and ZANU-PF.

The African Union has stood solidly behind the Zimbabwe Government in its Land

Reform programme. They need to take one further step to help to ease the crisis

in Zimbabwe. When Guinea became independent in 1958, the French colonisers removed everything including light bulbs from Guinea. Kwame Nkrumah, then President of Ghana transferred massive funds to Guinea under President Sekou Toure to help Guinea out of its financial crisis.

Now, Zimbabwe needs help to break the economic and financial siege on the Zimbabwe economy by western imperialism. African Union countries must band together and give Zimbabwe a large chunk of foreign exchange to ease the forex

crisis that is at the root of the economic problems in that country. Such an act

will mean that Zimbabwe will begin to see the light again and ensure the defeat

of western imperialism in Zimbabwe.

Lester Lewis

Send any responses to: [panafas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:panafas@yahoo.co.uk).

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THE BLACK MAN FILM FESTIVAL > ATLANTA > NOVEMBER 2003

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Li'l Joe [joeradical@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2003 9:13 PM  
**To:** msn/o\_akkebala; unioNews@yahooogroups.com; Mwananchi@yahooogroups.com; abujaNig@yahooogroups.com; carlossantana@blackeventscentral.com; coasados@yahoo.com; Ngone Sow; trueblackness@yahooogroups.com; voiceofpanafricanism@yahooogroups.com; afrikanvoices@yahooogroups.com; Africa-Politics; CARTIERX@onelist.com; HCHAPS2@aol.com; GhanaUnion@aol.com; zimbabwe@un.int; sovietdemocracy@yahooogroups.com; Labor Party Praxis; blackantiwar  
**Cc:** Hyke@Wctel.net; Ngone Aw; ahna mestman; Tawnya Mitchell; rshabazz02@aol.com; EdenInJa@aol.com; Leslie B. Spann; Ngone Sow; Demetrice Buford; Aisha Muhammad; kolamask@yahoo.com; datchebro@ohchr.org; nhare@blackthinktank.com; sistacourage@yahoo.com; oravouche@aol.com; SeptaSam@aol.com; jrswriter@comcast.net; Olujiji Tafataona; doctahj@earthlink.net; Robert Hazard; brc social  
**Subject:** [blackantiwar] "Brothers"(!) Ron Daniels and Colin Powell on Mugabe

> [http://www.tbwt.com/views/rd/rd\\_05-09-00.asp](http://www.tbwt.com/views/rd/rd_05-09-00.asp)  
> The Black World Today

>  
> May 9, 2000

>  
> The Lesson Of The Crisis In Zimbabwe:  
> Land Is The "Basis Of Independence"

>  
> By Ron Daniels <ronmae@aol.com>

>  
> As we approach the 75th kuzaliwa (birthday) of our beloved  
> "Black Shining Prince" El Hajj Malik El Shabazz, Malcolm X,  
> it is useful to remember that Malcolm was an African freedom  
> fighter, a revolutionary who taught us that revolution is  
> "based on land, the basis of independence." As we examine  
> the current crisis in Zimbabwe and other parts of the  
> African continent, many of the problems our people face are  
> definitively related to the lack of ownership of land and  
> property by the masses of the people, the peasants and  
> workers. This is certainly true in Zimbabwe where a small  
> White minority of 2%, an estimated 70,000 people out of a  
> total population of nearly 13 million control more than 50%  
> of the most useful and productive land! Now at the urging of  
> President Robert Mugabe, the leader of the Zimbabwe African  
> Nationalist Union which won political control from the White  
> settlers two decades ago, the "landless" are rising up  
> against the "landlords."

>  
> The crisis in Zimbabwe is complicated by the fact that like  
> many African leaders, Mugabe has stayed in power too long.  
> In recent years he has virtually ruled as an autocrat with  
> little tolerance for dissent from his critics and the  
> opposition, and corruption in high places has become the  
> order of the day. In the meantime a once prosperous economy  
> has faltered badly with unemployment and poverty increasing  
> dramatically. These conditions have given encouragement to  
> an emerging opposition, some elements of which are financed  
> by and aligned with the White land-owners. In a recent  
> election, proposals that would have enabled Mugabe to seize  
> the land from White landowners and distribute it to landless  
> Black peasants, was soundly defeated. Despite the widespread  
> demand for land reform, an apprehensive electorate seemed  
> reluctant to vest more power in the hands of a President  
> whose party already has a virtual monopoly in the  
> Parliament.

>

> Seemingly oblivious to this rebuke from the electorate,  
> Mugabe has presented a constitutional amendment to  
> Parliament, which would permit the government to achieve the  
> objective of the defeated referendum - seize the land of  
> White landowners. With parliamentary elections slated for  
> later this year, opposition leaders are charging that Mugabe  
> is simply using the land issue as a ploy to ensure the kind  
> of landslide victory that would maintain his party's  
> overwhelming control of Parliament.

>  
> As a Pan African nationalist of longstanding, I must confess  
> my disillusionment with tired leaders like Mugabe who  
> preside over corrupt, self-serving governments which fail to  
> genuinely meet the needs of the masses of the people. In my  
> judgment, it is time for Mugabe to step aside to make room  
> for new more energetic and visionary leadership. Having said  
> that, however, whether Mugabe is using the land issue as an  
> election ploy or not, I believe the fruits of the fight  
> against colonial domination, the struggle of the "landless"  
> against the "landlord" should result in the restoration of  
> the land stolen by the colonizer. There should be no  
> confusion about this proposition. All parties who claim to  
> represent the aspirations of the masses of the people should  
> agree that the landless must have land in order for Zimbabwe  
> to achieve real independence, democracy and development.

>  
> Clearly, the anti-colonial liberation struggle and "victory"  
> in Zimbabwe was incomplete. Under the Manchester Accords  
> signed by the "victorious" forces, the issue of land reform  
> was essentially tabled for a period of ten years to appease  
> the White settlers whose forebears had stolen the land from  
> Africans. Therefore, in effect, everything changed in  
> Zimbabwe but fundamentally nothing changed. The name  
> Rhodesia, which was imposed on the nation by the British  
> colonizers in honor of Cecil Rhodes, was changed back to  
> Zimbabwe. The new nation had a flag and Black faces could  
> now occupy positions of "power" from the presidential palace  
> to the parliament and local municipalities. But at the end  
> of the day, the White settlers who made huge fortunes off  
> the fat of the land stolen from Africans still controlled  
> the most vital and viable resource in the new nation, the  
> land. Hence, Zimbabwe's "liberation" was/is an unfulfilled  
> revolution. Its "independence" is an illusion. Zimbabwe is  
> still a dependent nation where White settlers still control  
> the key pillar of the economy, the land.

>  
> The landless guerilla fighters, who waged the struggle  
> against colonialism, correctly feel they risked their lives  
> for nothing. To add insult to injury, the White settlers and  
> the international community are demanding that Whites be  
> compensated for any lands seized to redistribute to landless  
> peasants. Instead of receiving land and reparations from the  
> White settlers whose forebears invaded the country and  
> seized their land, the victims are being asked to compensate  
> the victimizers - the very people whose wealth, privilege  
> and power was derived from their illegitimate incursion and  
> conquest of African territory.

>  
> Land and property are the indispensable ingredients of  
> independence. Until the masses of Africans in Zimbabwe have  
> land, there will be perpetual crisis and unrest throughout  
> the country. Indeed, the same can be said for the rest of  
> Africa. The African masses will not forever remain silent in  
> the face of neo-colonialism, the continued exploitation of  
> their land and resources by external forces and parasitical  
> White settlers who now make Africa their "home." The great  
> challenge of the 21st century in Africa is to complete the

> process of de-colonization in the interest of fulfilling the  
> aspirations of the masses of African people.  
>  
>  
> Editor's note: The views expressed in this commentary are  
> those of the author and do not necessarily represent those  
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>  
> [Articles on BRC-NEWS

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Freeing a Nation  
From a Tyrant's Grip  
Commentary by Colin Powell in The New York Times

A brave man recently met with me and described how life in his country has become unbearable. "There is too much fear in the country, fear of the unknown and fear of the known consequences if we act or speak out," explained Pius Ncube, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Yet Archbishop Ncube speaks out fearlessly about the terrible human rights conditions in Zimbabwe, and is threatened almost every day with detention or worse.

For hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans, the worst has already come. Millions of people are desperately hungry because the country's once-thriving agricultural sector collapsed last year after President Robert Mugabe confiscated commercial farms, supposedly for the benefit of poor blacks. But his cynical "land reform" program has chiefly benefited idle party hacks and stalwarts, not landless peasants. As a result, much of Zimbabwe's most productive land is now occupied by loyalists of the ruling ZANU-PF party, military officers, or their wives and friends.

Worse still, the entire Zimbabwean economy is near collapse. Reckless governmental mismanagement and unchecked corruption have produced annual inflation rates near 300 percent, unemployment of more than 70 percent and widespread shortages of food, fuel and other basic necessities. Is it any wonder that Zimbabweans are demanding political change, or that President Mugabe must rely on stepped-up violence and vote-rigging to remain in office?

On June 6, the police again arrested Mr. Mugabe's most prominent opponent, Morgan Tsvangirai. They paraded him in a courtroom in shackles and leg irons before releasing him on bail on June 20. His offense? Calling for work stoppages and demonstrations to protest economic hardship and political repression.

Like Myanmar's courageous opposition leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Mr. Tsvangirai wages a nonviolent struggle against a ruthless regime. Like the Burmese junta, President Mugabe and his Politburo colleagues have an absolute monopoly of coercive power, but no legitimacy or moral authority. In the long run, President Mugabe and his minions will lose, dragging their soiled record behind them into obscurity. But how long will it take? How many good Zimbabweans will have to lose their jobs, their homes, or even their lives before President Mugabe's violent misrule runs its course?

The United States " and the European Union " has imposed a visa ban on Zimbabwe's leaders and frozen their overseas assets. We have ended all official assistance to the government of Zimbabwe. We have urged other governments to do the same. We will persist in speaking out strongly in defense of human rights and the rule of law. And we will continue to assist directly, in many different ways, the brave men and women of Zimbabwe who are resisting tyranny.

But our efforts are unlikely to succeed quickly enough without greater engagement by Zimbabwe's neighbors. South Africa and other African countries are increasingly concerned and active on Zimbabwe, but they can and should play

## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Li'l Joe [joeradical@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2003 2:17 AM  
**To:** msn/o\_akkebala; unioNews@yahoogroups.com; Mwananchi@yahoogroups.com; abujaNig@yahoogroups.com; carlossantana@blackeventscentral.com; coasados@yahoo.com; Ngone Sow; trueblackness@yahoogroups.com; voiceofpanafricanism@yahoogroups.com; afrikanvoices@yahoogroups.com; Africa-Politics; CARTIERX@onelist.com; HCHAPS2@aol.com; GhanaUnion@aol.com; zimbabwe@un.int; Nathan Hare; argentina solidarity; sovietdemocracy@yahoogroups.com; nbppheadquarters@aol.com; Labor Party Praxis; Freedom Socialist Party; jo ho; blackantiwar; brc social; Marvin X; Vicente Balvanera; Duane Bradford  
**Cc:** Hyke@Wctel.net; Ngone Aw; ahna mestman; Tawnya Mitchell; rshabazz02@aol.com; EdenInJa@aol.com; Leslie B. Spann; Ngone Sow; Demetrice Buford; Aisha Muhammad; kolamask@yahoo.com; datchebro@ohchr.org; nhare@blackthinktank.com; sistacourage@yahoo.com; oravouche@aol.com; SeptaSam@aol.com; jrswriter@comcast.net; Olujiji Tafataona; doctahj@earthlink.net; Robert Hazard; marxistpoliticalthought@yahoogroups.com; marxists-owner@yahoogroups.com; mkpstudycircle@yahoogroups.com; readingcapital@yahoogroups.com; baraka; Partha Roy  
**Subject:** [blackantiwar] Article in Chicken Bones On Peasant's Revolution Zimbabwe

Choosing Sides:  
Zimbabwe Peasant Land Expropriations  
By Lil Joe

In the wake of land expropriations by Zimbabwean peasants -- officially called the "Zimbabwean Land Redistribution Act" -- the British and American government has ordered economic and political sanctions against Zimbabwe. An "Open Letter to Mugabe" from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Black Radical Congress, Trans-Africa, and other Americans who happen to be Black, has placed the signatories in bed with the British and American governments in denouncing the Zimbabwean government for allowing land expropriations by landless Zimbabwean peasants.

In denouncing Mugabe, these American organizations are providing references for British and American governments: "See, our economic and political sanctions against Zimbabwe are not racist imperialism. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, the Black Radical Congress, and even Trans-Africa are denouncing Mugabe, ZANU-PF and the 'lawlessness' of the expropriation of lands owned by White farmers."

The leadership of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, Trans-Africa, and the Black Radical Congress have joined with British and U.S. imperialism -- and transnational capital that they represent -- in attacking landless Zimbabwean peasants []efforts to expropriate the expropriators of Zimbabwean land.

see <http://www.nathanielturner.com/zimbabwecrisis.htm>

of your government to create an effective process for a transition to a more broadly supported government upholding the democratic rights of all.

Sincerely yours in struggle,

William Lucy, President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

Willie Baker, Executive Vice President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists

Salih Booker, Executive Director, Africa Action

Bill Fletcher, Jr., President, TransAfrica Forum

Horace G. Dawson Jr., Director Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center,  
Howard University

Patricia Ann Ford, Executive Vice President, Service Employees International  
Union (SEIU)

Julianne Malveaux, TransAfrica Forum Board Member

Rev Justus Y. Reeves, Executive Director Missions Ministry, Progressive  
National Baptist Convention

Coordinating Committee, Black Radical Congress

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All Africa Conference of Churches  
June 6, 2003

[distributed by <http://www.africafiles.org>. For additional information please  
contact Melaku Kifle of the All Africa Conference of Churches  
([melaku@aacc-ceta.org](mailto:melaku@aacc-ceta.org)).

Messages of solidarity may be sent to AACC: "Melaku Kifle" <[melaku@aacc-ceta.org](mailto:melaku@aacc-ceta.org)>  
Catholic Bishops: "Archbishop Pius Ncube" <[archdbyo@mweb.co.zw](mailto:archdbyo@mweb.co.zw)>, Zimbabwe  
Council of Churches: "Denson Mafinyane" <[zcc@internet.co.zw](mailto:zcc@internet.co.zw)> the Evangelical  
Fellowship c/o ZCC.]

To: AACC Member Churches  
PASTORAL APPEAL FOR ZIMBABWE

Dear friends,

The All Africa Conference of Churches has prayerfully been monitoring the political, social and economic developments in Zimbabwe as it often does with other African countries in crisis situations. It is with heartfelt concerns for the people and churches in Zimbabwe that we are sending this appeal to you.

Zimbabweans are experiencing a rapidly crashing economy marked by hyper inflation at 270% which is likely to reach 500% by end of year. With Zimbabwe bank notes in short supply, there is less money in circulation to keep the informal sector going. A critical fuel and electricity shortages have together forced the closing down of businesses, resulting in loss of jobs. Fuel prices have risen by 600% since February. Foreign export earnings are crippled and fuel supplied by Libya and China is being paid for with hundreds of thousands of hectares of land in barter trade. Drought-related famine that has hit the region has hastened the dwindling of the national food stocks.

The immediate impact of land reforms on commercial and food crop production has been the devastation of the agricultural sector. Out of a national population of 12 million people, 7 million are surviving on international food aid. Health service delivery is limping towards a halt while the high rate of HIV/AIDS has heightened the miseries of this situation. There is a huge migration of skilled and semi-skilled workers from the country, both a result of economic hardships and erosion of public confidence.

Human rights abuses are wide-spread; law and order have become greatly weakened in a very short space of time while corruption has become endemic. People are deeply frustrated and angered by what they see as poor governance. Support for political opposition front has been growing and has been met with a heavy show of force by the government.

The call for a national stay-away from work this week supported by peaceful street demonstrations was met with a threat from government to crush any street demonstration. There has been a huge show of armed military and police presence throughout all the cities since the weekend and along the roads ensuring a

severe clampdown on any gatherings of more than two or three people in urban public areas since Monday. Government declared that stay-aways and demonstrations are illegal but the opposition contended that the people have a right to express themselves peacefully.

Meanwhile Zimbabwean church leaders have over the past month been trying to convince the major political protagonists that mediated talks are essential in order to find a way forward. The three national church bodies - Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference, and the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe - on Sunday June 1 issued a call for restrained action on the part of both protestors and government forces so that violence does not overtake peaceful options.

Churches within Zimbabwe are working from two approaches . The first has been to insist that those in positions of authority have the responsibility to listen to the genuine grievances of the people, in the spirit of service-leadership . Human rights abuses must be stopped and impunity must not be tolerated. The militarisation of youth must be stopped. The rule of law and order must be restored to the legitimate constitutional arms of the state. Legislation that oppresses freedom of expression must be repealed. Control of food, medical aid and other basic necessities of life must be depoliticised. A serious effort must be made to fight corruption and those who are found guilty must be brought to book. Violence as a means of curbing opposition or as a means of opposing government, must be stopped. Secondly, is the urgent need for dialogue, and to offer non-partisan assistance for dialogue. This dialogue is needed at all levels in society. Divisions in society have been cultivated between ethnic and language groups, races, urban and rural dwellers, youth and adults, and adherents of different political parties, even between past and present. All of these divisions will need to be healed at personal, structural and systemic levels. It will require a healing of memories as well as a new definition of the Zimbabwean identity. Hence dialogue is a nation-wide task and requires everyone's input.

We appeal to our member churches to lobby their governments to support mediated dialogue between the government and representatives of the main opposition party. Although all problems cannot be solved by political parties, a political solution is an essential starting point.

Trusting in the promise contained in 2nd Chronicles 7:14, we ask your prayers for the present situation:

- (i) for God's protection so that more lives will not be lost, that lives and property will not be destroyed, and that actions taken by both sides will not create an atmosphere in which dialogue becomes even more difficult.
- (ii) for God's blessing upon the efforts of all peace-loving people within Zimbabwe and within the circle of support around Zimbabwe including those in churches, civil society and government who are trying to find ways to bring the troubles to an end and reunite the nation.
- (iii) for the long-term development of Zimbabwe: that the people will find common identity, will seek reconciliation, and will build a peaceful nation that honours the sovereignty of God.

We wish all of you abundant blessings  
Melaku Kifle  
AACC Interim General Secretary  
Cc Zimbabwe Council of Churches  
Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference  
Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe

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Li'l Joe



## Alkalimat, Abdul

**From:** Li'l Joe [joeradical@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 26, 2003 1:51 AM  
**To:** SovietDemocracy@yahoogroups.com; argentina\_solidarity@topica.com; khalil05@aol.com; o\_akkebala@msn.com; unionews@yahoogroups.com; mwananchi@yahoogroups.com; abujanig@yahoogroups.com; carlossantana@blackeventscentral.com; coasados@yahoo.com; khandipages@yahoo.com; trueblackness@yahoogroups.com; voiceofpanafricanism@yahoogroups.com; afrikanvoices@yahoogroups.com; africa-politics@yahoogroups.com; cartierx@onelist.com; hchaps2@aol.com; ghanaunion@aol.com; zimbabwe@un.int; nhare@blackthinktank.com; sovietdemocracy@yahoogroups.com; nbppheadquarters@aol.com; laborpartypraxis@yahoogroups.com; lafsprw6@aol.com; marxists@hotmail.com; blackantiwar@yahoogroups.com; brc-socal@yahoogroups.com; xblackxmanx@aol.com; v\_balvanera@yahoo.com; dbkichwa2@hotmail.com  
**Cc:** hyke@wctel.net; ngonea@webtv.net; ahnam60@hotmail.com; tmitchell@attglobal.net; rshabazz02@aol.com; edeninja@aol.com; lyricaltone@yahoo.com; demetricebuford@webtv.net; aishafaatima@yahoo.com; kolamask@yahoo.com; datchebro@ohchr.org; sistacourage@yahoo.com; oravouche@aol.com; septasam@aol.com; jrswriter@comcast.net; kofimensah@ameritech.net; doctahj@earthlink.net; rclinton55@hotmail.com; marxistpoliticalthought@yahoogroups.com; marxists-owner@yahoogroups.com; mkpstudycircle@yahoogroups.com; marxists-readingcapital@yahoogroups.com; amirib@aol.com; partha@ganashakti.co.in  
**Subject:** [blackantiwar] Cynthia McKinney and Final Call on Zimbabwe

> Subject: CYNTHIA McKINNEY ON ZIMBABWE

>  
>

> Cynthia McKinney  
> June 21, 2003

> First African Presbyterian Church "Up Close - Zimbabwe"

> Good afternoon, we are here to discuss Zimbabwe. What we can do for  
> Zimbabwe and what Zimbabwe can do for us.

> As a larger discussion, however, we ought to include what we can do for  
> ourselves and for others. And what we have failed to do.

> Let us not forget Alberta Spruill and Ousmane Zongo, an African American  
> and an African killed by the unique circumstances that unite blacks and  
> Africans in this country. Ousmane Zongo follows in the footsteps of Amadou  
> Diallo, a young unarmed African man shot 19 times by racism in America.  
> Sadly, Diallo wasn't the first African whose American dream was shattered by  
> the true state of black America and Ousmane won't be the last. Ousmane just  
> happened to be a black man in an America too quick to kill any black man.

> Mrs. Spruill died because the NY Police Department had authorities that had  
> been given it by the Ashcroft Justice Department; authorities it didn't  
> deserve. The NYPD decided to use those new authorities, not in the corporate  
> suites of Wall Street and Madison Avenue, where corporate criminals rip  
> billions of dollars off working class, tax-paying Americans, but instead  
> invaded the home of Mrs. Alberta Spruill, a grandmother, who at the time was  
> dressing for work when the NYPD busted through her door. Literally  
> frightened to death, Mrs. Spruill had a heart attack and died. The police  
> Chief later said, "I'm sorry."

> The NYPD had disturbed the wrong lady, at the wrong home, at the wrong  
> address. Mrs. Spruill follows a long line of black mothers and grandmothers  
> who bury their husbands and sons in racist America--and then they are buried.

>  
>

> This past Thursday, we celebrated Juneteenth. And in fact, Georgia  
> hosts the longest running Juneteenth celebration in our country. As you  
> know, Juneteenth is celebrated every June 19th, because that is when the  
> slaves realized that they were free.

>  
> January to June 1865--the twilight of legal slavery in our country.

>  
> We share something with those blacks who had been freed but didn't know it.  
> The blacks in Africa and the blacks in America. And those blacks of 1865.  
> And hence, we've remained slaves far longer than should be. And neither of  
> us has strategized effectively to stay free. As a result, I suggest that we  
> could easily be in the twilight of our freedom. Both here at home and on the  
> Continent.

>  
> Here at home, suffering the oppressions of unchecked racism we are unable  
> to help--and in some cases unwilling--to help our brothers and sisters in  
> Africa. On the Continent, our brothers and sisters help themselves but sadly  
> not their people and not us.

>  
> So we have come today to speak about Zimbabwe. And what prompts that  
> discussion? Headlines that inform us that Zimbabwe is coming apart. Some  
> would have us believe that we become heated over Zimbabwe because of the  
> country's human rights abuse, democracy well over the line toward autocracy,  
> rampant corruption, and black racism. But ultimately, the question is the  
> land. Zimbabwe has embarked upon a long-promised and well-overdue land  
> reform.

>  
> But President Mugabe has known full well that the question of Zimbabwean  
> independence, even at its dawn, was hinged on the question of the ownership  
> of the land. For the question remains unanswered by those who claim title to  
> the land of how they actually got that land. And if they are not willing to  
> answer that question, then how can their title to the land be legally valid?

>  
> But that is not just a Zimbabwe issue. That is an African issue. For  
> Africa was not a barren land devoid of people. Africa was for Africans until  
> the Europeans came along. And then Africa became theirs and basically  
> remains theirs to this day.

>  
> We African Americans have a lot of nerve getting upset about Africans'  
> failure secure their own land when we have had and continue to have an  
> unprecedented and unhalted loss of land right here in America--and never  
> really secured the 40 acres nor the mule that we were due for slavery, yet  
> reparations were paid to slaveholders who lost their slaves due to freedom.

>  
> I am certain that this exchange will be good and healthy and we all will  
> benefit from the information. But at the end of the day, what will we  
> accomplish and what are we willing to fight for? And what are we willing to  
> risk for?

>  
> Is Zimbabwe willing to risk severing its relationship with Herman Cohen  
> since Cohen has failed so miserably to prevent Zimbabwe hysteria from  
> reaching America?

>  
> And why didn't Zimbabwe use its alliances and friendships with blacks in  
> the US and in England to explain its cause and have the tough questions asked  
> of "candidate" Blair and his New Labour Party?

>  
> Since 1998, three million people have died in Democratic Republic of Congo.  
> In 1994, one million Rwandans died because the US wanted "regime change" in  
> Central Africa. During the period in-between, Jonas Savimbi romped across  
> the Angolan landscape with American-supplied landmines, making Angola the  
> amputee capital of the world because the US wanted a friend in power in  
> oil-rich Angola. At the same time, the world's attention focused like a  
> laser on the chopped-off hands of little boys and 12-year-old raped little  
> girls in Sierra Leone because Madeleine Albright tried to sneak Foday Sankoh,  
> the leader of the so-called rebels who were committing these atrocities, into  
> the democratically elected government so he could be in charge of diamonds--to

> ensure cheap access to Sierra Leone's diamonds. Cheap in dollars maybe, but  
> costly in black blood.

> Laurent Kabila's last words to me were that he told Susan Rice that he  
> would never betray Congo. And now Laurent Kabila is dead. He followed in  
> the footsteps of Patrice Lumumba.

> So from Patrice Lumumba to Laurent Kabila to Amadou Diallo to Ousmane  
> Zongo. Our black men are under attack. But the source of the attack was not  
> from home. The source of the attack was Washington, DC and a refusal to  
> recognize the rights of black people whether here or abroad.

> We now have a "government" that is consolidating power and taking away our  
> very rights to organize and fight back. And while we numb ourselves with  
> Hummers and Mercedes, and mortgages that we could lose tomorrow, our America  
> is becoming a Republic in which we can't even be sure that our votes will be  
> counted. It is imperative that we stop the madness in the USA; and I  
> guarantee you that then it will stop in Africa. But, as I said earlier, I  
> believe we are at the twilight of our freedom.

> When police in Benton Harbor, Michigan or New York City can pull a trigger  
> at a black man first and think about the consequences later, when we have  
> more young black men in prison than in college, when an 1860s South Carolina  
> anti-lynching law intended to protect blacks is now used to prosecute blacks  
> who get into fights with whites, when an entire town, Tulsa Texas, can indict  
> its black men wrongfully of criminal acts on the word of a white man, when  
> parts of the Voting Rights Act expire in 2007 and that issue is nowhere on  
> our agenda, our failure to adequately address problems that affect us here at  
> home is evident. And how can we save Zimbabwe when we haven't yet taken the  
> necessary steps to save ourselves?

> In George Bush's New World Order, all roads lead to Washington, DC. And it  
> is only in Washington, DC that we can effectively deal with our problems and  
> those that plague Africa. The Bush cabal is planning regime change  
> operations all over the world. They're currently threatening Iran and Syria;  
> rattling sabers at North Korea and China. They're unhappy with Russia and  
> Germany. But if we don't organize ourselves carefully in this country, and  
> reach across the oceans to our African brothers and sisters, and they reach  
> back, this could truly be the twilight of our freedoms.

> Thank you.

> The Mulindwas Communication Group  
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> First Mugabe, now Charles Taylor: Who's next?

> (FinalCall.com)--Africa is the world's future. Whoever controls her  
> resources controls the world.

> Today, Africa is in a state of chaos, with numerous civil wars being  
> fought--brother against brother--all in the name of determining who will  
> control Africa.

> On the surface, it may appear that the young men in these militias and  
> rebel movements are fighting against established governments in their  
> country because the rebels want to overthrow the leaders of the  
> government--whether that government is good or corrupt.

> But when we look deeper, we are likely to find that many conflicts in  
> Africa--as well as other developing countries that have something of value to  
> the world powers--are fueled by outside interests.

> U.S. intelligence (CIA), British intelligence (MI6), Israeli  
> intelligence (Mossad) and even Russian intelligence (FSB, formerly KGB)  
> operatives are busy in regions throughout the world fomenting

> dissatisfaction among the people, in order to create confusion that will  
> lead to the overthrow of government to be replaced by leaders who do the  
> bidding of their paymasters.

>  
> President Bush has openly discussed fomenting revolution in such  
> places as Cuba, Iraq and Iran, in order to destabilize those governments to  
> make these countries accessible by U.S. corporations and  
> interests—regardless to what the people want.

>  
> It goes without saying that Africa is viewed the same way.

>  
> It is a fact that if the American government stopped financing, arming  
> and supporting some rebel movements, stability would come to those regions  
> and government could go about its business of providing for the people.

>  
> But quite frankly, the United States—despite its rhetoric about giving  
> aid to developing countries, donating billions of dollars to fight AIDS,  
> etc.,—is not interested in seeing a viable, strong and United Africa. Just  
> as they are not interested in seeing a united, strong Black America. If they  
> were interested, it would be so. The question is, are we (Black people)  
> interested in seeing this?

>  
> We know that historically the U.S. government has always had a "denial  
> objective" of Black leadership as part of its policy. That's why Elijah,  
> Martin, Malcolm, Garvey, Farrakhan and even W.E.B. have been maligned and  
> slandered by the media. They became too powerful. But too powerful for what?  
> To liberate the minds of Black people and get them to think beyond the  
> training received from their oppressors!

>  
> The U.S. government has even formulated official policy to deny Black  
> Africa and liberation movements in this country from uniting. [See web link  
> below.] Why?

>  
> That brings us to Liberian President Charles Taylor and President  
> Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

>  
> Why would the UN issue an arrest warrant for Pres. Taylor while he was  
> sitting in Ghana at the table discussing peace with rebels in his country?  
> Western governments say Taylor is wanted for war crimes and keeping the  
> region unstable. Who's to say it is not international meddlers, like the  
> United States and Britain, that are behind the destabilization? Most  
> governments would respond to threats from within or without. Then the  
> international-western dominated-press defines the good guys and the bad  
> guys. And their definitions always serve their own interests.

>  
> In Zimbabwe, the people responded to more than 20 years of injustice  
> and broken promises by the U.S. and Britain by taking back farm land gained  
> at independence that had been owned by Whites since the days they stole it  
> from Blacks. If these promises had been kept, then stability would rule in  
> Zimbabwe today. But when you read about the problems in Zimbabwe, there is  
> little or no mention of the decades of servitude of Blacks to White  
> conquerors, or how the land was not cultivated to serve the domestic needs,  
> but for export and to serve international capitals.

>  
> What we are witnessing, and will continue to witness, is the  
> U.S./British formula for attacking leaders that they want to get rid of:  
> First, vilify them in the media; foment an opposition in the country;  
> demonize them for responding to the opposition; separate them from their  
> base of support; and last, overthrow or assassinate them.

>  
> It has happened in Iraq, they're doing it in Palestine, while still  
> working on Cuba, and looking toward Iran. Heavy emphasis on Africa is  
> shortly to come.

>  
> Oil, diamonds, mineral riches. These are the things wars are fought  
> over. In the eyes of the ruling powers today, these are the things that  
> Black people must not benefit from, that are right under their feet.

>  
> We fight one another and displace our own leadership to the delight of  
> the enemies of our own rise.  
>  
> Suggested link:  
> National Security Memorandum-46 (Black Africa and the U.S. Black  
> Movement)  
>  
> Register to receive FCN News Alerts @ <http://www.finalcall.com> !  
>

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Li'l Joe

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Li'l Joe [joeradical@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 27, 2003 2:51 AM  
**To:** seattleleft; argentina solidarity; sovietdemocracy@yahoogroups.com;  
workersdemocracy@yahoogroups.com; nbppheadquarters@aol.com; Labor Party Praxis;  
blackantiwar  
**Cc:** brc social  
**Subject:** [blackantiwar] The Zimbabwe Debate Continues

Bill Fletchers response and my response to his response, where I really use this opportunity to go into some of the philosophical and historical issues.

Bill Fletcher's Apology can be accessed at:  
[http://www.transafricaforum.org/newsletter/why\\_we\\_spoke\\_zim060603.shtml](http://www.transafricaforum.org/newsletter/why_we_spoke_zim060603.shtml)

I know Bill Fletcher from my BRC days. He was the co-chair of BRC when I resigned in 2000 in protest of its calling for the rule of law in Zimbabwe, amongst other issues (see below). This position in BRC was staked out by Horace Campbell, supposed based on his anecdotal "contact" with some Africans --

I am guessing, of course, but I think that Bill's new position as head of Trans-Africa is in part what has pressured him to take what he regards a "responsible position" on Zimbabwe -- the new circles he is traveling in.

You know the saying: "It is not the consciousness of men that determine their being, but their social being that determine their consciousness".

Trans-Africa is based in the Black wing of the "progressive" Democratic Party -members of Congress - and professionals in the media (not just the Negro press but ABC, CBS, CNN types) professors at Ivy League universities and &c. Who are also in the Democratic Party. The Coalition of Black Trade Unionists is also in bed with the Democrats -- not directly, but because of their links with the Labour bureaucracy that are directly part and parcel of the "core constituency" of the Democratic Party.

But, the real reactionary in the BRC, who didn't sign his name to this disgusting Open Letter but was the first to come out against the Land taking, in 2000, at the very beginning, is Horace Campbell. It was in part because of a polemic with him, at the time (perhaps still) the BRC international affairs minister) that I got broke with the BRC. His premise along with the Amnesty International and other anti-revolutionary bourgeois ideologues was "restore the rule of law"! The "rule of law" at the time being the Manchester Accords. This Niggah (as Marvin X call such folk - or Black Anglo-Saxon as Nathan Hare would say -) had the gall to in the name of Pan-Africanism and Black

radicalism call for the Zimbabwe peasants to return the land to White settler-colonists and obey the law.

I pointed out at the time that for all their bourgeois tears about "human rights" the Amnesty International and Horace Campbell decried the "human rights" -- not of the millions of landless, artificially landless African peasants whose land seizures was only correcting an injustice, but the "human rights" of the thieves of that African land!

I am remembering something I read from a Speech by Marx in the 1870s regarding the proletarian revolution and the issue of land.

"I do not intend discussing here all the arguments put forward by the advocates of private property in land, by jurists, philosophers and political economists, but shall confine myself firstly to state that they have tried hard to disguise the primitive fact of conquest under the cloak of "Natural Right". If conquest constituted a natural right on the part of the few, the many have only to gather sufficient strength in order to acquire the natural right of reconquering what has been taken from them. In the progress of history the conquerors found it convenient to give to their original titles, derived from brute force, a sort of social standing through the instrumentality of laws imposed by themselves."

(The International Workingmen's Association, 1872  
The Nationalisation of the Land A Paper read at  
the Manchester Section of the International Working  
Men's Association; Written: by Marx in March-April  
1872)

The same issue of "human rights" of the Russian landlords, and the "rule of law" and "avoiding chaos" was dealt with by Lenin whose Bolsheviks had called on the peasants to take the land on their own initiative, with guns as in Zimbabwe today.

Lenin ridiculed a bourgeois "law and order" man thus, by pointing to its traps based on existing law and property "rights". Lenin wrote:

"Here is the text of the telegram from Minister Shingaryov, mentioned in yesterday's editorial of our paper, and printed in today's Dyen:

'On acquainting myself with the decision of the Ranenburg Committee relating to the grain sowing, I deem it my duty to declare that an independent solution of the land question in the absence of a general state law is inadmissible. Arbitrary action will lead to a national calamity and will jeopardies

the cause of freedom by provoking discord. The lawful solution of the land question is the business of the Constituent Assembly. At the present time agricultural conciliation chambers will beset up in each local area under the rural supply committees for the purpose of effecting voluntary agreements between the tillers of the land and the landowners. The question of leaseholds on vacant lands is also being urgently considered. For the sake of general order I request that everybody be guided by the decisions of the Provisional Government and refrain from establishing self-made laws.'

[Lenin response]: "Can you call it 'democracy', 'people's freedom', when the peasants, who clearly constitute the overwhelming majority of the population, have no right to adopt and carry out their own decision, but must wait for a 'voluntary agreement' between the tillers of the land and the landowners?

One landowner having two thousand dessiatines of land - and three hundred peasant families having two thousand dessiatines. That, on the average, is how things stand in Russia. Three hundred peasants must wait for the 'voluntary' consent of one landowner!"

(Vladimir Lenin: A Voluntary Agreement Between Landowners And Peasants? Written: April 14 (27), 1917 First Published: April 15, 1917 Pravda No. 33

The landed gentry in Zimbabwe and South Africa are of course not indigenous feudal lords by White invader-capitalists. Which makes Marx statement all the more timely:

"If conquest constituted a natural right on the part of the few, the many have only to gather sufficient strength in order to acquire the natural right of reconquering what has been taken from them."

Lenin was of course a proletarian revolutionary and was advocating a proletarian communist attitude to the land issue in Russia at the time - the economic content of peasant ownership: land to the tiller" was however of a bourgeois-democratic nature which the Bolsheviks understood as such. The proletariat called for, and assisted with guns, the direct, immediate expropriation by the peasants of land as the only revolutionary democratic measure possible.

What makes bourgeois democratic revolutions revolutionary is not the constitution of political "political democracy", voting, &c., but the economic destruction of the landed gentry, the redistribution of the land and killing or imprisoning the landlords.

The English burghers revolution was ostensibly the Parliament versus the House of Lords, headed by the king, but it was carried through when in civil war the Parliament ceded power to Oliver Cromwell, and his



Independent Army which exercised a revolutionary dictatorship that broke the resistance of the landlords, chopping the head of the king from his aristocratic body. The Courts of Europe denounced Cromwell as a "dictator", and so he was. Revolutions are the revolutionary dictatorship of the rising class.

In the French Revolution, the French bourgeoisie was able to win the peasants to its side in politically destroying the Estates System by the economic revolution in the country-side, the immediately mutatis mutandis, the killing of the nobles and direct expropriation of their lands.

The French Revolution, which was politically centralized in France, the bourgeois bankers "Constitutional Monarchist" such as Lafayette and Thomas Paine in the Assembly called for moderation and opposed the lawless peasants and the executing the king. The radical party in the Convention, which sat on the Left (thus the historical political origin of the term), the Jacobins voted to kill the nobles including the king by guillotine. This revolutionary dictatorship of the urban sans culottes represented by the Committee of Public Safety (including Jean Paul Marat, Saint Just, Danton for a while) and the Robespierre, the Incorruptible.

The Noble and Courts of Europe denounced the "tyranny" of Robespierre, denounced him as a puritanical dictator, as they had earlier denounced Cromwell in England. If the Western sensibilities are offended by Mugabwe's so-called "corruption", would they prefer the Incorruptable type -- Cromwell, Robespierre, Lenin, Trotsky, Machno, Mao?

Of course not. You see, dictatorship has always been a class issue,. Fuck Edmond Burke in his hypocritical "Reflections on the French Revolution", which for all its "human rights violations" attacks on the French "reign of terror", was himself nothing but the mouth-piece in England of a bourgeoisie that had itself come to power by a bloody "reign of terror" of its own, by a dictatorship. Burke was an ideological representative English imperialisms, its rivalry with the French imperialistic bourgeoisie. Charles Dickens was just as hypocritical in his "A Tale of Two Cities".

Similarly today the Americans whinning that "Mugabwe is a 'dictator'", is nothing but a slick subterfuge to camouflage the agrarian revolution. Democracy is desirable only to the class that holds power, and all the political trump cards - the Constitution, the Judiciary, the Legislature. And the Zimbabwean workers and peasants are powerless until they take the land and brake the landed gentry, so they have every historical right to do so with guns blasting, killing anyone in their way.

American "socialists" and "Black radicals" are climbing aboard the bourgeois bandwagon denouncing Mugabe as a "dictator", and "corrupt", ostensibly because "he" didn't do it in 1980 or ten years ago. But, for the Scientific socialists, and even scientific sociologist and historical economic theorists are not looking to a psychoanalysis of Mugabe, which is nothing but ESP as far as reading his "motives" are concerned. What the issue for the social scientist must explain is the economic conditions

(e.g. structural adjustment) and political forces (e.g. the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the collapse of apartheid in South Africa) were that contributed to economic and political conditions in 2000 that engendered the existing peasants revolution.

Peasants revolutions have always been bloody, and denounced by its opponents as "lawless", "chaotic", and so on.

In the Chinese revolution Mao had to deal not just with the same issues re peasant expropriations but also the same arguments put forth by the Russian bourgeoisie, in the Russian Revolution and by Trans-Africa, &c., today re the peasant war on the landlords today.

In 1927 Mao wrote:

"The peasants' revolt disturbed the gentry's sweet dreams. When the news from the countryside reached the cities, it caused immediate uproar among the gentry. Soon after my arrival in Changsha, I met all sorts of people and picked up a good deal of gossip. From the middle social strata upwards to the Kuomintang right-wingers, there was not a single person who did not sum up the whole business in the phrase, "It's terrible!" Under the impact of the views of the "It's terrible!" school then flooding the city, even quite revolutionary minded people became down-hearted as they pictured the events in the countryside in their mind's eye; and they were unable to deny the word "terrible". Even quite progressive people said, "Though terrible, it is inevitable in a revolution." In short, nobody could altogether deny the word "terrible". But, as already mentioned, the fact is that the great peasant masses have risen to fulfil their historic mission and that the forces of rural democracy have risen to overthrow the forces of rural feudalism. The patriarchal-feudal class of local tyrants, evil gentry and lawless landlords has formed the basis of autocratic government for thousands of years and is the cornerstone of imperialism, warlordism and corrupt officialdom. To overthrow these feudal forces is the real objective of the national revolution. In a few months the peasants have accomplished what Dr. Sun Yat-sen wanted, but failed, to accomplish in the forty years he devoted to the national revolution.

(NOTE: Those who oppose the "motives" for Mugabe's position in the peasant expropriations today, saying it "should have happened 20 years ago and thus opposing it now, are completely ignorant and a-historical. But, to continue with Mao):

This is a marvellous feat never before achieved, not just in forty, but in thousands of years. It's fine. It is not "terrible" at all. It is anything but "terrible". "It's terrible!" is obviously a theory for combating the rise

of the peasants in the interests of the landlords; it is obviously a theory of the landlord class for preserving the old order of feudalism and obstructing the establishment of the new order of democracy, it is obviously a counter-revolutionary theory. No revolutionary comrade should echo this nonsense. If your revolutionary viewpoint is firmly established and if you have been to the villages and looked around, you will undoubtedly feel thrilled as never before. Countless thousands of the enslaved -- the peasants -- are striking down the enemies who battered on their flesh. What the peasants are doing is absolutely right; what they are doing is fine! "It's fine!" is the theory of the peasants and of all other revolutionaries.

\*\*\*\*\*

Then there is another section of people who say, "Yes, peasant associations are necessary, but they are going rather too far." This is the opinion of the middle-of-the-roaders. But what is the actual situation? True, the peasants are in a sense "unruly" in the country-side. Supreme in authority, the peasant association allows the landlord no say and sweeps away his prestige. This amounts to striking the landlord down to the dust and keeping him there. The peasants threaten, "We will put you in the other register!" They fine the local tyrants and evil gentry, they demand contributions from them, and they smash their sedan-chairs. People swarm into the houses of local tyrants and evil gentry who are against the peasant association, slaughter their pigs and consume their grain. They even loll for a minute or two on the ivory-inlaid beds belonging to the young ladies in the households of the local tyrants and evil gentry. At the slightest provocation they make arrests, crown the arrested with tall paper hats, and parade them through the villages, saying, "You dirty landlords, now you know who we are!" Doing whatever they like and turning everything upside down, they have created a kind of terror in the countryside. This is what some people call "going too far", or "exceeding the proper limits in righting a wrong", or "really too much". Such talk may seem plausible, but in fact it is wrong. First, the local tyrants, evil gentry and lawless landlords have themselves driven the peasants to this. For ages they have used their power to tyrannize over the peasants and trample them underfoot; that is why the peasants have reacted so strongly. The most violent revolts and the most serious disorders have invariably occurred in places where the local tyrants, evil gentry and lawless landlords perpetrated the worst outrages. The peasants are clear-sighted. Who is bad and who is not, who is the worst and who is not quite so vicious, who deserves severe punishment and who deserves to be let off lightly -- the peasants keep clear accounts, and very seldom has the punishment exceeded the crime. Secondly, a revolution is not a dinner party,

or writing an essay, or painting a picture, or doing embroidery; it cannot be so refined, so leisurely and gentle, so temperate, kind, courteous, restrained and magnanimous. A revolution is an insurrection, an act of violence by which one class overthrows another.

(Mao Tse-tung Report on the Peasant Movement in Hunan - From the Selected Works of Mao Tse-tung)

The historical parallels are also in the English revolution in 1740 and the French Revolution in 1789-93 and so on.

So, in short, the landlords and their political and ideological representatives of the landlords have always denounced peasant land expropriations as "evil", "lawless", "chaotic", and so on. In the actual revolutions the serious revolutionaries supported the peasants expropriations, and those who were only pretending went back to their bourgeois class politics. Malcolm X said something like this: "You Negroes don't know what a revolution is, if you saw a revolution you would slip away, hide in an alley" -- or something like that. I don't have access to the speech, but I think it was "Message to the Grass Roots".

Now, perhaps it is softness on my part but I didn't want to attack Bill Fletcher, I don't think he is 'reactionary', but is spineless in that he copulates to his environment. The reason I singled him out was because he did an interview with the imperialist magazine "Voice of Americanism) in his attack on the Zimbabwe peasants. He might really believed that he was attacking "Mugabe" and not the actual peasant movement. But the call -- straight forward by Campbell although implicit in the context of the attack on Mugabe -- for 'law and order', 'international law' and so on is made directly by Horace Campbell who was however smart enough to front Bill and the others off while not himself signing the letter.

I am sending you a link to Campbell's letter, which states the political basis for why the BRC signed on to this imperialist attack on the Zimbabwe peasants.

Also another that circulated in BRC, endorsing this position. You might want to go to the Trans-Africa website and check out Bill's recent statement responding to my and other's attack. All the heartfelt special pleading is irrelevant, however.

I am also sending articles by Connie and I in the original Zimbabwe debate in 2000 or 2003. We fought the whole White left in the United States, but had African working-class support. Connie was still in BRC at this time and was going toe to toe with that reactionary assed Horace Campbell. Bill Fletcher knew about this debate, and my and Connie's position. He should have known that I was going to do all in my power to attack that Open Letter and politically destroy the signers.

But ole coward ass Campbell hid in the back ground and did the "theoretical work", allowing others to take the heat for ideas he inspired in them based on Campbells supposed "African contacts" and a bunch of anecdotal bullshit.

Lil Joe  
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Previous material written by Connie and I, or by Connie alone.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/black-left/message/5544>

July 17, 2001

Food Shortages In Zimbabwe Are The Result Of IMF and World Bank Structural Adjustment Plans

By Connie White and Li'l Joe

In 1891, the British government recognized the South African Company's "investment" in Zimbabwe, and brokered that company's stealing of priceless farmland from the Shona population. Supported by the military might of the British crown, the White settlers who followed Cecil Rhodes to Zimbabwe were given 3,000 acres of choice farmland, plus 15 gold-mining claims by those who had no right to give what was not theirs. Whites discovered that no significant wealth was to be discovered in the gold mines in Zimbabwe and, thus, were granted 6,000 acres of choice farmland by the South African Company. Whites continued unabated in their invasion of Zimbabwe. Cattle was seized from the native population, their land was taken, and they were often forcibly prevented from plowing and sowing the meager plots of soil that were left them because of tax collection and coerced labor in White-owned farms. By March 1899, the Whites had seized 15,762,364 acres of choice farmland. ("A History of Africa: 1840-1914," by Michael Tidy and Donald Leeming; London: E. Arnold, 1981.) The Zimbabwean workers and peasants rebelled on several occasions. The "Chi Murenga" rebellion of 1896 was one rebellion that was brutally crushed by the British. The brutal treatment of Zimbabwean mine workers culminated in the enactment of the Master and Servants Law, which made it a criminal offense to break a labor contract.

These historical acts of theft and plunder of African lands are the basis today in Zimbabwe of the "rule of law" that continues to deny impoverished Zimbabweans the right to shelter and to feed themselves and their families. This "rule of law" allows the ruling class to own the land, and control the economy in Zimbabwe, but also is the basis for denying the Zimbabwean peasants the land, which has always been rightfully theirs.

One hundred years after the South African Company comes the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to Zimbabwe. As the economy in Zimbabwe stagnated in 1990, the government turned to the IMF and the World Bank and adopted structural adjustment plans. This has put Zimbabwe on a chaotic road downwards. During the first year of implementation of the structural adjustment plan(s), gross domestic product, which had been growing at over 4% a year, increased only by 1% in 1991. Industrial production, which had been rising nearly 6% per year, fell back to 2%. Zimbabwe had always been a surplus maize producer with stockpiles of more

than 1 million tons to tide the country over drought years. (Jean Duval, April 20, 2000, from the "In Defense of Marxism" website.) After implementing the structural adjustment plan(s) of the World Bank, which forced the government of Zimbabwe to sell its stockpiles of maize to make a profit -- to pay IMF and World Bank debt -- Zimbabwe now has to import maize to feed its destitute population.

The IMF and World Bank structural adjustment plan(s) have precipitated the current food shortages in Zimbabwe, and have further devastated the economy of that South African country.

The Western world has plundered Africa, killed and enslaved its population, and have created the basis for the food crisis existing in Zimbabwe today. But, the Western donors -- including the World Bank and the IMF -- have cut aid to the Zimbabwean government until that government puts a halt to land seizures by landless peasants.

The current economic crisis in Zimbabwe is not limited to food shortages. Fuel price hikes have forced bus and taxi fares higher at a time when Zimbabweans are struggling with record high unemployment levels and eroded wages. (Reuters, July 6, 2001)

#### Western Media Blames Zimbabweans For The Crisis

Western governments and media pundits blame the encroaching food shortages and economic devastation on the president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe. According to them, the food shortages are the result of havoc rendered on the economy by Mugabe's mis-rule of the country and his mis-management of its economy. But, more specifically, these critics of the Zimbabwean government indicate that the immediate cause of the food shortages and the economic crisis is land seizures by the Zimbabwean peasants over the past year, and continuing.

To the West, the damages to the Zimbabwean economy were not due to the structural adjustment plan(s) of the IMF and World Bank. Furthermore, to the West, the damage to the Zimbabwean economy was not due to tobacco planters protesting land seizures by withholding tobacco crops at a time when the Zimbabwean economy was being crushed under the structural adjustment plan(s). No! The current food and economic crisis in Zimbabwe is solely due to the acts of one man -- Robert Mugabe -- and to the Zimbabwean peasants taking back the land.

In fact, the land seizures in Zimbabwe have not gone far enough, and have come late. The party of Robert Mugabe, ZANU-PF, came to power and left the land and the Zimbabwean economy in the hands of the same class that owned the lands and managed the economy prior to Zimbabwe's independence. ZANU-PF, and Mugabe, achieved some measure of wealth, power and privilege in Zimbabwe for the formerly excluded Black bourgeoisie and petty-bourgeoisie -- e.g., the Black domestic capitalists. As owners of the means of production in Zimbabwe, including the majority of the productive land, the capitalists -- both Black and White run the enterprises and determine what will be the governmental policy of ZANU-PF. To wit, the "rule of law" in Zimbabwe supports stolen land remaining in the hands of the capitalists instead of rightfully being transferred to -- seized by -- the rightful owners who are the Zimbabwean peasants and workers.

To attribute the fate of a national economy to the decisions made by a single individual is absurd. There is no possibility that a single individual can single-handedly rule a nation of millions -- all that needs be done is to kill that individual while s/he sleeps. In every class society, without exception, the most powerful and dominant economic class determines the political course of its government. Classes rule. The state is a bureaucratic-military machine, which functions in the interests of the economically dominant class. Neither the state nor the rule of the economically dominant class are in any way dependent upon -- let alone determined by -- a single, egotistical will of a delusional individual.

## Europe Underdeveloped Africa

The capitalist modes of production in nations of Europe and North America gobbled up Africa, which was fractured into colonial states and settler colonies. The economic modes of production in the colonies were determined by the economic policies of the colonizing European power. Production in the respective colonies was determined by the colonial power and, for the most part in Africa, was agricultural production for export of goods and/or geologically determined production of raw materials from natural resources. Thus, a dialectical power-dependence relationship grew between the European colonial power and the developing African economies.

World capitalism developed in the womb of monarchal feudal states in Europe, and was personified in the rising merchant capitalist in the context of competing mercantile systems and colonial rivalries. These mercantile systems -- in particular, Britain and France -- subordinated the colonies to the resources of the rising capitalist classes. The older colonial powers -- Spain and Portugal -- were more looters than producers and were swept aside as, in particular, the British Empire was becoming the dominant global economy.

In this world historical framework, Europe under-developed Africa. In the midst of the industrial revolution in England -- which at once engendered and was engendering the capitalization of the productive forces, and the correlating proletarianization of the peasants from the countryside to the cities to be a surplus population of destitute individuals with no means of subsistence -- the conquered economies of the kingdoms of Africa were, by way of land expropriations by the conquerors, being transformed from diversified, self-sufficient economies into productive assets of the capitalist that are dependent upon the economy and commodities of capitalism. The depopulation of Africa by the trans-Atlantic slave trade also retarded Africa's potential for industrial development. By becoming dependent upon European industrial commodities -- e.g., firearms, manufactured textiles, rum, etc. -- the African countries, objectively, also surrendered political power as well.

### Real Independence Requires Expropriation of The Productive Forces

Enters the independence struggles of Africa in the '50s and '60s. The ruling "Black" governments govern in name only, because the real government of most of these independent nation states is based in the hands of the dominant economic class, and not in the hands of the "people of Africa." The poverty of recently independent African nation-states from the overt political shackles of colonialism is due to the persistence of economic control of those economies by the same economic masters in what is now nothing but neo-colonialism. Colonialism and neo-colonialism could not and would not have happened -- nor could it continue -- without the collaboration of "Quislings" in the colonial and/or neo-colonial countries -- "Quislings" such as ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe.

As was done in China and Cuba, national liberation must be accompanied by economic expropriation -- without compensation -- of all the basic productive forces in the liberated country. Without these economic expropriations, independence is in name only.

### ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe Fall Out of Favor With Capitalists In Zimbabwe and The World

The food shortages and economic crisis in Zimbabwe have been engendered by the economic policies of Britain and the U.S. as concretized in the structural adjustment plan(s) of the IMF and World Bank. Additionally, the food shortages and economic crisis has been exacerbated by the economic policies of Zimbabwean capitalists -- especially the tobacco capitalists who withheld and/or destroyed critical tobacco crops -- the neo-colonial Black bourgeoisie, and the ZANU-PF government. In Zimbabwe today, we are not seeing food shortages and economic crisis engendered by famine and civil war as was/is in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Afghanistan. Not at all!

The policies of Western capital in Zimbabwe are to relegate Zimbabwe to being a source of natural resources and raw materials, combined with a specialized agricultural economy that is based in cash crops (for export) -- the most important of which in Zimbabwe is tobacco -- rather than to diversify agricultural production and include production of food for domestic consumption. These are the economic policies that were exacerbated by the structural adjustment plan(s) of the IMF and World Bank. ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe have merely been the "Quislings" of British and American transnational corporations. In other words, neo-colonial lackeys. ZANU-PF sold out the Zimbabwean peasants and workers long ago when it agreed to the Lancaster Agreement that left the Zimbabwean economy, and the arable land, in the hands of domestic and transnational capitalists.

Twenty years after ZANU-PF fought a liberation struggle and seized state power, landless peasants and unemployed and homeless proletarians in Zimbabwe desperately and spontaneously began to expropriate (seize) fertile land. ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe recognized their former comrades of the national liberation struggle. Instead of opposing the land seizures, ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe supported the landless peasants in the efforts to take back the land that had been forcibly expropriated from their ancestors. "Quislings" ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe were expected to uphold the pilfering "rule of law" in Zimbabwe and, as in South Africa, evict the peasants from the land that is rightfully theirs.

As a consequence of supporting the land seizures in Zimbabwe, ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe have fallen out of favor with the British and American transnational corporations, and the domestic capitalists in Zimbabwe -- both Black and White.

#### ZANU-PF Support Peasants, But Oppose Workers

ZANU-PF recognizes the somewhat commonality of petty-bourgeois interests in rural peasants being allowed to seize land in Zimbabwe, but are quick to invoke the "rule of law" against the striking trade unions in the cities of Zimbabwe. The interests of the rural peasants would be to claim private ownership of the land, whereas the interests of the proletariat is to cut into the wealth and profit of transnational corporations and domestic capitalists by increased wages and/or seizing control and ownership of industrial businesses. ZANU-PF is willing to support expropriation of lands not used for tobacco and cotton production, but is not willing to allow the Zimbabwean proletariat to expropriate industrial capitalists.

Whereas the ZANU-PF government in Zimbabwe has been able to manipulate its "support" of peasants seizing White lands, it has opposed workers' strikes against transnational and/or domestic industry. ZANU-PF has openly sided with the capitalists against labor by invoking the "rule of law" to ban the strikes. The recent worker strikes were not against the "tyranny" of Mugabe -- as has been the way the Western media has tried to paint the strikes -- but against the hike in fuel prices. These trade union led strikes are, objectively, in opposition to the contradictions inherent in the capitalist mode of production itself.

The arable land in Zimbabwe should be transformed from production of export-oriented cash crops to the production of foodstuffs for domestic consumption, as well as the mines and natural resources should be nationalized and/or declared national treasures. All foreign tools in Zimbabwe should be nationalized, and profits derived from mineral wealth production should belong to the whole of the people of Zimbabwe.

#### Workers and Peasants in Zimbabwe Must Take State Power

The economic strike can become a political strike that leads to state power. The urban working-class in Zimbabwe must move from the purely economic strike against rising taxes and fuel prices, and become a movement for the economical emancipation of the proletariat by (following the example of the peasant land seizures and) expropriating the industrial capitalists in



Zimbabwe. The urban proletariat in Zimbabwe must seize industry, and the mine workers must seize the mines. To make all this possible, the praxis of the economic strike must displace the bourgeois parliament in Zimbabwe by workers and peasants soviets. Only the working class, in alliance with the peasant masses, can make the expropriations of industry become public property.

The landless peasants in Zimbabwe have begun the expropriations by seizing small family farms, but the dispossessed in Zimbabwe will not own or be in control of the Zimbabwean economy without peasant expropriation of commercial plantations, and workers in Zimbabwe expropriating mines and factories.

This is the way forward in Zimbabwe.

[Connie White and Li'l Joe are Marxists who are working to build a labor party in the U.S.]

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From: Connie White [mailto:connierw@earthlink.net]  
Sent: Saturday, April 22, 2000 10:28 AM  
To: brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
Cc: Black Left  
Subject: Zimbabwe Under Attack

Zimbabwe Under Attack  
by Connie White (connierw@earthlink.net)

"Land redistribution has been on the Zimbabwean agenda for two decades with little success. Mugabe maintains that the land was stolen from Africans during colonial days and rightfully should be returned to them. \*\*\*\*\* But two decades after the bloody race war to free Zimbabwe from white minority rule, some 4,000 white farmers still control much of the country's best farmland, while hundreds of thousands of black peasant farmers continue to wait for land promised them." (CNN.com, April 21, 2000)

This is CNN - the same CNN that supported and gave ideological justification to US/UN aggression against the people of Iraq. CNN demonized Saddam Hussein, and made it appear that he - rather than US/UN military forces - was responsible for the destruction of his country. CNN promoted a feeling among the American public of being at one with the bombardiers by vicariously placing "us" in the cockpit so that "we" saw the bombs falling on Iraq as though "we" were the ones doing the bombing. CNN used language, such as "we" are at war with Iraq - whereas, in reality, the US Government was at war with Iraq. CNN did the same thing re the Kosovo war. We were repeatedly shown pictures of "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. Remember the old woman being pushed in the wheel barrel? CNN demonized Milosevic and encouraged a feeling among the American people of righteous indignation against the Serbians. Every morning, "we" were given "briefings" about "our" progress in the destruction of Serbia and Kosovo. As it relates to the bombing of Iraq and of Serbia, CNN's job was to garner support among the American people for US/UN aggression in these countries. CNN did (and still does) its job well.

Now, CNN is demonizing Mugabe (President of Zimbabwe), and whipping up hostility against the peasant population in Zimbabwe. CNN lied when they promoted the myth of Iraqi soldiers tearing up hospitals in Kuwait, and they are lying when they promote the class struggle in Zimbabwe as a race war.

There was never a race war in Zimbabwe any more than the Boer War in South Africa was about race (both the British and the Afrikaners were white). British imperialism has never been motivated by race in Zimbabwe any more

than it is motivated by religion in Ireland. By referring to the earlier liberation movement in Zimbabwe - as well as the current peasant uprising - as a "race war," CNN is playing to a sense of "racial solidarity" of "white Americans" with the former "white" settler colonists who are currently 1% of the population in Zimbabwe, but own one-half of the arable land. If American sharecroppers and small farmers understood that what is occurring in Zimbabwe is a peasant uprising to seize and own the land that they work, this understanding could engender sympathy on the part of American workers, sharecroppers and small farmers for the Zimbabwean peasant movement. CNN's job is to make sure that the American workers, sharecroppers and small farmers do not know the truth.

In CNN.com's April 21, 2000 report on Zimbabwe, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook argues for the "rule of law" and warns that the current peasant uprising in Zimbabwe may be destabilizing for the entire region. But, what is the so-called "rule of law" -- whose "law" is it anyway? The laws that are in place in Zimbabwe, and around the world, have to be judged based on whose interests those laws represent. The "rule of law" in Zimbabwe is nothing but the laws written by the landed gentry and/or its representatives in government. This "rule of law" is representative of the interests of Zimbabwean capitalists and of multi-national investments in Zimbabwe. We - that is BRC - should unconditionally support the Zimbabwean peasants' overthrow of the bourgeois "rule of law" in Zimbabwe.

Destabilizing? Yes! The peasants' uprising in Zimbabwe should spread throughout all of southern Africa. The farm workers and industrial proletariat throughout the region should join the peasant uprising in Zimbabwe, and take the land, wealth and means of production into their own hands. This is the only way to guarantee genuine, long-term stabilization in that region.

Additionally, the bourgeois press continues with statements like, [Mugabe] "deserves no support. International financial institutions and individual governments are awaiting a cessation of violence before they send any more financial aid to Mugabe's treasury and should withhold support pending the outcome of May's scheduled elections." (Los Angeles Times, Editorials, April 20, 2000)

Sounds like a threat, and possible "sanctions" against Zimbabwe. We have seen how capitalist "sanctions" are killing Iraqi women and children, and the economic depression capitalist "sanctions" cause in Cuba.

There has also been talk in the American left - among African-Americans no less - that Mugabe's support of the seizure of land is a political ploy on the eve of elections. This, unfortunately, gives ammunition to, and support for, the international bourgeoisie as they mount their attack on Zimbabwe: "Zimbabwe's independence leader knows he is struggling for survival. In a humiliating defeat, Zimbabweans last February turned down his proposed new constitution, which would have retained him in office and in effect legalized confiscation of land from white farmers. \*\*\*\*\* The ensuing violence, carried out by supporters of Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, is calculated to intimidate the growing opposition." (Los Angeles Times, Editorials, April 20, 2000)

The international bourgeoisie are going to make Mugabe follow their "rule of law," and threaten to "isolate Mugabe diplomatically and deny him financial assistance until free elections are held." (Los Angeles Times, Editorials, April 20, 2000)

On the question of regional destabilization, I remember Iraq and Kosovo when I read statements like: "The Ugandan president has proposed that all warring parties withdraw their fighters from the Congo before U.N. peacekeepers are deployed. Madnodje Mounoubai, spokesman for the U.N.'s mission in Congo, said the world body expected to sign an agreement with Kabila next week giving U.N. planes permission to fly anywhere in the former Belgian colony. The agreement also sets up four areas for U.N. troop deployment." (CNN.com, April 21, 2000)

Enough already. The international laboring classes should mount a defense of the Zimbabwean workers' and peasants' right to decide for themselves the political and economic direction of their country. We should organize demonstrations and raise our voices in united front organizations that defend the basic, democratic right of the Zimbabwean people to tell us what is best for them. To do otherwise is to give support to, and camouflage for the attack on Zimbabwe.

In struggle,  
Connie White

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In a "resignation letter" by Lil Joe, dated 6/30/00, he stated that he was compelled to resign because the BRC Coordinating Committee unilaterally made statements supporting the "rule of law" in Zimbabwe without consulting its members.

Lil Joe's statement was:

"I am compelled to resign from the BRC, because I cannot stay in an organisation that, without even consulting its rank and file members, supports the rule of law in Zimbabwe, that supports a call for the United Nations in Kosovo, and that promotes Democratic Party functionaries as keynote speakers at its national conferences. The BRC must build an independent, political organisation that represents the interests of working and poor people, and not tail the Democratic Party which has been part and parcel of the destruction of the safety net in the U.S. whereby Black working and poor people have some hope of surviving during hard times."

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<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/laborpartypraxis/message/4073>

January 20, 2003

Sanctions on Zimbabwe: Africa Under Attack  
by Connie White (mailto:connierw@earthlin.net)

"The European Union and the American government have imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe? What is the main aim of these sanctions? They are meant to . . . weaken and remove the regime of president Robert Mugabe. Like other actions taken by institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, they seek to pressure and impose a government on the people of Zimbabwe in the name of 'democratic elections.'" (AfricanPerspective.com, Issue #51, Saturday February 3, 2002, "No Sanctions on Zimbabwe")

In 2002, the fifteen member states of the European Union decided to impose sanctions on Zimbabwe. Sanctions are war without guns and bloodshed, and have limited, if any,

effectiveness for changing behavior or governments of target countries. (Working Papers 1997 of the Institute For International Economics).

On the other hand, sanctions target to kill or injure infants, children, the elderly, and the chronically ill. (Ramsey Clark: Report to UN Security Council re: Iraq, January 26, 2000)

The Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, states that U.S. sanctions will remain in place against the Zimbabwean "government" [euphemism for "the people"] until the U.S. president certifies that the "rule of law has been restored in Zimbabwe, including respect for ownership and title to property. . . and an end to. . . lawlessness." The U.S. government and its imperialist cohorts around the world are the ones who are "lawless" and defying the "rule of law" in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwean government has declared that it is against the law in Zimbabwe for 1 percent of the population in Zimbabwe -- i.e., white settler colonists -- to own 1/2 of the arable land, while 95 percent or more of the population in Zimbabwe are impoverished and without land.

Charles Rangels and Sheila Jackson-Lee of the Congressional Black Caucus of the Democratic Party support the lawlessness of the Zimbabwean White landed gentry and agri-capitalist in that they backed the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001. The only thing that Democratic Party members like Charles Rangels and Sheila Jackson-Lee are trying to recover in Zimbabwe are the economic interests of capital, and to maintain the presence of those interests in Zimbabwe. The objective is not "democracy" and "economic recovery" in Zimbabwe.

Let's review the history of Zimbabwe lest we forget how European White settlers killed, plundered and stole in order to position themselves where they are today in Zimbabwe.

#### A History of the Plunder of Zimbabwe

In 1891, the British government recognized the South African Company's "investment" in Zimbabwe, and brokered that company's expropriation of fertile farmland from the Shona population. Supported by the military might of the British crown, the White settlers who followed Cecil Rhodes to Zimbabwe were given 3,000 acres of choice farmland, plus 15 gold-mining claims by those who had no right to give what was not theirs.

The White settlers discovered that no significant wealth would be discovered in the gold mines in Zimbabwe and, thus, were granted 6,000 acres of choice farmland by the South African Company. White settlers continued unabated in their invasion of Zimbabwe. Cattle was seized from the native population,

native lands were taken, and the indigenous people were often forcibly prevented from plowing and sowing the meager plots of soil that were left them because of tax collection and coerced labor in White-owned farms. By March 1899, the White settlers had seized 15,762,364 acres of choice farmland. ("A History of Africa: 1840-1914," by Michael Tidy and Donald Leeming; London: E. Arnold, 1981.)

The Zimbabwean workers and peasants rebelled on several occasions. The "Chi Murenga" rebellion of 1896 was one rebellion that was brutally crushed by the British. The brutal treatment of Zimbabwean mine workers culminated in the enactment of the Master and Servants Law, which made it a criminal offense to break a labor contract.

These historical acts of theft and plunder of African lands are the basis in Zimbabwe today for what U.S. Democratic Party members like Charles Rangel and Sheila Jackson-Lee call the "rule of law." When U.S. Democratic and Republican Party members call for a "return to the rule of law" in Zimbabwe, they speak of a "rule of law" that continues to deny impoverished Zimbabweans the right to shelter and to feed themselves and their families. This "rule of law" of White settlers who killed, stole and plundered Zimbabwe allows the ruling class to own the land and control the economy in Zimbabwe, but also is the basis for denying the Zimbabwean peasants the land, which has always been rightfully theirs.

#### Europe Underdeveloped Africa

The capitalist modes of production in nations of Europe and North America gobbled up Africa, which was fractured into colonial states and settler colonies. The economic modes of production in the colonies were determined by the economic policies of the colonizing European power. Production in the respective colonies was determined by the colonial power and, for the most part in Africa, was agricultural production for export of goods or/and geologically determined production of raw materials from natural resources. Thus, a dialectical power-dependence relationship grew between the European colonial power and the developing African economies.

World capitalism developed in the womb of monarchal feudal states in Europe, and was personified in the rising merchant capitalist in the context of competing mercantile systems and colonial rivalries. These mercantile systems -- in particular, Britain and France -- subordinated the colonies to the resources of the rising capitalist classes. The older colonial powers like Spain and Portugal were more looters than producers, and were swept aside as the rising British Empire was becoming the dominant global economy.

In this world historical framework, Europe under-developed Africa. In the midst of the industrial revolution in England -- which at once engendered and was engendering the capitalization of the productive forces, and the correlating proletarianization of the peasants from the countryside to the cities to be a surplus population of destitute individuals with no means of subsistence -- the conquered economies of the kingdoms of Africa were -- by way of land expropriations by the conquerors-- being transformed from diversified, self-sufficient economies into productive assets of the capitalist, and dependent upon the economy and commodities of capitalism.

The depopulation of Africa by the trans-Atlantic slave trade also retarded Africa's potential for industrial development. By becoming dependent upon European industrial commodities -- e.g., firearms, manufactured textiles and rum -- the African countries objectively surrendered political power to its European colonizer.

#### Liberation War and the Lancaster Agreement

The party of Robert Mugabe, ZANU-PF, came to power in 1979 at the time of the Lancaster Agreement, but left the land and the Zimbabwean economy in the hands of the same class that owned the lands and managed the economy prior to Zimbabwe's independence. ZANU-PF, and Mugabe, achieved some measure of wealth, power and privilege in Zimbabwe for the formerly excluded Black bourgeoisie and petty-bourgeoisie -- e.g., the Black domestic capitalists. As owners of the means of production in Zimbabwe, including the majority of the productive land, the capitalists -- both Black and White -- run the enterprises and determine what will be governmental policy. To wit, the "rule of law" -- established at the time of the Lancaster Agreement, and in place until the recent enactment of the Zimbabwe Land Redistribution Act -- supports stolen land acquired in the historical plunder of Zimbabwe remaining in the hands of the capitalists instead of being transferred to the Zimbabwean peasants and workers who are the rightful owners. After enacting the Zimbabwe Land Redistribution Act, ZANU-PF sees itself on the road of Chimera 3 -- establishing that the [indigenous] people of Zimbabwe own the land.

#### The IMF and World Bank Continue the Plunder of Zimbabwe

One hundred years after the South African Company comes the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to Zimbabwe. As the economy in Zimbabwe stagnated in 1990, the government turned to the IMF and the World Bank and adopted structural adjustment plans. This has put Zimbabwe on a chaotic road

downwards. During the first year of implementation of the structural adjustment plan(s), gross domestic product, which had been growing at over 4 percent a year, increased by only 1 percent in 1991. Industrial production, which had been rising nearly 6 percent per year, fell back to 2 percent.

Zimbabwe had always been a surplus maize producer with stockpiles of more than 1 million tons to tide the country over drought years. (Jean Duval, April 20, 2000, from the "In Defense of Marxism" website.) After implementing the structural adjustment plan(s) of the World Bank -- which forced the government of Zimbabwe to sell its stockpiles of maize to make a profit so as to pay IMF and World Bank debt -- Zimbabwe now has to import maize to feed its destitute population.

The IMF and World Bank structural adjustment plan(s) have precipitated food shortages in Zimbabwe, for which the ZANU-PF government is being blamed. These food shortages (read:famine) are part of the excuses used by the U.S. and EU to sanction Zimbabwe. Furthermore, the IMF and World Bank structural adjustment plan(s) devastated the economy of the South African country of Zimbabwe.

The Western world has plundered Africa, killed and enslaved its population, and have created the basis for the food crisis existing in Zimbabwe today. But, the Western donors -- including the World Bank and the IMF -- have cut aid to the Zimbabwean government until that government puts a halt to land seizures by landless peasants.

#### Western Media Blames Zimbabweans For The Crisis

Western governments and media pundits blame Zimbabwe's economic devastation on the president of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe. According to them, Zimbabwe's economic crisis are the result of havoc rendered on the economy by Mugabe's mis-rule of the country and his mis-management of its economy. But, more specifically, these critics of the Zimbabwean government indicate that the immediate cause of the economic crisis is land seizure by the Zimbabwean peasants.

In reality, the damages to the Zimbabwean economy are due to the structural adjustment plan(s) of the IMF and World Bank, are due to tobacco planters protesting land seizures by withholding tobacco crops at a time when the Zimbabwean economy was being crushed under the structural adjustment plan(s), and are due to the White settler farmers destroying prize farmland with the chemical atozin(sp?), which kills crops for two to three seasons!

There Are No Dictators

To attribute the fate of a national economy to the decisions made by a single individual is absurd. There is no possibility that a single individual can single-handedly rule a nation of millions -- all that needs be done is to kill that individual while s/he sleeps.

In every class society, without exception, the most powerful and dominant economic class determines the political course of its government. Classes rule. The state is a bureaucratic-military machine, which functions in the interests of the economically dominant class. Neither the state nor the rule of the economically dominant class are in any way dependent upon -- let alone determined by -- a single, egotistical will of a delusional individual.

As it is in Zimbabwe and the world, so it is in the U.S. Charles Rangel and Sheila Jackson-Lee of the Democratic Party's Congressional Black Caucus advanced the interests of the most powerful and dominant economic class in the U.S. -- against the Zimbabwean peasants -- when they rose to support the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001, and to sanction Zimbabwe. Charles Rangel supported the return to the "rule of law" in Zimbabwe, and Sheila Jackson-Lee said that "[T]his legislation sends a strong message to the rest of the world regarding our intentions toward Zimbabwe."

Indeed, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act of 2001 sends the message that the U.S. government is at war with the Southern African nation of Zimbabwe. Rangel and Jackson-Lee have sent a message to the people of Zimbabwe that they have absolutely no respect for the laws of Zimbabwe. The U.S. government, the Democratic and Republican parties, and the Congressional Black Caucus support lawless White settlers' defiance of Zimbabwe's laws regarding redistribution of land in Zimbabwe.

"Land Reform Is Justifiable and Long Overdue" (findings of the 2002 Zimbabwe Fact-Finding Mission, lead by Elombe Brath of Harlem, New York)

The Minister of Agricultural of the National Land Acquisition Committee in Zimbabwe states that in the tradition of Zimbabwe the land does not belong to any man, but to God and is managed and administered for the good and in the interests of the people of Zimbabwe. "[S]peaking in the language of the West, land is not a commodity to be bought and sold." (Taken from the video produced by Ron Wilkins of Los Angeles, California for the 2002 Zimbabwe Fact-Finding Mission.) The Minister of Agriculture in Zimbabwe continues: "[W]e want the landholding part of Zimbabwe to reflect the population of Zimbabwe."



In fact, the land seizures in Zimbabwe have not gone far enough, and have come late. A member of ZANU-PF spoke to the 2002 Zimbabwe Fact-Finding Mission and said: "We are at war. We have no illusions about that. What the media has missed deliberately is the fact that it is a war going on [in Zimbabwe]. The war goes back to 1999-2000. Resumption of a war that ended prematurely in 1979 with [the] Lancaster [Agreement]. We had no illusion that that which we agreed upon at Lancaster would come back to haunt us. It was only a question of time. The agreement that imperialism has forced us into in this region was deliberate and reflected the balance of forces at the time they were concluded, and reflected the extent to which the battle had not been won fully."

#### Real Independence Requires Expropriation of The Productive Forces

After the independence struggles of Africa in the '50s and '60s, the ruling "Black" governments govern in name only. The real government of most of these independent nation states is based in the hands of the dominant economic class, and not in the hands of the "people of Africa."

The poverty of recently independent African nation-states from the overt political shackles of colonialism is due to persistent economic control of those economies by the same economic masters in a neo-colonialist system. Colonialism and neo-colonialism could not and would not have happened -- nor could it continue -- without the collaboration of "Quislings" in the colonial or/and neo-colonial countries.

#### ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe Fall Out of Favor With Capitalists in Zimbabwe and the World

The food shortages and economic crisis in Zimbabwe have been engendered by the economic policies of Britain and the U.S. as concretized in the structural adjustment plan(s) of the IMF and World Bank. Additionally, the crisis has been exacerbated by the economic policies of Zimbabwean capitalists -- especially the tobacco capitalists who withheld or/and destroyed critical tobacco crops -- the neo-colonial Black bourgeoisie, and the ZANU-PF government.

In Zimbabwe today, we are not seeing food shortages and economic crisis engendered by famine and civil war as was/is in Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and Afghanistan. Not at all!

The policies of Western capital in Zimbabwe relegated Zimbabwe to being a source of natural resources and raw materials, combined with a specialized agricultural economy based in cash crops for export -- tobacco being the most

important export crop in Zimbabwe-- rather than diversified agricultural production that includes production of food for domestic consumption. These economic policies of Western capital were exacerbated by the structural adjustment plan(s) of the IMF and World Bank. ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe have, until recently, been the "Quislings" of British and American transnational corporations. ZANU-PF sold out the Zimbabwean peasants and workers long ago when it agreed to the Lancaster Agreement that left the Zimbabwean economy and the arable land in the hands of domestic and transnational capitalists.

The Resources of the Zimbabwean State is Placed at the Disposal of the Peasants and Workers of Zimbabwe

The peasant population seizing arable lands in Zimbabwe for production of food stuffs -- for example, potatoes and cabbage -- was a "wake up call" for ZANU-PF to return to the struggle for liberation of the nation of Zimbabwe. The recent policies and enactment of laws -- like the Zimbabwe Land Redistribution Act -- are merely a return by ZANU-PF, and Robert Mugabe, to the war of liberation that was (in the words of a ZANU-PF member) "ended prematurely in 1979 with [the] Lancaster [Agreement]." (Taken from the video produced by Ron Wilkins of Los Angeles, California for the 2002 Zimbabwe Fact-Finding Mission led by Elombe Brath of Harlem, New York.)

Twenty years after ZANU-PF fought a liberation struggle and seized state power, landless peasants and unemployed and homeless proletarians in Zimbabwe desperately and spontaneously began to expropriate (seize) fertile land. ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe recognized their former comrades of the national liberation struggle. Instead of opposing the land seizures, ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe correctly supported the landless peasants in their efforts to take back the land that had been forcibly expropriated from their ancestors. Capital interests in Zimbabwe expected ZANU-PF to uphold the pilfering "rule of law" of the Lancaster Agreement.

ZANU-PF "did the right thing" and stood with the dispossessed population of Zimbabwe.

As a consequence of supporting the land seizures in Zimbabwe, ZANU-PF and Robert Mugabe have fallen out of favor with the British and American transnational corporations, as well as with the domestic capitalists in Zimbabwe -- both Black and White.

Workers and Peasants in Zimbabwe Must Take State Power

The arable land in Zimbabwe should be transformed from production of export-oriented cash crops to the production of foodstuffs for domestic consumption. The

mines and natural resources in Zimbabwe should be nationalized or/and declared national treasures. All foreign tools in Zimbabwe should be nationalized, and the profits derived from mineral wealth production should belong to the whole of the people of Zimbabwe.

The current economic crisis in Zimbabwe also includes fuel price hikes that have forced bus and taxi fares higher at a time when Zimbabweans are struggling with record high unemployment and eroded wages. (Reuters, July 6, 2001)

The economic struggle can become a political struggle that leads to state power. The urban working-class in Zimbabwe must move from the purely economic struggle (strike) against rising taxes and fuel prices to a movement for the economical emancipation of the proletariat by -- following the example of the peasant land seizures -- expropriating the industrial capitalists in Zimbabwe. The urban proletariat in Zimbabwe must seize industry, and the mine workers must seize the mines. To make all this possible, the praxis of the economic strike must displace the bourgeois parliament in Zimbabwe by workers' and peasants' soviets. Only the working class, in alliance with the peasant masses, can make the expropriations of industry become public property.

The landless peasants in Zimbabwe have begun the expropriations by seizing small family farms, but the dispossessed in Zimbabwe will not own or be in control of the Zimbabwean economy without peasant expropriation of commercial plantations, and workers in Zimbabwe expropriating mines and factories.

This is the way forward in Zimbabwe.

=====

Li'l Joe

---

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**Alkalimat, Abdul**

---

**From:** gary hicks [big\_g19462002@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 27, 2003 5:52 PM  
**To:** Rainbow Coalition Party of MA; articles, etc. fightback; BRC DISCUSS; Black Radical Congress-Boston Chapt.  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] yes-----and count dracula has a funding proposal in for a blood bank

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: gary hicks <big\_g19462002@yahoo.com>  
\*\*\*\*\*

--- riflediet@hotmail.com wrote:

> From: riflediet@hotmail.com  
> To: big\_g19462002@yahoo.com  
> Subject: NYTimes.com Article: Bush Calls for Changes  
> in Africa to End Wars and Promote Trade  
> Date: Fri, 27 Jun 2003 17:34:20 -0400 (EDT)

>  
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>  
> Bush Calls for Changes in Africa to End Wars and  
> Promote Trade

>  
> June 27, 2003  
> By RICHARD W. STEVENSON

>  
> WASHINGTON, June 26 - President Bush outlined an  
> ambitious  
> agenda today for advancing peace and prosperity in  
> Africa.  
> He demanded that Liberia's leader step down to avert  
> further bloodshed in his country, called for a  
> change of  
> government in Zimbabwe and for the dispatching of an  
> envoy  
> to broker an end to the long civil war in Sudan.  
>  
> Speaking to a group of African leaders, business  
> executives  
> and investors here, Mr. Bush also pledged \$100  
> million to  
> help Kenya and other countries fight terrorism and  
> made a  
> case for expanded trade as the most powerful engine  
> for  
> fighting poverty on the continent.  
>

> Mr. Bush is to leave in 11 days on his first trip as  
> president to sub-Saharan Africa, and his speech  
> today was  
> his most expansive statement of policy on the  
> continent to  
> date. It was particularly striking for his blunt  
> calls for  
> change in nations that have been wracked by  
> violence.

>  
> Among them was Liberia, where there has been heavy  
> fighting  
> between rebels and forces loyal to President Charles  
> Taylor, who has been indicted on war crimes charges  
> in a  
> court run jointly by the neighboring nation of  
> Sierra Leone  
> and the United Nations.

>  
> "President Taylor needs to step down," Mr. Bush  
> said, "so  
> that his country can be spared further bloodshed."

>  
> But he gave no indication that he would respond to  
> calls  
> from people in Liberia to send American troops to  
> stop the  
> fighting there, which has intensified in recent days  
> after  
> Mr. Taylor reversed a promise earlier this month to  
> yield  
> power as part of a cease-fire agreement.

>  
> Mr. Bush made clear his willingness to use the  
> diplomatic  
> influence of the United States in an effort to  
> transform  
> some of Africa's worst battlegrounds, including  
> Liberia,  
> Sudan and Congo, but he suggested that he would not  
> seek to  
> exert power unilaterally. He called on regional  
> governments  
> and pan-African organizations to end a "cycle of  
> attack and  
> escalation" among the warring parties and build  
> effective  
> peacekeeping forces.

>  
> "It is Africans who will overcome these problems,"  
> Mr. Bush  
> said. "Yet the United States of America and other  
> nations  
> will stand beside them."

>  
> Most recent presidents have dipped from time to time  
> into  
> Africa's problems. But, in part because there is  
> limited  
> domestic political pressure to do so, they have  
> rarely  
> shown a lasting commitment to dealing with the  
> continent's  
> deeply rooted troubles.

>  
> Congress has also proven reluctant to provide  
> large-scale

> economic aid or to make trade concessions that would  
 > extract a price from domestic constituencies.  
 >  
 > But to the surprise of many advocacy groups who have  
 > long  
 > called on the United States to do more to fight  
 > disease and  
 > poverty in Africa, Mr. Bush has taken an increasing  
 > interest in the region, and has proposed substantial  
 > increases in spending to fight AIDS and promote  
 > economic  
 > development.  
 >  
 > In doing so, aides said, he has been pushed along by  
 > a  
 > diverse group of advisers, from Secretary of State  
 > Colin L.  
 > Powell, an early and forceful advocate of increased  
 > engagement in Africa, to religious organizations,  
 > who have  
 > cited the humanitarian imperative, to his national  
 > security  
 > team, which has called for action to keep some  
 > African  
 > nations from harboring and breeding terrorists.  
 >  
 > In his half-hour speech, to the U.S.-Africa Business  
 > Summit, he laid out a vision of an Africa policy  
 > built on a  
 > moral duty to address suffering, a national interest  
 > in  
 > promoting stability in failed states and an  
 > ideological  
 > belief in spreading democracy and capitalism.  
 >  
 > "This is a long term commitment," Mr. Bush said.  
 > "And I  
 > know there are serious obstacles to overcome.  
 > Introducing  
 > democracy is hard in any society. It's much harder  
 > in a  
 > society torn by war, or held back by corruption. The  
 > promise of free markets means little when millions  
 > are  
 > illiterate or hungry, or dying from a preventable  
 > disease."  
 >  
 >  
 > The United States, he said, would stand with and aid  
 > those  
 > nations that showed a willingness to tackle their  
 > problems.  
 >  
 >  
 > "Corrupt regimes that give nothing to their people  
 > deserve  
 > nothing from us," he said. "Governments that serve  
 > their  
 > people deserve our help, and we will provide that  
 > help."  
 >  
 > Following up on Mr. Powell's call this week for  
 > South  
 > Africa and other African nations to do more to oust  
 > President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe, whose  
 > increasingly  
 > authoritarian rule is driving the country into

> economic and  
> political chaos, Mr. Bush said it was time "to  
> encourage a  
> return to democracy" in that country.  
>  
> Mr. Bush also pledged an active role in bringing  
> peace to  
> Sudan, where, he said, two million people have died  
> over  
> the last two decades in Africa's longest-running  
> civil war.  
> He said he had asked his special envoy to Sudan,  
> John C.  
> Danforth, a former Republican senator from Missouri,  
> to  
> travel to the country in two weeks to bring an end  
> to the  
> conflict.  
>  
> "He will make clear that the only option on the  
> table is  
> peace," Mr. Bush said of Mr. Danforth.  
>  
> The president's plan to allocate \$100 million to  
> help Kenya  
> and several other countries bolster antiterrorism  
> efforts  
> will go to help improve security at airports and  
> ports,  
> step up border patrols and develop better databases  
> and  
> intelligence sharing about terrorists.  
>  
> Kenya, the site of a terrorist attack against  
> Israeli  
> vacationers last November that was linked to Al  
> Qaeda and  
> of a 1998 attack on the United States Embassy in  
> Nairobi  
> that killed more than 200 people, has been hard hit  
> by a  
> downturn in tourism this year because of terrorism  
> fears,  
> deepening its economic problems.  
>  
> Mr. Bush repeated his call for the European Union to  
> allow  
> imports from Africa of genetically modified  
> agricultural  
> products. Europe currently bars imports of most  
> genetically  
> altered foods, a position that American officials  
> say has  
> discouraged Africans from planting them and  
> therefore from  
> reaping the benefits of higher yields in countries  
> that are  
> chronically short both of food and export  
> opportunities.  
>  
> If Africa were to grow and raise genetically  
> modified crops  
> and animals on a large scale, their higher yield  
> might  
> allow the continent to raise the volume of its  
> agricultural  
> exports and feed more of its own people at the same

> time.  
>  
> Europeans, however, have strongly resisted the  
> introduction  
> of genetically modified foods.  
>  
> Mr. Bush did not specify whether he would support  
> trade  
> policy changes in the United States that many  
> African  
> leaders say are vital to the economic development of  
> their  
> countries. Among them are allowing textile imports,  
> which  
> are effectively barred under current legislation,  
> and  
> cutting subsidies to American farmers on crops also  
> grown  
> in Africa, especially cotton.  
>  
> Susan E. Rice, a former assistant secretary of state  
> for  
> African affairs under President Bill Clinton, said  
> the  
> speech showed considerable continuity in policy  
> toward  
> Africa since Mr. Clinton's two terms in office. But  
> she  
> said Mr. Bush did not go far enough in finding ways  
> to  
> promote more investment and economic expansion in  
> Africa.  
>  
>  
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>  
>  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/27/international/africa/27PREX.html?ex=1057749660&ei=1&en=a4fc00d3ea8f964c>  
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## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

**From:** Gale Daggs [gdag@prodigy.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 28, 2003 1:49 AM  
**To:** j w; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; Bill Fletcher; JEAU BOND; HUMBERT R. BROWN; BILL SALES; AJAMU DILLAHUNT; CAPPY PINDERHUGHES; DAMIS BELL; Ty dePass; Sam Anderson; John Woodford  
**Cc:** MaryLouise Patterson; Charles Brown; imeriwe123@aol.com; cpinkston@freedomboundcenter.org; abraxton@CritPath.Org  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] Re: Warning !

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "Gale Daggs" <gdag@prodigy.net>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Hitler, When did we become an organization were dissent is supresses. I posted an earlier message to all the members of the National Council saying one person should not be able to kick anyone off the listserve ...This is the Black Radical . Congress.....not only do we believe in the right of free speech as in the case of Danny Glover in his fight MCI, but we also believe in the right of free speech when it comes to ourselves. Disagreements is what politics are about. The attempt is to arrive at some clarity supported by information. I know you are young and inexperienced but such is not the case here. You need to open your mind to what is going on around you. It's about mind not muscle. MIND not MUSCLE! MIND not MUSCLE! MIND not MUSCLE! Gale  
----- Original Message

From: "j w" <dashrinc@yahoo.com>  
To: <gdag@prodigy.net>  
Sent: Friday, June 27, 2003 1:08 PM  
Subject: Warning !

>  
> Gail,  
>  
> for the brc-discuss listserv, the Zimbabwe debate is over !  
>  
> anymore messages that breech the BRC Principles of Unity, and i  
> will suspend you from the brc-discuss listserv.  
>  
> >  
> point 7 of the Principles of Unity:  
> "We must be democratic and inclusive in our dealings with one  
> another, making room for constructive criticism and honest  
> dissent within our ranks. There must be open venues for civil  
> and comradely debates to occur."  
>  
> point 4 of the Principles of Unity:  
> "We reject racial and biological determinism, Black patriarchy  
> and Black capitalism as solutions to problems facing Black  
> people."  
>  
> this message intend solely for you, please request my approval  
> if you would like to forward this message.  
>  
>  
> jay woodson  
> brc-discuss moderator  
>  
>  
>  
>

## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

**From:** Hhasan2@aol.com

**Sent:** Saturday, June 28, 2003 6:53 AM

**To:** Xblackxmanx@aol.com; Blacklines@yahoogroups.com;  
TheAfrikanConsciousnessCenter@yahoogroups.com; 1725topp@bellsouth.net;  
AAlkali@UTNet.UTledo.Edu; ajackmon@hotmail.com; Allah135@cs.com;  
alona3649@hotmail.com; Amirib@aol.com; askia@pressroom.com; Attia@aol.com;  
BADARIAN@aol.com; BASHLEFI@aol.com; bbstring@bellsouth.net; blackauteur@yahoo.com;  
BlackElectorate@cs.com; blackrep@pacbell.net; brendasutton@hotmail.com;  
connierw@earthlink.net; coolpopa@; cristwellmuhammad@yahoo.com;  
cvgsheba@burningmail.com; dbailey@hfgsc.org; dbakeer107@aol.com.;  
Divajamiewalker@aol.com; drjuliahare@pacbell.net; eastsidearts@yahoo.com;  
ebontek@earthlink.net; editor@sfbayview.com; elenas@mindspring.com; erica\_taber@yahoo.com;  
Eriecture1@aol.com; FAlim@sacbee.com; G1Rhythm@aol.com; gaylemba@netscape.net;  
ggrier@researchdatagroup.com; givebacktoblack@YAHOO.COM; goddessfiles@yahoo.com;  
HEALCO@aol.com; hurriyah@islc.net; lbespirit51@aol.com; Jhdoyle98@hotmail.com;  
joeradical@yahoo.com; jrswriter@comcast.net; Julian\_Carroll@dot.ca.gov; KALAMU@aol.com;  
Kevinpowe@aol.com; lisamadams@hotmail.com; lovelife@sirius.com; Natralieb@aol.com;  
nefjackmon@hotmail.com; nhare@blackthinktank.com; Omowale32@aol.com;  
orfenegro@netscape.net; pamelay@csufresno.edu; prodeternal@hotmail.com;  
rudolphlewis@hotmail.com; SOA@egroups.com; SuninleoNY@aol.com; superle@pacbell.net;  
swright@solano.cc.ca.us; TheAfrikanConsciousnessCenter@yahoogroups.com.;  
theblacklist@topica.com; timothy\_simon@rsco.com; Trinada@aol.com;  
unite\_n\_resist@yahoo.com; whywewrite@hotmail.com.; WORDSLANGER@aol.com;  
writealim@yahoo.com; yture@mindspring.com; yvonne\_bynoe@hotmail.com

**Subject:** African Leaders and The Repression of Their Own People

Robert Mugabe, Charles Taylor and others have decided that they are opposed to democracy in their countries and would rather murder their own people than have free elections. Any thoughts on this?

While Nelson Mandela issues decrees about American foreign policy, what does he have to say about the sheer madness taking place in these countries?

Should the American Negro (who loves his and or /her creature comforts) be happy that he/she is living in the United States?

Any thoughts about this my dear Afrocentric (we a BADDDDDDD people and all of that jazz) fantasy revenge seeking (Hotep speaking) brothers and sisters?

## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

**From:** Hhasan2@aol.com

**Sent:** Saturday, June 28, 2003 10:45 AM

**To:** kirby.randolph@verizon.net; Xblackxmanx@aol.com; Blacklines@yahoogroups.com; TheAfrikanConsciousnessCenter@yahoogroups.com; 1725topp@bellsouth.net; AAlkali@UTNet.UTledo.Edu; ajackmon@hotmail.com; Allah135@cs.com; alona3649@hotmail.com; Amirib@aol.com; askia@pressroom.com; Attia@aol.com; BADARIAN@aol.com; BASHLEFI@aol.com; bbstring@bellsouth.net; blackauteur@yahoo.com; BlackElectorate@cs.com; blackrep@pacbell.net; brendasutton@hotmail.com; connierw@earthlink.net; cristwellmuhammad@yahoo.com; cvgsheba@burningmail.com; dbailey@hfgsc.org; dbakeer107@aol.com.; Divajamiewalker@aol.com; drjuliahare@pacbell.net; eastsidearts@yahoo.com; ebontek@earthlink.net; editor@sfbayview.com; elenas@mindspring.com; erica\_taber@yahoo.com; Ericture1@aol.com; FAlim@sacbee.com; G1Rhythm@aol.com; gaylemba@netscape.net; ggrier@researchdatagroup.com; givebacktoblack@YAHOO.COM; goddessfiles@yahoo.com; HEALCO@aol.com; hurriyah@islc.net; lbespirit51@aol.com; Jhdoyle98@hotmail.com; joeradical@yahoo.com; jrswriter@comcast.net; Julian\_Carroll@dot.ca.gov; KALAMU@aol.com; Kevinpowe@aol.com; lisamadams@hotmail.com; lovelife@sirius.com; Natralieb@aol.com; nefjackmon@hotmail.com; nhare@blackthinktank.com; Omowale32@aol.com; orfenegro@netscape.net; pamelay@csufresno.edu; prodeternal@hotmail.com; rudolphlewis@hotmail.com; SOA@egroups.com; SuninleoNY@aol.com; superle@pacbell.net; swright@solano.cc.ca.us; TheAfrikanConsciousnessCenter@yahoogroups.com.; theblacklist@topica.com; timothy\_simon@rsc.com; Trinada@aol.com; unite\_n\_resist@yahoo.com; whywewrite@hotmail.com.; WORDSLANGER@aol.com; writealim@yahoo.com; yture@earthlink.net; yvonne\_bynoe@hotmail.com

**Subject:** Re: African Leaders and The Repression of Their Own People

Yes, I have a suggestion: we should embrace the stark reality of the human condition. Furthermore, it was Africans who, in their quest for gold dog collar trinquets from European invaders, who sold us into the hands of the West. That has to be addressed. Secondly, now that we are in America and around the world, it is difficult to look back at Africa and see a continent overwrought by one brutal dictatorship after another. What should we do? Well, we should do the same thing that we do when white folks are chopping off the hands and feet of Africans in the name of greater profit: protest, raise our concerns, fight against these brutal African regimes with the same fervor that we have fought against apartheid.

That, dear sir, is who this guy is.

## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

**From:** S. E. Anderson [ebontek@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 28, 2003 7:03 PM  
**To:** TheBlackList@topica.com; shaunneb@aol.com; nyc\_finet10026@yahoo.com  
**Cc:** contehb@aol.com; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; brc-ny-metro@yahooogroups.com; brc-reparations@yahooogroups.com; s\_chaka@hotmail.com; nayoline@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] Mandela Says Bush "Cannot Think Properly" & Acts Outside the UN

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "S. E. Anderson" <ebontek@earthlink.net>  
\*\*\*\*\*

June 28, 2003

Mandela criticizes Bush on Iraq war  
By Japan Mathebula  
Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG - Former president Nelson Mandela criticized President Bush yesterday for the US-led war in Iraq, and hinted he might not meet with Bush when he visits South Africa.

Mandela, speaking to reporters, used strong language to condemn the US-led war for the second time in less than six months.

'For anybody, especially the leader of a super state, to act outside the United Nations is something that must be condemned by everybody,' Mandela said after meeting with Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin of France.

Asked if he would convey his views to Bush next month, the 84-year-old Mandela replied: 'You assume that he's going to meet me. I wouldn't make that assumption.

'I know he's coming to see the president, but I cannot be sure if he's going to want to meet me,' he added.

'So I won't be able to tell him anything. I have said what I wanted to say, and I don't have to repeat it,' Mandela said.

White House spokesman Sean McCormack said the Bush administration had no comment on Mandela's remarks. The White House has not disclosed whether Bush plans to meet with Mandela on his trip to Africa that starts on July 7.

Mandela received the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for leading the campaign against apartheid and is perhaps the most respected political figure in Africa.

In his remarks yesterday, the former South African president had warm words for France.

'I am very happy about the attitude taken by President Jacques Chirac, because he made it clear that France was in favor of peace,' Mandela said.

De Villepin, who was on the last day of a two-day visit to South Africa, said he admired Mandela 'for what he has done for his country and what he has done for the world.'

He said they had exchanged views on French and European involvement

in assisting Africa both in development and in crises.

On Jan. 29, Mandela called Bush arrogant and shortsighted and implied that he was racist for ignoring the United Nations in his zeal to attack Iraq.

In a speech, Mandela urged the people of the United States to join massive protests against Bush and he called on world leaders, especially those with vetoes in the UN Security Council, to oppose the administration. 'One power with a president who has no foresight and cannot think properly, is now wanting to plunge the world into a holocaust,' Mandela told the audience at the International Women's Forum in January.

At the time, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer responded to Mandela's criticism by pointing to a letter by eight European leaders reiterating their support of Bush. This story ran on page A7 of the Boston Globe on 6/28/2003.

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<www.blackradicalcongress.org> | BRC | <blackradicalcongress@email.com>

**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** Anthony Monteiro [a.montei@usip.edu]

**Sent:** Saturday, June 28, 2003 10:21 PM

**To:** blackantiwar@yahoogroups.com

**Subject:** Re: [blackantiwar] Response to Colin Powell's attack on Zimbabwe in NY Times

**Letter to the Editor:**

**New York Times**

To the Editor:

Response to “Freeing a Nation From a Tyrant’s Grip”

(Op-Ed article by Colin L. Powell, Secretary of State)

Secretary Powell has not taken to heart the historical insight that Mr. Harry Belafonte attempted to give him in likening Powell’s political actions and commentary to that of a “house Negro”, who finds it more rewarding to carry out the wishes of his master - in this case President Bush - than to represent the interests of African people.

The road that President Robert G. Mugabe has chosen is endeavoring to correct the historical crime against humanity brought on by British colonialism which robbed Zimbabwe (colonial name, Rhodesia) of it’s name, land, labor and tens of thousands of lives. America and Britain did not bring democracy to Zimbabwe. A nation of people fought for it. A nation who saw 4,000 white farmers own over 75% of the best land of a country of 12 million people.

President Mugabe is returning the land to the people. **Mugabe is right.**

Mr. Omowale Clay

Friends of Zimbabwe

New York City, New York

GOOD MY BROTHER

TONY

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6/29/2003

**Alkalimat, Abdul**

---

**From:** MRV1616@aol.com

**Sent:** Tuesday, June 24, 2003 11:24 PM

**To:** omowaleclay56@hotmail.com; Amirib@aol.com; ardillahunt@igc.org; BobDominick@aol.com; Challengegroup@yahoo.com; pikirayi.deketেকে@zimpapers.co.zw; RWare10709@aol.com; ebontek@earthlink.net; BlackTel4Justice@aol.com; nurses2000@rcn.com; muhammad@anticolonialmedia.com; Cybrgrace7@aol.com; CONTEHB@aol.com; Djenneba@hotmail.com; Hermans@datatone.com; Info@menofrespect.com; Kfunny@hotmail.com; GhanaUnion@aol.com; hcampbe1@twcny.rr.com; laacra@hotmail.com; LEWISLUMSR@earthlink.net; Crush32@juno.com; CharlesOwens@msn.com; criticalman@earthlink.net; JTTCJTTC@aol.com; MITALE@aol.com; TundaNonga@t\_online.de; blackantiwar@yahoogroups.com; comments@allafrica.com; Sareadi@aol.com; Mitayopotojsi@hotmail.com; Imaanzo@newschool.edu; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; Cab\_Brooks@msn.com; Burnardwhite@aol.com; Dukes@tbwt.com; Editors@unityfirst.com; Bosiaart@aol.com; Oridota@online.fr; ZeldriaKelly@aol.com; Afuj@mail.com; APRIL832@aol.com; jonas@laughingdiablo.com; Thickwoods@hotmail.com; Fair@fair.org; brotom@lava.net; Taharka98@aol.com; Shiriki@gwi.net; Seanderson@mail.com; Karali@gis.net; HABUKAR@city.toronto.on.ca

**Subject:** [blackantiwar] Re: Response to Colin Powell's attack on Zimbabwe in NY Times

**RESPONSE TO "FREEING A NATION FROM A TYRANT'S GRIP"**

**OP-ED ARTICLE BY COLIN POWELL, SECRETARY OF STATE**

It is extremely disturbing to read the Op-ed article by Secretary Powell where he parrots the administration's mantra calling for the removal of the legitimately elected President of Zimbabwe, Robert Mugabe (which is more than he can say about his own boss). Having effectively accomplished "regime change" in Afghanistan and Iraq, the U.S. now turns its sights on Zimbabwe.

While I can accept that most Americans do not know the true story, Sec. Powell knows better. Upon winning their Political independence, President Mugabe negotiated a treaty with the British government known as the Lancaster Agreement, whereby the British and American governments agreed to provide funds to buy the farms that represented over 75% of the best land in the country, owned by 4,000 white farmers, so that the land could be re-distributed to the people of Zimbabwe, from whom it had been stolen. It was the British government and the American government that reneged on this agreement, and 20 years after it was signed none of the land had been returned. President Mugabe was justified in implementing the policy of taking the land back.

The rest of the world is watching, particularly, other African nations, many of whom are in similar conditions, with the vast majority of their land and resources under foreign control. While Sec. Powell laments over the plight of the Zimbabwean people he needs to consider that they have nothing more to lose. They would rather die than continue to live under the yoke of neocolonialism.

Mr. Michael Vaughan  
Queens, new York

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6/29/2003

## Alkalimat, Abdul

**From:** Mitayo Potosi [MitayoPotojsi@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 25, 2003 4:28 PM  
**To:** omowaleclay56@hotmail.com; Amadi\_ajamu@aol.com; Amirib@aol.com; ardillahunt@igc.org; Bobdominick@aol.com; Challengegroup@yahoo.com; pikirayi.deketeke@zimpapers.co.zw; Rware10709@aol.com; ebontek@earthlink.net; Blacktel4Justice@aol.com; mrv1616@aol.com; nurses2000@rcn.com; muhammad@anticolonialmedia.com; cybrgrace7@aol.com; contehb@aol.com; Djenneba@hotmail.com; Hermans@datatone.com; Info@menofrespect.com; Kfunny@hotmail.com; GhanaUnion@aol.com; Tibbsread@aol.com; ugandanet@kym.net; dp\_net@yahoogroups.com; mitayopotojsi@hotmail.com  
**Cc:** JTTCJTTC@aol.com; Mitale@aol.com; TundaNonga@t\_online.de; blackantiwar@yahoogroups.com; Sareadi@aol.com; lmaanzo@newschool.edu; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; Cab\_Brooks@msn.com; BurnardWhite@aol.com; Dukes@tbwt.com; Editors@unityfirst.com; Bosiaart@aol.com; Oridota@online.fr; ZeldriaKelly@aol.com; Afuj@mail.com; April832@aol.com; jonas@laughingdiablo.com; Thickwoods@hotmail.com; Fair@fair.org; brotom@lava.net; Taharka98@aol.com; Shiriki@gwi.net; Seanderson@mail.com; Karali@gis.net; HABUKAR@city.toronto.on.ca  
**Subject:** [blackantiwar] Re: Response to Colin Powell's attack on Zimbabwe in NY Times

Response to Colin  
Powell's att...

Dear "Omowale Clay" omowaleclay56@hotmail.com ,

If Colin Powell had any self-respect or an iota of conscience he would instead have addressed the holocaust now going on in Congo.

Anglo-American imperialism condones, promotes and abates Ugandan Lt. General Yoweri Museveni's and Rwandan General Paul Kagame's nonsensical argument that they have to deploy their mercenary armies deep inside Congo to protect their national borders from infiltration by Ugandan and Rwandese armed dissidents.

And yet there is only one medicine against any dissidents; organise democratic, free and fair elections. Indeed the argument of Rwanda's and Uganda's security concerns won thin long long ago.

Minerals which are strategic to the so-called 'Western Civilization' - i.e. the industrial catalysts Nobium, Vanadium, Tantalum etc... are leaving Congo in daily plane-loads; destined to the Pentagon.

Rwandan and Ugandan warlords together with white mercenaries who retired from both the British SAS and the apartheid Defence Forces share the loot of gold, Diamonds, tropical hard-wood timber, etc...

Indeed conflict resulting from the sharing of this loot has so far resulted in three wars between the Rwandese and Ugandan Armies; wars that have been fought not in the jungle but right in the Congolese city of Kisangani. i.e. Kisangani I, Kisangani II and Kisangani III.

The world knows all this. These wars have only stopped by admonishment from British pay-mistresses Baroness Lynda Chalker and Clare Short.

Oil prospecting on the Uganda-Congolese border has already started. The company doing this, HERITAGE OIL was not long ago registered in Toronto, Canada. It is owned by Baroness Lynda Chalker and white mercenaries who retired from both the British and the apartheid South Africa militaries.

Yoweri Museveni recruited child soldiers, used them as canon fodder, grabbed power and has been suffocating Ugandans now for 17 years.



Gen Paul Kagame - straight out of Officers College Fort Livenworth Kansas USA shot down a presidential plane of the late President of Rwanda, (the trigger to the Rwandese genocide) and was installed in power by imperialism using the Uganda mercenary army.

These two have ever since, thrived on a bogey of armed dissidents, which 'dissidents' are their own creations. Their fighters go around an anthill and emerge as govt soldiers; then they go around the same anthill again and emerge as armed rebels. Indeed fighting 'dissidents' has become not only a very lucrative industry but a scare-crow for the maintainance of their grip on power. It is the African people that are paying so dearly in this sick circus.

These thugs have now exported their mayhem to Democratic Republic of the Congo - DRC - and so far over 4 million in DRC have perished since 1996.

How can Colin Powell look himself in the mirror in light of all this? Not since WW2 has the world seen so much death. Except this time it is black lives and nobody seems to care. On the other hand, all along, Britain and Washington have constantly funded Yoweri Museveni's and General Paul Kagame's black mercenary armies of death and genocide.

Indeed see New York Times of June 23, 2003. i.e. "Innocence of Youth Is Victim of Congo War"

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/06/23/international/africa/23CONG.html?ex=1057418541&ei=1&en=deb99a1158e92bf8>

It is laid out in this article that the bulk of the armed combatants in DRC are child soldiers. They are abducted from DRC, trained in Uganda, and sent back to kill and be killed. Surely these are massive crimes against humanity.

Colin Powell must have had this New York Times issue of June 23, 2003 on his desk when he was penning his of June 24, 2003 against President Robert Mugabe.

Colin Powell should reflect on what happened to him at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg where his limousine was nearly overturned and his four-person marine detail were beaten and thrown into the fense by an irate population.

Even at the World conference on Development in Pretoria, all delegates walked out on him when he started on this nonsense of Mugabe bashing. Africans have showed him time and time again that they dont want him trashing Robert Mugabe. When is he going to learn?

Mitayo Potosi

cc

hcampbel@twcnny.rr.com, Iaacara@hotmail.com, LEWISLUMSR@earthlink.net, Crush32@juno.com, CharlesOwens@msn.com, criticalman@earthlink.net, Gilyardman@aol.com,

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

**From:** Connie White [connierw@earthlink.net]

**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2003 3:06 AM

**To:** Hhasan2@aol.com; joeradical@yahoo.com; kirby.randolph@verizon.net; Xblackxmanx@aol.com; Blacklines@yahoogroups.com; TheAfrikanConsciousnessCenter@yahoogroups.com; 1725topp@bellsouth.net; AAlkali@UTNet.UToledo.Edu; ajackmon@hotmail.com; Allah135@cs.com; alona3649@hotmail.com; Amirib@aol.com; askia@pressroom.com; Attia@aol.com; BADARIAN@aol.com; BASHLEFI@aol.com; bbstring@bellsouth.net; blackauteur@yahoo.com; BlackElectorate@cs.com; blackrep@pacbell.net; brendasutton@hotmail.com; cristwellmuhammad@yahoo.com; cvgsheba@burningmail.com; dbailey@hfgsc.org; DBakeer107@aol.com; Divajamiewalker@aol.com; drjuliahare@pacbell.net; eastsidearts@yahoo.com; ebontek@earthlink.net; editor@sfbayview.com; elenas@mindspring.com; erica\_taber@yahoo.com; Eriecture1@aol.com; FAlim@sacbee.com; G1Rhythm@aol.com; gaylemba@netscape.net; ggrier@researchdatagroup.com; givebacktoblack@YAHOO.COM; goddessfiles@yahoo.com; HEALCO@aol.com; hurriyah@islc.net; lbespirit51@aol.com; Jhdoyle98@hotmail.com; jrswriter@comcast.net; Julian\_Carroll@dot.ca.gov; KALAMU@aol.com; Kevinpowe@aol.com; lisamadams@hotmail.com; lovelife@sirius.com; Natralieb@aol.com; nefjackmon@hotmail.com; nhare@blackthinktank.com; Omowale32@aol.com; orfenegro@netscape.net; pamelay@csufresno.edu; prodeternal@hotmail.com; rudolphlewis@hotmail.com; SOA@egroups.com; SuninleoNY@aol.com; superle@pacbell.net; swright@solano.cc.ca.us; theblacklist@topica.com; timothy\_simon@rsco.com; Trinada@aol.com; unite\_n\_resist@yahoo.com; whywewrite@hotmail.com; WORDSLANGER@aol.com; writealim@yahoo.com; ytoure@mindspring.com; yvonne\_bynoe@hotmail.com

**Subject:** RE: African Leaders and The Repression of Their Own People

Hhasan:

Speaking of people leaving to go to countries where they purport to want to tell the peoples of that country what to do, you should start with yourself.

It is not accidental that the title of this thread -- initiated by yourself -- is typical WASP "American" arrogance that arrogates unto onself the right to tell others what to do. This arrogance is exemplified by telling everyone else in the world what is acceptable and unacceptable policy. Your passion and arrogated "right" -- as you see it -- to determine what government in Africa should and should not exist, based upon your Black Anglo-Saxon values, is no different than Bush/Powell telling the Afghan government what its social policies should be. This is the same as Bush/Powell telling the Iraqi people who should and should not be their leader. The arrogance is the obvious assumption that "America" knows best. This kind of thinking, supported by WASPs and Black Anglo-Saxons (as Nathan Hare calls them) has lead to mass murder of tens of millions of third-world people -- directly or indirectly -- by the U.S. imperialist troops or/and suppliers of weapons. Since the end of WWII, U.S. imperialism arrogated unto itself the right to overthrow governments that incense their sensibilities or are contrary to their values.

This is not a game. We are talking about concretely the overthrow of Mosadah (Iran) and the installing of the Shah by the CIA. We are talking concretely about the occupation and invasion of South Korea and Korea generally, South Vietnam and Vietnam generally, Cambodia, Angola, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Chile, and the ongoing economic wars against Cuba, Lybia and now Zimbabwe.

By your statements, all you are doing is providing propaganda to justify "American" atrocities throughout the world. Anti-intellectualism is an "American," right-wing, pragmatic hostility to critical thinking. The real abuse -- fronting off as "intelligence" -- is the "Americans," yourself included, thinking that they know best in how governments around the world should function and who the governments should be. Your attacks upon "African tyrants" is no different than "American" ideological attacks upon "Communist dictators," "terrorists," and "tyrants" that led to the murder of tens of millions of folks in Africa, Asia and Latin America. When Colin Powell denounces Mugabe as a tyrant who needs to be overthrown, at least he gets paid for it. You do it for free. African people see your tyrades against African leaders no differently than George Bush, Colin Powell, Donald Rumsfeld, Madeleine Albright, and all the rest.

6/30/2003

By saying that you belong to the "Black tribe," you provide the State Department in "America" a reference point: "See, even the Niggers are against these African tyrants." By declaring yourself a "liberal," it is clear you have no intention of participating in worker/peasant movements to overthrow governments in Africa or anywhere else, but to support "American" aggression everywhere. If you are interested in correcting abuse of democratic rights, you need not look to Africa, but to Florida.

More importantly, repressive governments are known by the number of those imprisoned in proportion to the population. The issue of repression is that "America" has more prisoners than any country in the world – proportionately to its population. There are more African-Americans locked down in U.S. jails and prisons than in all of Africa combined. If you want to end repression, the struggle is here.

la luta continua,  
connie

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Hhasan2@aol.com [mailto:Hhasan2@aol.com]

**Sent:** Sunday, June 29, 2003 9:38 AM

**Subject:** Re: African Leaders and The Repression of Their Own People

Let me say this: I am actually sick and tired of impractical community organizers and those Che' Guevera armchair intellectuals running their damn mouths. Not one of these "tear down" America folks are going to remove one damn brick from this house called America. And--and!--it is also a misnomer to suggest that Black folks (which I am proud to say I am among that tribe) cannot criticize brutal and oppressive African leaders. That's the international equivalent of the local refusal to address the horrific numbers of Black and Latino men murdered in ghettos and barrios throughout America at the hands of other Blacks and Latinos. Now, if we had, say a deranged European chopping off the hands and feet of Africans (right now) Leopold style, these same absurd and silly intellectuals would be writing letters to Amnesty International and railing against imperialism and all that jazz.

Most of these intellectuals, I've come to see, are bookworms who are afraid to face the world and its realities head on. Instead, they want to simplify the world through a lens that is divorced from the human condition. Personally, I am sick of them and can see precisely why people of African descent (whatever that means) are in deep dodo.

If I was in any of these African countries, I would be leading a damn fight to remove these repressive ass, greedy, and Swiss-bank socialism punks from power. We can't do that here (where it needs to be done) because our intellectuals are afraid of serious change because that would mean leaving abstract theory alone, would mean a halt to the theoretical bullshit that has become romanticized among the black and white intellectual left, and would mean a brutal curtailment to inaction. This is precisely why I am a liberal gadfly, a third-rail, a person who understands that the people understand what must be done. We cannot wait for intellectuals to inform us.

The biggest problem with Black intellectuals and their Latino counterparts is this: none of these people are leaving American, en masse, to live in countries where they have absolutely no rights and, for the most part, very little freedom of the press. So: we have to deal from the cards that we have, which I am forced to say are very American cards.

I will say it again: those brutal and repressive ass African leaders have to be dealt with as a matter of Black/Latino foreign policy, since these American intellectuals are afraid to enact an Intafada movement in the United States--which, let me say outright, is further proof that intellectuals cannot lead anything other than a conversation over expensive coffee and impractical ideas.

Continue that.

## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

**From:** Hhasan2@aol.com

**Sent:** Monday, June 30, 2003 6:31 AM

**To:** connierw@earthlink.net; joeradical@yahoo.com; kirby.randolph@verizon.net;  
Xblackxmanx@aol.com; Blacklines@yahoogroups.com;  
TheAfrikanConsciousnessCenter@yahoogroups.com; 1725topp@bellsouth.net;  
AAlkali@UTNet.UTledo.Edu; ajackmon@hotmail.com; Allah135@cs.com;  
alona3649@hotmail.com; Amirib@aol.com; askia@pressroom.com; Attia@aol.com;  
BADARIAN@aol.com; BASHLEFI@aol.com; bbstring@bellsouth.net; blackauteur@yahoo.com;  
BlackElectorate@cs.com; blackrep@pacbell.net; brendasutton@hotmail.com;  
cristwellmuhammad@yahoo.com; cvgsheba@burningmail.com; dbailey@hfgsc.org;  
DBakeer107@aol.com; Divajamiewalker@aol.com; drjuliahare@pacbell.net;  
eastsidearts@yahoo.com; ebontek@earthlink.net; editor@sfbayview.com;  
elenas@mindspring.com; erica\_taber@yahoo.com; Eriecture1@aol.com; FAlim@sacbee.com;  
G1Rhythm@aol.com; gaylemba@netscape.net; ggrier@researchdatagroup.com;  
givebacktoblack@YAHOO.COM; goddessfiles@yahoo.com; HEALCO@aol.com; hurriyah@islc.net;  
Ibespirit51@aol.com; Jhdoyle98@hotmail.com; jrswriter@comcast.net; Julian\_Carroll@dot.ca.gov;  
KALAMU@aol.com; Kevinpowe@aol.com; lisamadams@hotmail.com; lovelife@sirius.com;  
Natalieb@aol.com; nefjackmon@hotmail.com; nhare@blackthinktank.com; Omowale32@aol.com;  
orfenegro@netscape.net; pamelay@csufresno.edu; prodeternal@hotmail.com;  
rudolphlewis@hotmail.com; SOA@egroups.com; SuninleoNY@aol.com; superle@pacbell.net;  
swright@solano.cc.ca.us; theblacklist@topica.com; timothy\_simon@rsco.com; Trinada@aol.com;  
unite\_n\_resist@yahoo.com; whywewrite@hotmail.com; WORDSLANGER@aol.com;  
writealim@yahoo.com; ytoure@mindspring.com; yvonne\_bynoe@hotmail.com

**Subject:** Re: African Leaders and The Repression of Their Own People

As I said before, most of these Black and White leftist intellectuals in this country are useless. Period. And silly. I've spent a lot of time listening to and reading useless nonsense from black armchair intellectuals, the non WASP kind like yourself, while Black folks around the world burn.

I was born in America and there is a discernible and traceable history of that birth; however, I am a far cry from a WASP, black or otherwise; so that analysis, which is really an intellectual attempt to clutch at straws, does not address my basic point:

Black Americans romanticization of Africa and its leaders. However, I do, indeed, know what I wrote and said had to sting because the Black And White left, historically speaking, has been apologists for socialist and communist murders and atrocities in Europe and Africa. Your silly response, at best, is lightweight and will not hold water when pedestrian people in Africa ask: what did these black intellectuals have to say about our oppression. However, if we follow your logic (if that is what it is), why were black intellectuals so concerned about apartheid in Africa? Wasn't that interference? I get it: it's a white/European oppression thing and I simply don't understand. Let me say it again: those brutal bastards oppressing their own people in Africa need to be taken out the same way your armchair revolutionaries in America have cried about self-determination when Africans were being murdered and oppressed by their "colonial masters."

The silly and retrograde name calling that is the hallmark of a lot of these lightweight intellectuals does not, in anyway, phase me. I've read the history. White leftists to this day to not want to claim Stalin. So much for the perfection of communism. Black leftists in the United States are as quiet as church mice while African leaders murder and oppress their own people. You cannot have it both ways: you cannot rant and rave when white folks murder our people in other parts of the world and remain quiet when black folks murder and oppress their own. To do that, well, does not mean you are an undiscovered member of the Leopold family. It means you lack common sense and, furthermore, when confronted with certain facts, resort to silly intellectual pieties. I don't give a damn about Bush and Florida. Under the best of circumstances, black folks were not voting and exercising their right to do so. When they did vote (mainly for the Democrats), they were treated (and continue to be treated) like battered wives. (The intellectual bait and switch will not work.) That's something that we need to address because we, the blacks, tend to see the world through these permanent Democratic glasses and if Democrats have not been engaged in duplicity around the world.

So. There you have it. African leaders (most of them) are oppressing and murdering their own people and robbing their countries blind. You can have the Florida election. Gore would not have been a savior to black folks and as soon as you useless Negro revolutionaries (oh, did I actually write that?) get this through your head, the better off you will be. Most African leaders are prepared to do business with "anybody" who will help their continue to rob their countries blind. In most of these countries, there are no elections to steal.

I've communicated with the Hares and they know dam good and well that I am a free and independent thinker who is not afraid to address the nonsense of the left and the right. And intellectual lightweights like yourself. If black folks (worldwide) will not critique their behavior, who will? Oh, let me guess, black imperialists without a pot to piss in and a window to throw it out of.

## Alkalimat, Abdul

---

**From:** Li'l Joe [joeradical@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 29, 2003 11:25 PM  
**To:** seattleleft; argentina solidarity; sovietdemocracy@yahoogroups.com;  
workersdemocracy@yahoogroups.com; nbppheadquarters@aol.com; Labor Party Praxis;  
blackantiwar  
**Cc:** brc social  
**Subject:** [blackantiwar] land, peasants and radical revolution

Zimbabwe peasant's expropriations in historical context.

I was talking to a few old comrades today -- actually friends -- about this discussion. It was suggested that American leftists don't know what revolution is -- a bloody experience in which the masses are brought in first in opposition to the powers that be -- feudal lords, monarchs, imperialists, White folk representing imperialists, or what have you. But, in the course of those bourgeois-democratic revolutions the masses begin to feel their own power, and to think with a mind and will of their own.

This discussion has not been about the urban proletariat in socialist revolutions but of peasants in bourgeois democratic revolutions.

I have mentioned the peasant uprising in context of the French bourgeois-democratic Revolution, the land issue. I think that there are some objective parallels to the entry of the peasants into the bourgeois-democratic revolution against racial imperialism.

The same way that the enemies of the entry of the African peasants into the bourgeois revolution in their own interests with their own agenda are blaming "opportunists" who are manipulating the peasants for ulterior motives today against Zimbabwe so to 200 years ago against the French supporters of the peasants revolution.. I want to share with the reader an account by Kropotkin of the French Revolution in particular dealing with the peasants land seizures.

Lil Joe

[http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/anarchist\\_archives/kropotkin/frenchrev/xvi.html](http://dwardmac.pitzer.edu/anarchist_archives/kropotkin/frenchrev/xvi.html)

Kropotkin, P. (1927). The Great French Revolution, 1789-1793 (N. F. Dryhurst, Trans.) New York: Vanguard Printings. (Original work published 1909)  
CHAPTER XVI  
THE PEASANT RISING  
Peasants begin to rise - Causes of risings- Châteaux destroyed - Rising in Alsace - Franche - Comté - Castres -

Auvergne Characteristics of rising - Middle classes and  
their fears Picardy revolts - Terror throughout France -  
National Assembly meets

EVER since the winter of 1788, and especially since March 1789, the people, as we have said, no longer paid rent to the lords. That in this they were encouraged by the revolutionaries of the middle classes is undoubtedly true; there were many persons among the middle classes of 1789 who understood that without a popular rising they would never have the upper hand over the absolute power of the King. It is clear, also, that the discussions in the Assembly of the Notables, wherein the abolition of the feudal rights was already spoken about, encouraged the rising, and that the drawing up in the parishes of the cabiers, which were to serve as guides for the assemblies of electors, tended in the same direction. Revolutions are never the result of despair, as is often believed by young revolutionists, who think that good can come out of an excess of evil. On the contrary, the people in 1789 had caught a glimpse of the light of approaching freedom, and for that reason they rose with good heart. But to hope was not enough, to act was also necessary ; the first rebels who prepare a revolution must be ready to give their lives, and this the people did.

Whilst rioting was being punished by pillory, torture and hanging, the peasants were already in revolt. From November, 1788, the Governors of the provinces were writing to the ministers that if they wished to put down all the riotings it was no longer possible to do so. Taken separately, none was of great Importance ; together, they were undermining the very foundations of State.

In January 1789, writs of complaints and grievances (the cabiers de doléances) were drawn up, the electors were elected, and from that time the peasants began to refuse to furnish statute labour to the lords and the State. Secret associations. were formed among them, and here and there a lord was executed by the "Jacques Bonhommes." In some places the tax-collectors were received with cudgels; in others, the lands belonging to the nobles were seized and tilled.

From month to month these risings multiplied. By March the whole of the east of France was in revolt. The movement, to be sure, was neither continuous nor general. An agrarian rising is never that. It is even very probable, as is always the case in the peasant insurrections, that there was a slackening in the outbreaks at the time of field work in April, and afterwards at the beginning of the harvest time. But as soon as the first harvests were gathered in, during the second half of July 1789, and in August, the risings broke out with fresh force, especially in the east, north-east and south-east of France.

Documents bearing with exactitude on this rising are want- Those that have been published are very incomplete, and the greater part bear traces of a partisan spirit. If we take the Moniteur, which, we know, only began to appear on November 24, 1789, and of which the ninety-three numbers, from May 8 to November 23, 1789, were compiled later on in the Year IV.,<sup>1</sup> we find in them a tendency to show that the whole movement was the work of the enemies of the Revolution - of heartless persons who took advantage of rustic ignorance. Others go so far as to say that it was the nobles, the lords., or., indeed,

even that it was the English, who had incited the peasants to rise. As for the documents published by the Committee for Investigations in January 1790, they tend rather to represent the whole affair as the result of an unfortunate chance - the work of "brigands," who had devastated country parts, and against whom the middle classes had taken up arms, and whom they had exterminated.

We know to-day how false this representation is, and it is certain that if a historian took the trouble to study carefully the documents in the archives, a work of the highest value would result from it, a work the more necessary as the risings of the peasants continued until the Convention abolished feudal rights, in August 1793, and until the village communes were granted the right of resuming the communal land which had been taken from them during the two preceding centuries. For the time being, this work among the archives not being done, we must confine ourselves to what can be gleaned from some local histories from certain memoirs, and from a few authors, always explaining the rising of 1789 by the light which the better-known movements of the following year sheds on this first outbreak.

That the dearth of food counted for much in these risings is certain. But their chief motive was the desire to get possession of the land and the desire to get rid of the feudal dues and the tithes.

=====

Li'l Joe

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** gchorne@email.unc.edu  
**Sent:** Saturday, July 05, 2003 10:36 AM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] NYTimes.com Article: Criticism of a Hero Divides Blacks

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Criticism of a Hero Divides Blacks

July 5, 2003  
By RACHEL L. SWARNS

WASHINGTON, July 4 - When the TransAfrica Forum decided to speak out last month against Zimbabwe's president, Robert Mugabe, for condoning the jailing, beating and killing of black opposition party supporters, it shouldn't have been all that surprising.

After all, for decades, TransAfrica, a research and lobbying group based here, has been speaking out on the struggles of Africans on the continent and elsewhere.

In the 1980's, for instance, it led the anti-apartheid marches that helped press the American government to change its policy of "constructive engagement" with the white government of South Africa. In the 90's the group protested against the repressive black regimes in Haiti and Nigeria.

In this latest action TransAfrica's president and other prominent black Americans from Africa Action, an advocacy group here; Howard University; and church and labor unions wrote a public letter to Mr. Mugabe, assailing what they described as the "increasing intolerant, repressive and violent policies of your government."

But the decision to condemn Mr. Mugabe publicly - which was hailed as long overdue in some quarters - has also touched off an outcry among some black intellectuals, activists and Africa watchers. Mr. Mugabe, who has led Zimbabwe since white rule ended in 1980, is still considered a hero by some African-Americans. And in some e-mail messages and on radio talk shows, the signers of the letter have been described as politically naïve, sellouts and misguided betrayers of Africa's liberation struggle.

Angry critics have sent e-mail messages to those who signed the letter, saying in one instance that they "do not represent African-Americans." On a left-leaning radio station in New York City, WBAI-FM, several people have called to complain. "Whatever black Africans in Zimbabwe decide to do," said a caller who identified herself as Missy from Queens, "I think black Africans here, we should join them."

The furor has highlighted a long-simmering debate about how to respond to authoritarian leaders in Africa when those leaders happen to be black.

Bill Fletcher Jr., the president of TransAfrica, says black Americans cannot afford to romanticize African leaders if they hope to remain relevant to the struggles on the continent. They must be willing to condemn wrongdoing, he said, even if that means criticizing some revered leaders.

"When the enemy was evil white people in South Africa, that was easy," Mr. Fletcher said in an interview at his office here. "But when the enemy becomes someone who looks like us, we're very skittish about taking that on."

"It's very difficult to accept that a ruling class has emerged in Zimbabwe that is oppressing its own people, but you've got to face the reality," he said. "I felt like we had to speak out."

Mr. Fletcher said African-Americans had often been on the right side of history, supporting African leaders who fought against white rule and then worked for their people, including Nelson Mandela of South Africa, Julius K. Nyerere of Tanzania; and Samora Machel of Mozambique, among others. Mr. Mugabe, who expanded access to education and health care, was also praised for more than a decade by Western governments as well as by blacks for building one of Africa's most prosperous nations.

But when white governments began to fall away, thorny questions began emerging. In the 70's some blacks quietly questioned whether they should continue supporting Uganda's violent despot, Idi Amin, but decided against criticizing him publicly. In the 80's some Africa watchers made a similar decision about Angola's government, which was dogged by complaints of corruption.

In 1996 Carol Moseley Braun, an Illinois Democrat who was a senator then, stirred a furor when she flew to Africa to visit Gen. Sani Abacha, Nigeria's corrupt dictator. By then TransAfrica and other prominent black individuals and organizations had already launched a public campaign to criticize and isolate Nigeria's government, which was detaining and killing its critics.

In the criticism of Zimbabwe, Mr. Fletcher was joined by Salih Booker, director of Africa Action; William Lucy, president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Horace G. Dawson Jr., director of the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center at Howard University; the Rev. Justice Y. Reeves of the Progressive National Baptist Convention; the coordinating committee of the Black Radical Congress and others.

"We view the political repression under way in Zimbabwe as intolerable and in complete contradiction of the values and principles that were both the foundation of your liberation

struggle and of our solidarity with that struggle," the group said in its letter to Mr. Mugabe.

Critics complain, however, that Mr. Fletcher and his colleagues are playing down the importance of the ongoing struggle for land in Zimbabwe. They say Mr. Mugabe has been demonized in the West because he decided to seize white-owned farms on land stolen from blacks during British colonial rule. Zimbabwe's tiny white minority - less than 1 percent of the population - owned more than half of the fertile land until the government began seizing most of it in 2000.

"I'm not on his side with respect to his repression of the opposition," Ronald Walters, a professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland, said of Mr. Mugabe. "But I am on the side of the people who claim there's a justice issue in terms of the land. You can't escape the racial dynamic, and you can't escape the political history."

Some critics say the violence in Zimbabwe has mostly occurred between supporters and opponents of land redistribution. They also fear that the Bush administration, which has already signaled that it might intervene in war-torn Liberia, might use the letter from TransAfrica and Africa Action to suggest that prominent black Americans favor an American intervention in Zimbabwe.

Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Booker say they would vigorously oppose an American-led military intervention in Zimbabwe. TransAfrica also opposes the idea of sending American troops to Liberia, saying an African peacekeeping force financed by the American government would be preferable.

"I'm sympathetic to it," Mr. Walters said of the stance taken by TransAfrica and Africa Action. "But this letter makes them sound like the guys who simply want to beat up on Mugabe just because he took land from some white people."

Mark Fancher, who heads the international affairs unit of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, raised similar concerns. He said Mr. Mugabe's critics neglect to note that he still has support among some Zimbabweans, even though he has been widely accused of rigging last year's presidential election.

"The one thing nobody disputes is that, whether he won or not, Mugabe got a lot of votes," Mr. Fancher said. "This is an African problem, a Zimbabwean problem. For people who are really disconnected from the day-to-day lives of people in Zimbabwe to reach these kinds of conclusions, we don't feel that's appropriate."

But Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Booker of Africa Action say Mr. Mugabe's supporters are not paying attention to what is happening on the ground. Much of the seized farmland that was intended for the poor has actually ended up in the hands of Mr. Mugabe's friends and political allies.

Mr. Mugabe emphasizes the importance of redistributing land now, but during much of the 90's it was not a priority for his government, some of his supporters acknowledge. He focused on the issue, which resonates with many black voters only when it became clear that a powerful black

opposition party was threatening his grip on power.

And despite rhetoric to the contrary, the majority of victims of political violence in Zimbabwe are not white farmers, the police and human rights groups say. They are mostly ordinary black people who dared to support or vote for the opposition.

Moses Mzila-Ndlovu, a senior member of Zimbabwe's opposition party, hailed the statement from TransAfrica and the others as an important step. But he wondered why it took so long for the groups to speak out.

Mr. Booker said he, Mr. Fletcher and others had first tried to work behind the scenes, meeting with Zimbabwean diplomats and urging them to respect human rights and to initiate formal talks with the opposition to improve the deteriorating political situation.

When that failed, he said, they wrote their letter.

"Mugabe was my hero," said Mr. Booker, who worked at TransAfrica in the 80's and helped arrange Mr. Mugabe's first visit to the White House. "He was a liberator, the defiant hero. Zimbabwe was a country where we had a lot invested emotionally and politically."

"But we had to ask ourselves: 'Who are we in solidarity with in southern Africa? The aging heroes or the new African civil society?' he said. "It's not just about Zimbabwe. We have to be clear who our allies are. We should not be standing shoulder to shoulder with African governments who are abusing their own people. The time had arrived for us to take a public stance."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/07/05/arts/05TRAN.html?ex=1058415734&ei=1&en=e783eeace4b11277>

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** Bill Fletcher [bfletcher@TransAfricaForum.org]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 07, 2003 3:49 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** RE: [BRC-DISC] NYTimes.com Article: Criticism of a Hero Divides Blacks

\*\*\*\*\*  
This Message Is From: "Bill Fletcher" <bfletcher@TransAfricaForum.org>  
\*\*\*\*\*

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Bill Fletcher, Jr.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** John Woodford [mailto:johnwood@umich.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 07, 2003 1:28 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] NYTimes.com Article: Criticism of a Hero Divides Blacks

This is a textbook example of NYT-style distortion far beyond what Jayson Blair committed. Note that those who oppose what TransAfrica did (and what the US gov't does) are presented as "supporters of Mugabe." This Big Lie structures the entire article. One has to dig more than halfway down (as few readers will) to get even a faint inkling--from the selected quotes from Walters--that this structuring of the story may be untrue. Few will read between the lines with this big a gap between them.

And the fact that Booker could have ever deemed Mugabe a hero says much about his politics and insight--(i.e. lack thereof, to put the best interpretation on his statement). Mugabe was at one time the US's man, just as Saddam, Noriega and so on and on were. Those who have opposed TransAfrica/BRC alignment with US imperialism on this matter have done so because they know full well what these kinds of machinations, threats, distortions, lies and coercion lead to. They know whose interest it serves. And they know how much the US ruling clique truly cares for the peasants, workers and common folk of Africa.

gchorne@email.unc.edu wrote:

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

**From:** Gale Daggs [gdaggs5@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 07, 2003 6:42 PM  
**To:** Bill Fletcher; brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca; Assata Zerai; John Woodford; j w; abraxton@CritPath.Org  
**Cc:** saleswil@shu.edu  
**Subject:** Fw: [BRC-DISC] NYTimes.com Article: Criticism of a Hero Divides Blacks

I am happy that the BRC cyber-committee has allowed the men to re-open the discussion on Zimbabwe even though, I as a woman was kicked-off the listserve with the language that the "Zimbabwe discussion is over." Apparently, the New York Times does not think so, and is using this "letter" to help support American Imperialist designs on Africa.

Everyday, the rhetoric is heating up from Liberia to Zimbabwe from the Sudan to Somalia, on the eve of Bush's visit to Africa intertwined with the discussion of sending American troops into Liberia, there is no more important discussion we can have at this juncture. Once the U S intervenes in a country it never leaves, examples being, Saudi Arabia, the Balkans, Afganistan and now Iraq, we have no reason to believe it will be any different in Liberia. The illusion that the Americans are coming with dollars to industrialize the country is not born-out by reality, Russia being another classic example. The Black "conscious" community is very focused on this issue and the external community is equally as divided. Internationally, the French on one side and the UK/US on the other, are competing for influence in Africa. We as members of the Left recognize the importance of having a counterbalancing weight globally to anglo influence. Because of the importance of this issue, I am requesting that the BRC Coordinating committee and the cyber-committee allow for an open submission of information and opinions on the subject. Gale

----- Original Message -----

From: John Woodford  
To: brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
Sent: Monday, July 07, 2003 10:27 AM  
Subject: Re: [BRC-DISC] NYTimes.com Article: Criticism of a Hero Divides Blacks

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Those who have opposed TransAfrica/BRC alignment with US imperialism on this matter have done so because they know full well what these kinds of machinations, threats, distortions, lies and coercion lead to. They know whose interest it serves. And they know how much the US ruling clique truly cares for the peasants, workers and common folk of Africa.

gchorne@email.unc.edu wrote:

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Alkalimat, Abdul

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**From:** John Woodford [johnwood@umich.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 07, 2003 4:50 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] NYTimes.com Article: Criticism of a Hero Divides Blacks

Closeted or no, Bill, I am still not aligned with the New York Times spin on this dispute (and did they spin it the way I allege or didn't they?). Nor do I think that the US Fat Cats champion democracy or economic justice and progress for Africans in Zimbabwe or for anyone anywhere other than their fellow pigs at the trough.

And I do recall the olden days of the American Committee on Africa, so I know all leaders on board organizations that have some good objectives don't necessarily serve the stated objectives of such organizations.

The imperialists suckered a lot of progressives re Yugoslavia, and that hardly exhausted their plotting.

Bill Fletcher wrote:

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> *****
> This Message Is From: "Bill Fletcher" <bletcher@TransAfricaForum.org>
> *****
>
> I find it remarkable that John Woodford again puts his foot into his
> mouth. To allege a "TransAfrica/BRC alignment with US imperialism..."
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>
>
> Bill Fletcher, Jr.
>
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> From: John Woodford [mailto:johnwood@umich.edu]
> Sent: Monday, July 07, 2003 1:28 PM
> To: brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca
> Subject: Re: [BRC-DISC] NYTimes.com Article: Criticism of a Hero Divides
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>
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**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** nellie hester [nelliehester@yahoo.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 08, 2003 6:11 PM

**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca

**Subject:** RE: [BRC-DISC] NYTimes.com Article: Criticism of a Hero Divides Blacks

At the risk of being put off the new undemocratic sexist cyberspace listserve (I refer to Gale Dagg's two weeks suspension for discussing Zimbabwe) until I find it remarkable that Bill Fletcher is so willing to portray all those who disagree with his analysis on Zimbabwe contained in the now infamous New York Times promoted "open letter to Mugabe" as simple minded Black nationalists embracing all African leaders right or wrong. The intellectual and class snobbery is unmistakable, as is Fletcher's obvious disdain for grassroots activists, we simply don't cut the mustard for Bill and his circle of good old boys network of dubious characters such as Salah Booker of African Action and formerly of the Council on Foreign Relations (this according to Booker's masthead on the organization's website). The irony of Fletcher and company castigating Mugabe for undemocratic practices flies in the face of the manner in which the letter was secretly conceived, the timing of its public release and the refusal of Fletcher et al to engage in any meaningful dialogue with other African Americans in opposition. Notable exceptions for Fletcher are the BBC, the NYT, other white controlled media outlets, etc.

But Fletcher's greatest betrayal was to the BRC membership, they didn't rank the respect or common decency of prior knowledge even though Fletcher signed on in the name of the BRC Coordinating Committee less than a month before the national meeting of the BRC Congress in New Jersey. The letter from the BRC National Coordinating Committee absolving Fletcher of any unilateral action was to stop the hemorrhaging of more defections from an increasingly disconnected BRC membership. Obviously, this begs the question, why the rush!. Under whose's deadline was the letter intended to meet? Africa is now on center stage at the moment for a rightwing US government many believe is now reevaluating Africa's strategic interest for the US, particularly its oil and other rich resources. Committing troops to Liberia is opening the door for military action against Zimbabwe. You don't need a crystal ball to see that is coming! There is no doubt the situation in Zimbabwe is complex, perhaps far more than some are willing to admit. The unresolved land question, the continued denial of the rights of Africans to own their land; the European and western economic stranglehold over many African countries including that of Zimbabwe all obscenely juxtaposed against the so-called rights of the white minority cannot be easily dismissed with a simple analysis of a revolutionary hero gone bad.  
Nellie Bailey, Harlem Tenants Council

*Bill Fletcher <bfletcher@TransAfricaForum.org> wrote:*

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*****
This Message Is From: "Bill Fletcher"
*****
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7/9/2003

Bill Fletcher, Jr.

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**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** Amirib@aol.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2003 1:43 PM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Additional Points to Discussion

Incredible!!!!How can you claim to be focusing on resisting and destroying imperialism and not seem to understand that THAT IS WHAT MUGABE IS FACING, IMPERIALISM... in fact a more backward stage of it, COLONIALISM, i.e., The British w/ US &c imps backing them, TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE LAND!!!

How can you say re: whether Bush &c push "Regime Change" in Zimbabwe, "it's all right with me???" Then, to whatever extent, our oppression is DITTO!

Fletcher should not be sending out his OWN ideological /political "loyal opposition" babble over BRC signature/endorsement. . How can you fight for democracy when you dont even believe in it??

Amiri B

**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**From:** Gale Daggs [gdaggs5@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 10, 2003 3:57 AM  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** [BRC-DISC] Response to Amiri: Additional Points to Discussion

Your first statement certainly exposes the level of thinking among those "running things." Self-serving, cruel egotistic masochism. It's like getting a chance to shock someone anonymously fearing no repercussions. However, there is a price to be paid in the long-run by the organization for the disregard and undemocratic manner of behavior. Socialism is not something that is going to appear out of the sky at a designated time.....like the coming of Christ. We have to rehearse it, practice it in our everyday lives with our children, spouses, friends and comrades and respect the rights of others that we cherish for ourselves. Elitism is capitalism on a person to person scale. Gale

----- Original Message -----

**From:** Amirib@aol.com  
**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 09, 2003 10:42 AM  
**Subject:** Re: [BRC-DISC] Additional Points to Discussion

Incredible!!!!How can you claim to be focusing on resisting and destroying imperialism and not seem to understand that THAT IS WHAT MUGABE IS FACING.  
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Amiri B

7/10/2003

**Alkalimat, Abdul**

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**To:** brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
**Subject:** A New Beginning Requires Democracy and Summation of Practice

There are two fundamental issues on the table.

1. how to use the list
2. what is the main content we have to be dealing with

The list is a discussion list for the radical BLM, and as such should be a bottom up process and not one dictated by a national committee. This is an error. On the other hand it should be monitored and the discussion guided. The model for this is the use of the list as we went into the 1998 congress. The people must set the agenda for the list.

The content should begin with the experience of the people. We need summations of what is happening on the ground. The main article by Lenin that might be useful for people to read at this time is "Where to begin?"  
<http://www.kurtuluscephesi.com/lenin/neredenen.html>

A newspaper is what we most of all need; without it we cannot conduct that systematic, all-round propaganda and agitation, consistent in principle, which is the chief and permanent task of Social-Democracy in general and, in particular, the pressing task of the moment, when interest in politics and in questions of socialism has been aroused among the broadest strata of the population. Never has the need been felt so acutely as today for reinforcing dispersed agitation in the form of individual action, local leaflets, pamphlets, etc., by means of generalised and systematic agitation that can only be conducted with the aid of the periodical press. It may be said without exaggeration that the frequency and regularity with which a newspaper is printed (and distributed) can serve as a precise criterion of how well this cardinal and most essential sector of our militant activities is built up.

Today Lenin would be discussing the Internet as well as print media, but mainly the use of email. We need reports on what is happening on the ground and not a rehearsal of dogma or ideological exercises. The mainstream media and the politicians are promoting lies so we do not know what is happening. I am not talking about recycling articles from the NYT or whatever, but first hand accounts of what is going on. Let labor speak up. What about cut backs. How about Sharpton and Braun. Benton Harbor! Mississippi murders! etc.

Also we need to give a voice to the revolutionary forces in the countries that Bush is visiting in Africa. Who can hear them at this time when they will be under severe attack?

The job of a BRC cyberorganizing committee should include planning workshops to increase the skill level of militants on the ground so we can wire the movement and have 21st century tools at the ready.

Even if the BRC can't get this right, this is the path of the SPIDER. The Toledo Spiders are in motion and as with the sites we have done we continue forward and welcome all who would join us.

[www.brothermalcolm.net](http://www.brothermalcolm.net)

[www.murchisoncenter.org](http://www.murchisoncenter.org)

<http://www.murchisoncenter.org/joshua/reparations/index.html>

abdul alkalimat

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael Simmons [mailto:MSimmons@afsc.org]

Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2003 10:07 AM

To: brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca

Subject: RE: [BRC-DISC] Additional Points to Discussion

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This Message Is From: Michael Simmons <MSimmons@afsc.org>  
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear JW,

I attended the founding convention of the BRC with high hopes that have since been dashed. Nevertheless, I have always viewed the list serve as a valuable contribution to dialogue among progressive Black folks and I have promulgated it among the Diaspora in the US, Europe and the Middle East. However, I am thoroughly confused on what you, and I assume others, are doing. Having the collected works of Lenin and having read "Imperialism" mucho times over the past 25 years I have no problem in reading it again. But how does this impact on the multiplicity of issues facing Black folks? Why should you be treating the list as a left seminar in international relations? You need not answer but, if this is a harbinger, you don't have to censor me. Just take me off the damn list.

In peace

michael

Michael Simmons  
European Quaker International Affairs Representative  
American Friends Service Committee  
c/o Vaci Rozsa  
Raday U. 17  
1092 Budapest, Hu.  
36 1 215 0268 land  
70 526 1442 mobile  
msimmons@afsc.org  
www.afsc.org

-----Original Message-----

From: j w [mailto:dashrinc@yahoo.com]  
Sent: Wednesday, July 09, 2003 1:37 AM  
To: brc-discuss@lists.tao.ca  
Subject: [BRC-DISC] Additional Points to Discussion

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This Message Is From: j w <dashrinc@yahoo.com>  
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Greetings,

I would like to add a couple of points to the discussion on Imperialism.

point #5 What is Imperialism?

point #6 Is it different from "globalization?" Or are we talking semantics here?

point #7 Why should Blackfolk be interested in this discussion of imperialism?

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The first topic of discussion for the revitalized BRC-Discuss list is "U.S. Imerialism."