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Political Vampires Re-Incarnate

The **SPiRiT** of **RACISM** RETURNS
to **ATTACK** St. Louis Circuit
Attorney, **KIM GARDNER**
– and **RETURNS** for **STATE**
CONTROL of the
St. Louis Police Department!

Missouri Governor
Mike Parsons

Missouri State Attorney
Andrew Bailey

Political Vampires Re-incarnate

by Amari Sneferu | UAPO Minister of Pan-African Affairs

American politics and American justice has reached an all-time low, second only to the pre-civil war politics of 1860 and the Dred Scott decision of 1857. Yet, America is not the lone creature when it comes to the nature and spirit of white supremacy. It is truly a global monster that preys upon the meek and vulnerable populations of the world.

Like Vampires that never die, racism peaks and retreats, trying to adapt to whatever strides and gains we accomplish in our quest for justice and equality. Perhaps it's the quest for equality itself that signals our weakness or perhaps it's our pathetic need for racial acceptance that amplifies our vulnerability for being victimized by the fangs of White Supremacy.

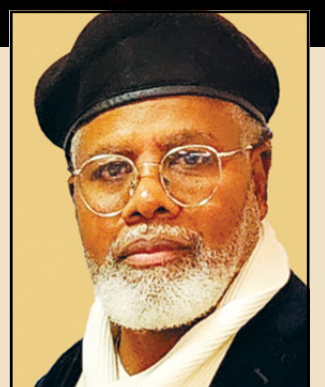
Whatever the case, we need Black unity

now and we need it more than ever before. For Black unity is the only potion that inoculates us from the toxic bite of American racism. You need to look no further than what St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner has had to put-up with on a daily basis. Nobody should have to endure such unjustified attacks against her character, or death threats against her life, or unconstitutional threats against the elected seat she was twice chosen to occupy. All of these evil shenanigans are politically motivated. These unethical assaults wouldn't meet the minimal standards of any decent and moral society.

Yet, we cannot say, that we are not all too familiar with the historic profile of this creature. Liken to an old vampire, White Supremacy is **America's reoccurring spirit** that seems to embody a new generation for every century of its existence. From its inception, America (a criminal enterprise) has always been **an enemy to real justice**. Founded on genocide, illegal land seizures and Black human trafficking; America embraced the crimes of chattel slavery and manifest destiny, like

a badge of honor. Lest we forget that racism and criminality is fundamental to America's sovereignty. The Republican led state of Missouri, likewise, prides itself on being a **Red State** (an anti-Black political zone); eerily similar **in spirit**, to a southern **Slave State**.

It's only fitting that the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department was created on the eve of the civil war. Then-Governor, Claiborne Fox Jackson, a supporter of the Confederacy, established state control of the St. Louis police department, just prior to the start of the Civil War. Governor Jackson appointed four secessionists to run the St. Louis Police board, including Basil Duke, who was the commander of a white supremacist militia. Jackson and Duke conspired with Confederate President Jefferson Davis to take control of the St. Louis Arsenal; which held the largest



Amari Sneferu

[Continued on page 5]

St. Louis Community Expresses Its Support For St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner



Walle Amusa – Campaign for Human Dignity addresses press in front of Missouri Attorney General Andre Bailey – St. Louis Office [April 27, 2023]



Community Justice Coalition Members In Support of St. Louis Circuit Attorney, Kim Gardner [April 18, 2023]



A Sampling of UAPO Members In Attendance to 1st Court Hearing Impacting St. Louis Circuit Attorney, Kim Gardner [April 18, 2023]

A Special Thank You to UAPO Members who attended Kim Gardner’s hearing [April 18, 2023]: Safiyah Chauvin, Rostand Darbouze, Queen Ziah, Amari Sneferu, Ren E Anhk, Coffee Wright, Johnny Lott Sr. ,Larry Freeman, Shauntell Mason, Michell Scott, Queen Daughtery, Rev Richard Jackson, Bill Monroe, Cynthia Ross, Carol Jackson, Antwon and Aneetra Jones and Terry Bell.

Also, a powerful Shout Out To The Community Justice Coalition (CJC) for Its Steadfast Support Of Our St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner. Stay United, Stay Strong, We Will Be Victorious!!!

Zaki Baruti
President/General
Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO)

[More photos on page 11]

CONSTITUTIONAL, LOCAL CONTROL AND VOTING RIGHTS CRISES IN MISSOURI

THE PROBLEM: The GOP-controlled Missouri State Legislature has initiated massive assaults on the constitutional, voting, and human rights of citizens in the State of Missouri in general and in the City of St. Louis in particular. To wit:

1. The Missouri State Legislature is trying to pass a bill to impose a Governor-appointed Special Prosecutor Team over the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s Office. **HB 301** will destroy the ability of present and future St. Louis City Circuit Attorneys to exercise the full authority and discretions enjoyed by previous prosecutors in the City of St. Louis.
2. The Missouri State Legislature is trying to destroy local control of the St. Police Department and give the Governor the authority to appoint police commissioners to run the City of St. Louis Police Department. This will make St. Louis and Kansas City the only two cities in the nation that have state control of their police departments. **(HB 702)**
3. The Missouri State Legislature is trying to make it harder for citizens to use the initiative petition process to pass laws statewide. This Bill **HB 703** is a direct assault on the citizens’ constitutional and human rights to vote and effectively use the initiative petition process to pass laws.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Join the struggle to defend Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner, retain local control and protect the rights of St. Louis voters to elect their own leaders.

HANDS OFF
St. Louis Circuit Attorney
KIM GARDNER

HANDS OFF
ST. LOUIS

PROTECT
St. Louis
VOTERS' RIGHTS

COMMUNITY JUSTICE COALITION

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Judge Bryan Hettenbach

HERE IS THE CULPRIT

Judge Hettenbach knew Daniel Riley violated his bond more than 50 times, yet he refused to revoke Riley’s bond.

The Missouri Attorney General Bailey stated in his Quo Warranto lawsuit that Riley violated his bond 92 times. Rather than blame Judge Hettenbach who has the sole authority to revoke Riley’s bond, AG Bailey has chosen to blame and vilify C. A. Kim Gardner.

Judge Hettenbach can clear this mess up by stating truthfully that he was responsible for Riley being out on the streets. He simply doesn’t care.

A man who would quietly watch other people suffer for his poor judgement does not deserve to be on the bench in Missouri.

We believe this judge is cowardly and dishonest. He’s got to go!

CIRCUIT ATTORNEY KIM GARDNER DID NOTHING WRONG!

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: There are 114 elected Prosecutors in the State of Missouri. Kimberly Gardner is the only Black female Circuit Attorney elected in the State of Missouri. She was elected by the voters of the City of St. Louis in 2016 and re-elected in 2020.

Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner believes no one is above the law. She has been under attacks since she prosecuted former Missouri Governor Eric Greitens on sexual misconduct and invasion of privacy charges.

The rich and powerful in Missouri, in cahoots with the St. Louis Police Officers’ Association, have been relentless in their efforts to remove Kim Gardner from office. The mainstream media has been complicit. Their efforts to defeat her at the polls failed. She was re-elected in 2020 by nearly 70% of voters who voted. Their efforts to destroy her law license and automatically force her out of office failed.

Now, her detractors see an opportunity to use the unfortunate accident involving young Ms. Janae Edmonson to broaden their assault on Gardner. In the process, important facts have been ignored.

HERE ARE THE FACTS!

- Prosecutors like Gardner cannot impose or revoke the bond of an accused individual. Only judges can.
- Judge Bryan Hettenbach knew that Daniel Riley, the accused driver in the Janae Edmonson tragedy, had violated his bond more than 50 times.
- Judge Hettenbach should have revoked Daniel Riley’s bond. He refused to do so.
- Kim Gardner’s office requested that Daniel Riley’s bond to be revoked.
- The requests for bond revocation were denied by Judge Hettenbach in 2021 and 2022.
- The last request for bond revocation was made in January 2023. Judge Hettenbach never responded.
- Daniel Riley’s attorney, Terry Niehoff, truthfully corroborated Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner’s efforts.

Attorney Terry Niehoff represented Daniel Riley on a robbery case. Mr. Niehoff’s statement in the St. Louis Criminal Justice Blog was quoted extensively in the St. Louis Post Dispatch on February 23, 2023. According to Mr. Niehoff, Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner’s office did nothing wrong. Here is Mr. Niehoff’s statement:

“Gardner’s office did in fact bring to the Court’s attention Riley’s numerous bond violations.

“The prevailing sentiment that’s being reported is that this accident could have been avoided if only the Circuit Attorney’s Office had done their job properly and filed a motion to revoke Riley’s bond. But that’s simply not true.

“In this particular case, when people are saying Gardner’s office should have filed motions to have the bond revoked - her office did bring that up to the judge. I know because I was the lawyer on the case; I know it was reviewed by the judge. I know the judge, after reviewing all of it, decided that the violations, although numerous, were not serious enough to take him off bond. They could have filed motions every day. It wouldn’t have made any difference.

“I find it ironic that none of the genuine issues with her management has brought about her downfall, but what very well might, is a situation where her office really DID NOTHING WRONG.” – Attorney Terry Niehoff

THE HYSTERICAL RUSH TO JUDGEMENT

- Missouri’s unelected Attorney General Andrew Bailey** whose office opposed the release of falsely imprisoned Lamar Johnson last week, filed a Quo Warranto lawsuit to remove Kim Gardner even though Gardner did her job as required by law.
- Missouri Governor Mike Parsons** who refused to support Democrats in their struggle to take guns out of the hands of juveniles expressed his readiness to work with St. Louis City Mayor to remove Kim Gardner from office. Governor Parsons wants to use a Black mayor and others to nullify the gains made by Black people and their allies.
- Jason Hall, CEO of Greater St. Louis, Inc.** joined the fray with reckless statements about “unforgivable failures” of Kim Gardner in regard to the Janae Edmonson tragedy.
- Bill McLellan, St. Louis Post Dispatch sage,** and journalist Tony Messenger resorted to scurrilous journalism smearing Kim Gardner in order to feed the hysterical atmosphere of guilt where there is none.
- Alderman Michael Gras,** a lawyer who should know better, has joined others in a hysterical rush to judgement. He has called for Kim Gardner’s resignation based on totally false presumptions of guilt.

HERE IS WHAT’S AT STAKE

St. Louis is facing a major voting rights issue. The right to vote includes the right to be voted for. It also includes the right to fully exercise the authority and discretions associated with the office a person is elected to. We must protect the exercise of full authority and discretions associated with the St. Louis Circuit Attorney’s office for Ms. Gardner and for all future city prosecutors.

COMMUNITY JUSTICE COALITION DEMANDS

- Immediate resignation of Judge Bryan Hettenbach.** Repeatedly, he failed to revoke Riley’s bond after more than 50 violations. His silence while Kim Gardner faces extreme vitriol and condemnation is gross, irresponsible and unacceptable.
- Immediate withdrawal** of Attorney General Bailey’s baseless Quo Warranto lawsuit he filed to remove Gardner from Office.
- Governor Parsons should desist and cease** all efforts to remove Gardner from office. She did nothing wrong.
- Public apologies** from GSL Inc. CEO Jason Hall and Alderman Michael Gras for their reckless rush to judgement.

AN APPEAL

All over the country, African American female prosecutors are under attack. Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner has not lost the trust of the people. She is a victim of the most vicious and unprecedented attacks on an elected official in the history of St. Louis.

African American and progressive leaders, many of whom we have supported, must avoid lending a hand in tightening the noose around the neck of Missouri’s strongest advocate for criminal justice reform. We urge you to extend grace to one another, especially to Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner. Please, get the facts first, and avoid being stampeded by the mainstream media and those who care nothing about the lives and rights of Black people in Missouri.

The Community Justice Coalition stands with Kim Gardner and her criminal justice reform agenda. No Justice, No Peace!

Sponsored by Community Justice Coalition. Members and supporters include: Rev. Dr. Spencer Lamar Booker, Social Action Commission of The African Methodist Episcopal Church; Reverend Darryl Gray, Expect Us; Jay Ozier, President, Coalition of Black Trade Unionist (CBTU) St. Louis Chapter; Lew Moya, President Emeritus, Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, St. Louis Chapter; Jamala Rogers, Organization for Black Struggle; Attorney Jerryl Christmas; Carol Jackson, Pashon Consulting Group; Zenobia Thompson, Campaign for Human Dignity, Walle Amusa, Campaign for Human Dignity; Doris Baltimore, Martha West, Block Unit No. 302; Willie Boyd, End Mass Incarceration; Amir Brandy, RealStiNews/Peacekeepers; Zaki Baruti, The Universal African Peoples Organization. Malik Ahmed, Founder Emeritus, BFL; Dr. Ron Gregory; Sherri A. Robins; Dr. James Tucker, African American Voice; Robert Green, Saint LAAA Fab; Regina Dennis-Nana; Percy Green, ACTION-2022; Ray Cummings, President, American Federation of Teachers Local 420; Willis Brown, CBTU; John May, CBTU; Johnnie Hatcher, Steppers in the Lou; Theodore Moya, Retiree UAW Local 2250. Jimmie Logan; Rita Williams; Kenneth Calvert; Duan L. Alexander; Byron Lovett; Edward Davis; Butch Rias; Edward Davis; Charles Eden; Thomastine Smith; Michael Bostbey; Stanley Parker; Theresa Brown; Tracy Brooks; Shannon Long; Rosalind Guy; Rose Mary Green; Martin Jarrett; Barara Bracken Martin; Robert A. Powell; Annie Anderson; Stacey Powell; Sharlene Hill; Kenya Ajanaku; Mantra Lotus; Percy Wells; Angela Pace; Bernie Hayes; Sheila Davis; Dwight Johnson Johnson; Jerri Skeeter; Rosalind Hughes; Gardens Devone; Ja’nka Moore; Cheryl Jones; Charlton Noble; Aja Johnson; Gregory Khalil Flenoid; Wayne Brooks; Sarah Diane Blackmon; Jeffrey McKissic; Sharon M. Adkins; Melinda Collins; Annette Bost; Carol Dismuke; Dwayne Robinson; Nathan Jackson; Dan Harper; Michael Pierce; Terry Boyd; Darraal Johnson; De’ondruss Verde; Coffee Wright; Kevin Flenoid; Wayne Brooks; William Collier; Sylvester Knox Holmes; Patricia Montgomery; Delores Lewis Bey; Robinson Ellison Dailey; Lavander Torrence; John Burnett; Marry Williams-Sanders; James Edward Green; Paul Black; Ja’Nia Moore; Adrian Cleveland; Keifyj Jackson; Renee Porter; Hank Thompson; Jerome J Hurd Sr.; Brenda Gray; Denise Crenshaw; Bj Gillespie Jones; Marlow C. Williams; Bettie King; Maurice Jones; Diane Lambus; Claude Muse; Glen Allen Fortenberry; Andrew Bennett; Cornelius Osby; Charles Williams; Sandra Smith; Chris Griffin; Carla Jones; Byron Lovett; Sharlene Hill; Sharon Dowdy; and Rose Renee Green. * Organizations listed for identification purposes only.

Once Again Real Black Leadership Under US Government Attack by Biden Administration

Three St. Louis residents indicted on charges of illegally pushing pro-Russian propaganda

| By Chad Davis

A federal grand jury has charged three St. Louis residents with illegally pushing pro-Russian propaganda and misinformation about Ukraine and sowing discord across Missouri, Georgia and Florida through the African People’s Socialist Party.

The indictment alleges that African People’s Socialist Party Chairman Omali Yeshitela and members Penny Joanne Hess and Jesse Nevel acted as illegal agents of the Russian government without notifying the U.S. attorney general. They each face up to 10 years in prison for that charge. They also face up to five years in prison for conspiring to have U.S. citizens act as illegal agents.

The indictment alleges Russian national Aleksandr Viktorovich Ionov founded the Anti-Globalization Movement of Russia, a Moscow-based organization run by the Russian government, to promote pro-Russian propaganda and create influence campaigns among political groups across the country, including the African People’s Socialist Party. It also alleges Ionov tried to promote the Russian invasion of Ukraine with

pro-Russian talking points. It says that Ionov would appear on video calls hosted by the party in which he likened support to Ukraine to supporting Nazis and that Yeshitela made statements supporting Russia.

“Russia’s foreign intelligence service allegedly weaponized our First Amendment rights — freedoms Russia denies its own citizens — to divide Americans and interfere in elections in the United States,” Justice Department’s National Security Division Assistant Attorney General Matthew G. Olsen said in a statement.

Yeshitela said in a statement that on the advice of his attorney, he could not comment on the indictment. “However, I am looking forward to my day in court,” he said.

The indictment comes several months after the FBI raided the party’s Uhuru Center in south St. Louis. Agents raided the party’s St. Petersburg office as well. Yeshitela said at the time that his organization had never taken money from the Russian government.

The Uhuru Center drew attention last year after it had raised money for projects across the city, including nearly \$130,000 from GoFundMe for the basketball court in the Fairground neighborhood. Yeshitela also founded the Uhuru Solidarity Movement, an anti-colonialist organization, and led a march for reparations



Omali Yeshitela at his press conference hours after his home was raided by the FBI on July 29, 2022. A federal grand jury alleges Yeshitela and members Penny Joanne Hess and Jesse Nevel acted as illegal agents of the Russian government without notifying the U.S. attorney general.

in cities across the country in 2021.

In an interview with St. Louis on the Air last year, Yeshitela addressed the raid and acknowledged visiting Russia in the past but denied taking money from the Russian government.

“Yes, I have been to Russia, but I’ve also been to South Africa, I’ve been to Ghana, I’ve been to various other places in Africa, I’ve been to Nicaragua,” Yeshitela said then. “I’ve been to all kinds of places where oppressed people are organizing because Black people need not to be isolated.”

The indictment accuses Ionov and two other Russian nationals of conspiring to influence U.S. political campaigns and influence democratic elections. The three also face up to 10 years for acting as illegal agents of the Russian government.

Behind Prison Walls

[An Open Letter]

01/18/2023
Mr. Baruti,

My name is Mr. Dale Williamson. I am an African American male detainee here in “Cass County Jail” located in Harrisonville, Mo. I’ve been here since July, 2021 for an alleged crime of 1st degree murder that I am not guilty of.

My stay here has been very tedious, cruel, unfair and dehumanizing. Upon entry all you are given is a thin mattress, blanket, no sheets, and a roll of toilet tissue. Any and everything else, you must provide for yourself such as socks, t-shirts and boxers. We’re also not allowed radios, newspapers, TV’s, no recreation, no fresh air, not even a view of what the outside world looks like.

We used to be allowed to order books from Amazon, but now that’s not allowed anymore. We also are given one haircut a month and now that’s not allowed, and fingernail clippers are not allowed as

well. These items are all tied to personal hygiene.

Also, our 1st amendment right to practice our religion is being impacted. I’m a Muslim of Islamic faith and when I tried to have my prayer rug, my Kufi and my Quran and prayer schedule sent in by my Iman, I was denied. I was offered an extra bath towel that others have used to pray on. What a “mockery!!”

Plus, during our holy month of Ramadan where we fast for 30 days, it’s obligatory that we abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset. We are not even afforded a hot meal to break our fast with. We are told to go to the commissary if you want to eat. Everybody doesn’t have money to go to the commissary especially since we are being extorted by the outrageous prices of the items in the commissary.

We’re also being made to pay out of pocket for any medical treatment that is

needed such as pills, Doctor visits, etc. The food that is served the majority of the time is not all the way done or sometimes overcooked. We “never” receive a hot breakfast, always cold cereal.

Last, but not least, we are living in an infested environment, and nothing is being done about it. There is no spraying or nothing. There are a lot of spiders, ants, grasshoppers, gnats and other bugs.

We are really being treated like animals in Cass County with no relief in sight. So, please to the Powers that be, spread the word. Our families are taxpayers. We should not have to deal with dehumanizing, cruel and unusual treatment here in Cass County Jail. We are just detainees who are innocent until proven guilty...

Respectfully Submitted,
Dale Williamson

“Mississippi Goddamn” | Political Vampire Lawmakers Have Violated the Voting Rights of the Predominate Black Population of Jackson, Mississippi!!! | Written by Stacy M. Brown

[“Mississippi Goddamn” is a song written and performed by Nina Simone during the height of the Civil Rights Movement.]



Such a move would create a separate justice system for whites in an area where whites are statistically the majority.

And it would happen without a single vote from any of Jackson’s 80 percent Black residents for any of these officials.

Mississippi’s Black community is outraged that state lawmakers are moving closer to establishing a separate justice system in Jackson for whites and African Americans.

According to Mississippi Today, the proposed new law would let the state’s white chief justice of the Mississippi Supreme Court, its white attorney general, and its white state public safety commissioner appoint new judges, prosecutors, public defenders, and police officers to run a new district in the city that includes all the city’s majority-white neighborhoods.

Such a move would create a separate justice system for whites in an area where whites are statistically the majority.

And it would happen without a single vote from any of Jackson’s 80 percent Black residents for any of these officials.

“It makes me think of apartheid,” Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba said.

Three of the bill’s principal backers said on the floor of the Mississippi Legislature that “public safety” was the bill’s primary goal because of worries about the crime rate in Jackson.

But Newsweek reported that some legal experts said that what the Mississippi Legislature was trying to do was a way for white conservative politicians to try to hurt the Black vote in a way that hadn’t occurred since the Jim Crow era.

Many Republican lawmakers who voted for the bill live in districts being fought over by groups like the American Civil Liberties Union because they make it harder for Black people to vote.

Bill Quigley, a retired law professor at Loyola University-New Orleans and a former lawyer for the NAACP Legal Fund, told Newsweek, “I am shocked by this.”

“I know of no other such legislation in judicial elections or selections in decades. This is not a step backward. This is a complete Olympic-level broad jump backward to Jim Crow era politics.”

Quigley said that this kind of system was “the rule for decades” in the South until the Voting Rights Act passed in 1965 and formally prohibited arbitrary rules like poll taxes and literacy tests designed to prevent African Americans from voting.

Experts stated that the latest proposal from the Mississippi Legislature would likely be unconstitutional because it has a clear racial bias, which is against the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

In 2020, Lumumba said he wanted to make Jackson “the most radical city on the planet” by implementing policies like a universal basic income, a reformed police department, and other progressive policies.

Lumumba has been under constant scrutiny from Mississippi’s conservative establishment.

The Voting Rights Act would have helped Jackson in this case, but the U.S. Supreme Court removed many protections offered by that law.

State leaders had recently been very critical of Lumumba’s government and of the city’s liberal leanings, leading to claims that the latest move is politically motivated.

Experts said the only problem is that, unlike other states, Mississippi does not have a clause in its constitution that says laws can’t target one group, which would make this more difficult for the city to challenge the law in court.

“In the absence of any evidence that this was done with a racial purpose—people don’t tend to do things for racial reasons as much as they used to—and so the courts kind of often will conclude that their hands are tied,” Fred Smith Jr., a scholar of the federal judiciary at Emory University, told Newsweek.

“It’s concerning to see from a perspective of democracy. While in some ways, it’s not as bad as declaring secession, it also is in the sense people’s taxes are being invested in a system they cannot democratically control.”

Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent
@StacyBrownMedia

Political Vampires [cont.]

supply of weapons among all of the slave states.

After the Civil War, in the aftermath of a Confederate defeat, the Missouri legislature still managed to pass a bill to take control of the Kansas City Police Department in an effort to limit the rights and gains of Black people during Reconstruction. In recent years, those political vampires reincarnated; as Black leadership in Kansas City Missouri lost local control of their police department again, to a state appointed board of commissioners. Now St. Louis’s Black leadership is on the menu as well, a-la Missouri’s House of Representatives and Senate Bill 78, both approving the placing of the St. Louis Police Department back under state control.

However, not so fast! Because Kim Gardner is more than a thorn in the seat-pants of racist republicans, she’s an earth-shaker, a giant killer and stake driver in the hearts of crooked politicians. She upsets the applecart because she actually believes that **no one is**

above the law no matter who you are. Ask former Republican Governor Eric Greitens who had aspirations for the US presidency, how his unlawful dreams got shattered under the weight of her indictment. How could this little N-word exemplify so much courage in the face of White Supremacy?

Well that little N-word to you, is a champion prosecutor to us. She’s worth every dime of our tax dollars. It’s very simple when you think about it. Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner is committed to distributing equal justice, that’s all. Something America has never grown accustomed to. Not only did she successfully indict a powerful Governor, but she also liberated an innocent man that was falsely imprisoned. Lamar Johnson was wrongfully convicted back in 1995 but was freed February 14, 2023 via the hard work of Kim Gardner and her team of attorneys. Kim Gardner merely wants to reform that broken and corrupt system that falsely incarcerates people like Lamar Johnson.

To Lamar’s family and friends, not to mention to himself, **a Black life matters.** But

apparently a Black life does not matter to a racist criminal justice system and the political vampires that control it. **With no remorse or financial compensation,** they have sucked almost 30 years from this Black man’s life. Time is the one thing he can never get back. What is clearly, a travesty of justice to him, and by extension to us (the community), is just a red stain on a napkin to these political bloodsuckers. Racist politicians in Missouri and throughout other Red-States, garner political gain and benefit for every Black life that’s destroyed via their wicked policies.

Of course when there’s a brief victory for justice that benefits Black people, there’s a political backlash on the horizon via White Supremacy. So the political Red-State Bats are flying around St. Louis looking to avenge a political vendetta. So, Missouri’s appointed Attorney General, Andrew Bailey, apparently was given the assignment to harass Kim Gardner until she resigns. This Red-State racist wants to gain his political wings before the November 2024 election.

[Continued on page 6]

- Freedom, How much am I willing to pay for it?
- Freedom, How long will I have to pay for it?
- Freedom, Why do I have to pay for it?
- Freedom, What do I have to sacrifice for it?
- What are you doing with the power that you have?

We can make better choices promoting our own self-reliance. The false narrative of the trillions of dollars the Black community has to spend is mythical at best. There is a thing called discretionary income. Meaning after all bills and other expenditures have been paid, you have money left over to invest in other communal things beneficial to the Black community. The problem here is a significant portion of the Black community does not have discretionary income. The problem with making the assumption that the Black community has so much money to spend is that a large portion of the Black community's collective income comes from the government via social security often called welfare checks. This portion of our population cannot be counted upon to contribute toward Black liberation funding because they only have enough to cover their own expenditures.

The second portion of our collective income in the Black community comes from those who are minimum wage earners. According to Voices of Color, nearly half of all Black workers in the US make less than \$15 an hour. These

are the working class who do not earn a living wage. Meaning, after working a 40-hour week, they still find it difficult to cover their living expenditures.

So, with the Supplemental Security Income receivers and the black minimum wage earners, this represents nearly half of the total black community's collective income. Then we have another portion of the Black collective income. Here I'm referring to business owners, professionals, clergy, doctors, lawyers, judges, the good paying jobs, etc. and also the super-rich. Now these are the ones who are capable realistically to build a thriving black community. Unity is and has always been our way to becoming a great nation in America. What once united us no longer unites us which was segregation. So, in order for us to move forward, unitedly, we have to make God our center. (I do not mean church folk). because to get the ones who have the discretionary income, to come together to create a Black United Commerce it's going to take God! As it is written, is anything too hard for the Lord. (Gen 18:14 KJV)

What is specific here is we have to call upon God as a source of power and not a crutch. This is what our pioneering sister and ancestor, Harriet Tubman, did when she went into enemy territory many times to lead enslaved Africans out of enslavement into freedom. This was accomplished because of her courage and relationship with God. Period. Full Stop! I'm a strong believer that it does not take every Black business owner, every clergy

person, every doctor, every lawyer every judge, or every person with a so-called good job and not all of the super-rich to build a Black United Commerce in every major Black city across the nation. When the truly committed ones of the above-mentioned groups across the country decide to build a Black United Commerce, in every major Black city, it will allow the Black community to benefit first because then these funds will have an opportunity to bounce multiple times before it exits. This is certainly necessary if we are to be granted reparations.

One's mind has to be conditioned to understand what freedom really is. Then we will be able to lift the Black community to the greatness it can be here in the USA. This can only happen when you have freed your mind of the social constructs and European ways of thinking. We must come out of her mentally before we can ever do this monumental task of physically building a Black United Commerce. Freedom has never been free. So, to the how much - whatever it takes, to the how long – as long as I live. To the why pay for it - because our ancestors died for it. To the sacrifice what - whatever is necessary. We must be free to be our true Black selves in America. We must teach our people how to be a free people and not a freed people. For with God all things are possible (Matt 19:26 KJV).



Political Vampires [cont.]

What better way to build MAGA support than to destroy the first Black Woman ever elected Circuit Attorney to the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's office. Given her fearlessness, I wouldn't hold my breath if I was Andrew Bailey.

Liken to the Dred Scott ruling from 166 years ago, Andrew Bailey by his actions is saying, what Chief Justice Roger B. Taney declared way back in 1857; that Black folks have no rights that a white man is bound to respect. Andrew Bailey wants to disenfranchise St. Louis voters; who elected Kim Gardner for a second term with 74 percent of the vote. Kim is the people's choice and the people's voice. But Andrew Bailey doesn't give a damn about the democratic process, He only cares about avenging vendettas and usurping power from Black elected officials.

Brothers and sisters, these political vampires are historic enemies to us. Our job is to **unite and fight!** Forever and ever, we must fight every generation of rednecks that seeks to hinder our progress. However real the individual target may seem, we are more so fighting spirits from the past who continue to reincarnate. This in essence, is spiritual warfare, brothers and sisters.

Contrary to the understanding of most, we are engaged in a protracted spiritual war. One that transcends different generations of people. I make the argument (placing Trump at the helm), that the racist spirit within Josh Hawley, Marjorie Taylor Greene and Nick Fuentes, is the same racist spirit that embodied Rush Limbaugh, Strom Thurmond and Bull Connor; different face, same spirit. However today, that racist spirit is pervasively spreading fast across this country, and becoming a dangerous threat to Black life.

With that said, we must stop reacting to racial terrorism as if each incident is independent of the spirit that continues to manifest it. In a spiritual war, your enemy cannot be subdued completely with an individual indictment, conviction or execution. The consequences have to be severe enough, and wide-ranging enough, to not only to subdue, but to break the spirit and disable its capability to transfer to the next generation. To achieve this kind of success over the spirit of White Supremacy, we would have to change our goal and objective from merely achieving equality, to the upgraded goal of Black Empowerment. **“Sounds like a really big job, brother Amari.”**

Well, a **big job is not a big job** when

everybody does their job in the direction of Black Empowerment. It's not about achieving equality anymore, we tried that for 160 years and it just doesn't work. It's about striving to take control and setting new standards based on Maat; based on justice. Face it brothers and sisters, we're in a global competition for power. Aside from Negroes, never has there ever been a competition where the contestants compete to achieve a tie.

Everyone else **strives to take first place** in any competition. All legitimate players on the world stage seems to know this but us. Striving for equality garners no respect in the world and only exposes the pathology of an inferiority complex. Truth be told, brothers and sisters, **Black people will never be respected anywhere, until Africa is respected everywhere** as a super power in the world. It all begins by collectively changing our goal. When we change our goal, we change our destiny. And when the goal of Black Empowerment is achieved, brothers and sisters; the grip of our great African spirit will be strong enough to drive a stake into the heart and spirit of White Supremacy forever.

Driving a Stake Through Vampires or Minimally – Neutralizing Their Power

In response to the powerful article written by the UAPO Minister of Pan African Affairs, Amari Sneferu, “Political Vampires Re-incarnate,” I’m taking this opportunity to advocate what must be done in my humble opinion to rid the world of vampires.

Vampires as defined by many dictionaries are those who prey upon or exploit others.

Accordingly, as mentioned in Brother Amari’s article, we all know that this wicked economic system known as capitalism/imperilism which strives on racism has been a bloodsucker of the Black, Brown and Yellow peoples of the world for centuries. They even prey upon their own poor and desperate people. So the question before us today, is how do we counteract the demonic forces that fuel mass incarceration, extreme poverty, endless wars, ect.

As a youth growing up, we were fed a series of horror movies featuring Dracula, who was the almighty Vampire killing innocent people by sucking their blood with his two fanged teeth, much like the police of today shooting and brutalizing our people. By the way, in the Romania language, Dracula meant the Devil. So as the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, founder of the Nation of Islam would say, there are plenty of devils among us today. In the movie Dracula, he was always prevented from harming people by thrusting a cross in his face or for his final disposition, he was destroyed by driving a stake through his heart. With his death, we always expressed great relief, the devil has been sent back to hell. Likewise, in real life, I’m absolutely positive that there will be great worldwide jubilation when the forces of evil in this country as represented by the engines of capitalism fall like the

evil Biblical character, Goliath.

Accordingly, to at least neutralize the evil forces we are battling today, below listed are recommended actions to empower our people towards freedom and justice. These thoughts were published in the 2023 Winter edition of our newspaper.

1. Spiritually, we must recognize the Creator within ourselves and know we will be victorious.
2. We must create armies of righteous like minded people to speak truth to power and implement programs to uplift our people.
3. We must know our true history and contribution to world civilization, along with re-buiding and strengthening our families. Every home must have a library of cultural and historical books. Our educational systems must incorporate a curriculum that addresses our historic realities and produce skilled professionals willing and ready to work for the upliftment of the race. We must expand youth programs to include cultural enrichment.
4. Economically, we must develop and support more Black businesses and entrepreneurship and spend our dollars with ourselves. As Black businesses prosper they must give back to the community. We must utilize the potential power of the boycott as a fight back strategy aganist racist attacks upon our

communities including police violence.

5. Politically, we must adopt, embrace and actualize “Proportionate Political Representation” which simply means that whatever percentage we are as a people on the National, State and Local levels of government, then we should have that percentage of political representation/power.
6. We must become a healthier people by addressing our mental and physical health and reduce the epidemic of obesity. We must exercise more, get quality sleep, stay hydrated and manage stress better.
7. We must build national media outlets that project positive images and messages to overcome the negative portrayal of our people through the music and other media platforms.
8. We must incorporate as a vision and work toward the creation of an United States of Africa that is militarily and technologically as equal or superior to the Vampires of the international order/the Western World.

In conclusion, mind you the above thoughts are purely recommendations to neutralize the Vampire of capitalism/imperilism, the best solution as in the horror movie Dracula is to drive a stake through the capitalist system with revolution for humanity’s sake!!! We Will Be Victorious!!!



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[L-R] William Reed, Rhea Willis, Zaki & Larry Freeman



Safiyah & Zaki with Deloris McFarlin and Carlissa Nelson



[L-R] OBS Leader Jamala Rogers, UAPO Leader Zaki Baruti, African Peoples Socialist Party Chairman Omali Yeshitela



Zaki & Safiyah with OBS Members; Jamala Rogers and Kalimu Endesha



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Congratulations!



UAPO Congratulates Our Newest Member Shameen Clark Hubbard Elected St. Louis 10th Ward Alderwoman April 4, 2023



Zaki Baruti Congratulates Terry Epps on his Re-election as Mayor of the City of Pine Lawn, MO

The Continued Silent Invasion of Haiti

Published March 19, 2023 | **Liberation Newspaper** By Kerbie Joseph

As we demand an end to the U.S. war machine, peace and an end to imperialism everywhere, we have to take the time to talk about the current political situation in Haiti. It has been reported that in coordination with Washington, Canada has begun a “significant military deployment in Haiti,” as admitted by the Canadian Ambassador to Haiti, Sébastien Carrière.

Carrière continued by saying, “We took over. . . We delivered armor. There have been two deliveries since October. There would be a third delivery in the next few days, and another one later in February. There is this CP-140 surveillance operation, intelligence sharing, there are ships arriving. Listen, it’s still military deployment in a significant way.” Devastating weapons, mass surveillance technology and Canadian soldiers have been on the ground in Haiti for weeks to further repress the nation. But this isn’t new for the first free Black nation in the Western Hemisphere.

Haiti has been under attack by imperialists since its revolution in 1804. The U.S. slave-owning class, threatened by Haiti’s successful revolution, chose to isolate Haiti economically and politically, refusing to accept a free Black-led republic. While France agreed to recognize Haitian independence in 1825, they did so in exchange for the large sum of 150 million franc for the loss of “property” — the formerly-enslaved Black people of Haiti. Faced with isolation, Haiti felt obligated to pay this debt of \$21 billion over 122 years — paying France until 1893, and then the United States until 1947 — keeping Haiti in a constant state of debt.

Imperialist forces of France, United States and Germany interfered with Haitian affairs leading to destabilization in the country, the assassination of Haiti’s president in 1915, and the U.S. military invasion and occupation of Haiti from 1915 to 1947. As detailed in Eugene Puryear’s analysis, “Haiti: between a rock and a revolution,” foreign military interventions and occupations have been “efforts to destroy the popular revolution spirit of the Haitian people who have faced 2 coups, 3 dictators, 2 foreign military occupations, multiple death squads, 4 straight dodgy elections since 2006, 1 presidential assassination,” and a range of exploitative trade deals.

Now-exiled former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide attempted to recover the billions stolen by France in 2003, and was removed from office through a coup d’état. In fact, it was a U.S. Navy SEAL team that removed Aristide from his home in the Port-au-Prince suburb of Tabarre on Feb. 29, 2004. Immediately thereafter, the United States, Canada and France landed troops in Haiti, militarily occupying the country for the following three months.

These same occupying countries met with the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank to have them pledge monetary “aid” to help strengthen Haiti’s police state to maintain peace and stability, and to respond effectively to civil unrest while “respecting human civil rights,” which resulted in a loan of \$410 million to the financially victimized nation. This same predatory approach to aid was applied towards Haiti after the 2010 earthquake when \$13 billion in funds raised for Haiti never made it to the Haitian people. Meanwhile, Haiti has over an 80% unemployment rate, while 60% of the population lives on less than \$2 per day, with a minimum wage of \$7.50 per day.

Is the struggle in Haiti really about gangs? Peaceful worker protests in Haiti are often met with violence. Through varying decrees made by the Moïse regime, all protests have been characterized as “terrorism” and incentive structures for police officers



A U.S. Marine and a UN soldier in Haiti during a 2010 deployment.

have been created to increase their violence against civil society. And now the already violent national police have even been more violent, and have racist support with this new intervention.

Moïse was unable to control the protests and so dissolved the parliament, the judiciary and ruled by decree in dictatorial fashion until he was assassinated in 2021.

But where do these so-called gangs come from? The rise of “gang violence” has followed the rise of the mass popular movement in Haiti. Haitian elites have deployed paramilitary forces to try to “repress and intimidate” this huge popular movement against poverty wages in order to protect their private property. This has continued with state repression and paramilitary forces. Anyone is seen as a gang member when it comes to putting profit over people.

After Aristide’s removal in 2004, in June of that year, the United States handed the occupation of Haiti to the low-paid, multinational army called the UN Mission to Stabilize Haiti or MINUSTAH. Since the early 2000s, “MINUSTAH is how the U.S. has outsourced its control of Haiti,” author and activist Bill Quigley explained. MINUSTAH has

helped to fortify the U.S./UN presence in Haiti. In 2010, Nepalese UN soldiers introduced cholera into the country. In her article, “Call for UN to help Haitians affected by cholera,” Victoria Klassen states:

“The peacekeeping mission inadvertently introduced cholera into Haiti’s most extensive water source in October 2010, after sewage leaked from a UN camp housing cholera-infected peacekeepers. Since 2010, confirmed cholera infections have claimed around 10,000 lives and infected over 820,000 people in the country leading to over 10,000 deaths.”

In “The UN let off peacekeepers involved in a Haitian boy’s rape” journalist Amy Bracken reported, “But it’s here, in early 2012, that local youths reported seeing UN police in a vehicle sexually abusing a 14-year-old boy who is mentally disabled.” As the title states, no UN “peacekeepers” ever faced accountability. And that is just one reported case of the violence that these invasions and occupations have caused the Haitian people.

Destabilizing what was once the colonial gem of the French empire is a critical strategy in all of this. Various UN occupations have literally uprooted Haitian elected democracy and led to installments of puppet regimes, while state institutions were dissolved at a whim, as we see in the case of Haiti’s current Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

And the Haitian people don’t want any UN intervention at all — no matter what is “reported.”

Since October of last year, hundreds of thousands of Haitians have been taking to the streets across the country demanding the resignation of the U.S.-backed de-facto president Ariel Henry and his administration — and NO UN solution in Haiti, NO MINUSTAH. The Haitian people are demanding concrete responses to their needs. They are demanding resolution to the nation’s food insecurity, rampant inflation and severe fuel shortages. Haitians demand that the de-facto government withdraw.

“... July 2021, a few days after the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse a gallon (3.78 liters) of unleaded 95 has increased in price by 128%, from 250 to 570 gourdes (2.11 to 4.83 euros), while the price of diesel and kerosene is now nearly 670 gourdes, representing a 90% surge,” as reported by Jean-Michel Hauteville of Le Monde. This is a surge that is choking Haitians at the request of the International Monetary Fund.

But most importantly, the Haitian people demand that we — workers, anti-imperialists and radicals of the world — unite with Haiti, uplift its self-determination and say ‘NO’ to any UN intervention in Haiti, wherever we are and in all our work. Haiti hasn’t been silent and for Haiti’s sake, neither can we.

Quotes From Three Historic Icons – Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr.

“Look for me in the whirlwind or storm, look for me all around you, for with God’s grace, I shall come and bring with me countless millions of Black slaves who have died in America and the West Indies and the millions in Africa to aid you in the fight for Liberty, Freedom and Life!”
– Marcus Garvey

“The Political Philosophy of Black Nationalism only means that the Black man should control the politics and politicians in his own community. The time when white people can come into our communities and get us to vote for them, so they can be our political leaders and tell us what to do and not to do is Long Gone!”
– Malcolm X

“I could never again raise my voice against the violence of the oppressed, without having first spoken clearly to the greatest purveyor of violence in the world—my own government!”
– Martin Luther King Jr.

The Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO) Expresses Our Sincere Appreciation and Thanks To The Many Organizations and Individuals Who Made Financial Contributions To Our Efforts To Purchase and Donate Water To The Residents of Jackson, Mississippi As They Faced An Unprecedented Water Crisis In The Latter Part of 2022.

On October 6, 2022, We Purchased and Delivered 1,000 Cases of Water and On December 28, 2022, We Purchased and Delivered an Additional 1,000 Cases of Water. This effort Is a Small Example of What We Can Do In Unity To Help Each Other. Again, A Mighty Thanks!!!



Thank You!

St. Paul AME Church St. Louis, MO [Rev Spencer Booker], Mosque 28/East St. Louis, IL [Minister Ralph Muhammad], Greater Family Church East. St. Louis, IL [Pastor Daryl Rice], The Body of Christ East St. Louis, IL [Greg Witherspoon], Kingdom Word Church Kansas City, MO [Bishop Eric Morrison], Manasseh Ministry [Rev Richard Jackson], Black Hat Society [GG Owens], Kansas City Chapter of the National Black United Front [Shafeeqa Small], Organization for Black Struggle [Jamala Rogers], Youth Council for Positive Development [NATO Caliph], African Peoples Socialist Party [Omali Yeshitela], Sankofa Construction [Greg Kolase], Clayton Cleaners [Thomas Lee], Young Voices With Action [Farrakhan Shegog], Harriet Tubman Prep School [Bill Monroe], Tillie's Corner [Mr. & Mrs. Alexander], Clear the Airways Project [Kwabena Rasuli], St. Louis Green Party [Don Fitz], United Afrikan Movement [Gary, IN], Land Bank Builders [Gary, IN], Black Lives Matter [Gary, IN], Dr. Mesfin Mitike, EM Harris Construction, Erma Nevels, Jerry Knight, Queen Daugherty, Kevin Prince, Mawiyah Mohamdou, Debra Warren, Yusef Scoggin, Ray Brown, Ajuma Muhammad, GiGi Cooper, Brenda Thompson, Kannah X, Steve Cutts, Phil Portlock, Amari Sneferu, Carol Jackson, Betsey Mitchell, Queen Freedom, Pat Dowsing Buie, Helen Wilson-Tellis, RaShele McGhee-Gregory, Deloris McFarlin, Queen Ziah, Alexia Wilkens, Gwen Cogshell, Creola Davis, Rostand Darbouze, Safiyah Chauvin

Additional Photos of Community Justice Coalition Speakers at Press Conference and Rally in Support of St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner



Lisa Lagrone [Safe Streets/Safe Neighborhoods]



Lew Moye [Coalition of Black Trade Unionist]



Willie Boyd [End Mass Incarceration]



Zaki Baruti [Universal African Peoples Organization]

Three Massive Ways The Government Wastes Your Tax Dollars

Published April 18, 2023 | **Liberation Newspaper** By Walter Smolarek

April 15th is Tax Day, a deadline most people associate with paperwork, bureaucracy and other headaches. It is also a reminder that so much of the revenue that the government generates by taxing us goes towards institutions whose activities are completely at odds with the interests of the vast majority of people in society.

While the right wing points to vital social programs as sources of “waste” in the federal budget, the reality is that a huge part of what the government spends money on serves no purpose but to bolster the wealth and power of the ruling elite. Here are three examples of this criminal misuse of enormous sums of money that could meet human needs, but instead are spent underwriting terrible violence and bolstering corporate profits.

The war machine

Perhaps the most glaring example of this waste is the U.S. military. War spending in its various forms is spread across different areas of the federal budget, but taken together it tops 1 trillion dollars per year. The notion that this is for “defense” is laughable. The global network of hundreds of military bases maintained by the Pentagon – which receives more funding than the next ten largest militaries combined – exists to enforce the rule of Washington and Wall Street with deadly force.

The biggest chunk of war funding goes to the Department of “Defense”, with the Pentagon receiving \$817 billion in its most-recently passed budget. Bizarrely, the military’s arsenal of nuclear weapons – large enough to wipe out all life on Earth many times over – is funded through the Department of Energy to the tune of nearly \$31 billion. This is bundled together with about \$10 billion of other war-related spending in an annual piece of legislation called the National Defense Authorization Act.

U.S. wars have caused death and injury to millions of people around the world. And the mainly working class youth the Pentagon generals send to the front

lines also suffer lifelong physical and psychological injury in huge numbers. Service members who have been used as cannon fodder in imperialist wars should be given comprehensive, high-quality health-care, but the \$303 billion budget of the Department of Veterans Affairs would not be necessary if these wars did not happen in the first place.

On top of the budgets of the Departments of Defense, Energy and Veterans Affairs, a significant amount of the total debt accumulated by the U.S. government over the years is attributable to military spending. Every year, interest accumulates on that debt that must be paid off.

Handouts to corporations

The government is a source of hundreds of billions of dollars of revenue for corporations, lining the pockets of their executives at public expense. On this front, the most massive example is again the military. For the United States, waging war is a public-private partnership, where the Pentagon works hand-in-glove with a huge network of corporations that provide the weaponry and virtually everything else the military needs. In 2021, the government paid military contractors \$399 billion, a sum roughly equivalent to the size of the entire economy of Egypt.

The planet-killing fossil fuel corporations are another major beneficiary. They receive approximately \$20 billion a year from the government in the form of various subsidies, 80 percent of which go to natural gas and crude oil and 20 percent to support coal production. Instead of taking the decisive action necessary to transform the energy grid, the government presides over a system of incentives that keeps the world on track for climate catastrophe.

In addition to these corporate handouts at the federal level, subsidies totaling up to \$95 billion a year are handed out by state and local governments. Taking the form of direct payments and tax credits, these so-called “incentive packages” are presented as ways to attract investment and jobs. They are

part of a race to the bottom to provide big business with the most favorable conditions possible — at the expense of workers, the general public, and the environment. A study of major state-level economic development programs by Good Jobs First found that 38% do not even disclose to the public the names of the companies that are beneficiaries!

Police state repression

Hundreds of thousands of law enforcement officers, serving everywhere from local departments to highly specialized national agencies, consume public resources at an enormous scale. Such a fearsome and lavishly-funded force is only required in a society like the United States where extreme inequality is managed with brutal violence – the cops are no more about “public safety” than the Pentagon is for “national defense”.

At the federal level, much of the funding for the police state can be found in the Department of Justice’s budget. The FBI, DEA, ATF and U.S. Marshalls combined with U.S. Attorneys offices across the country eat up a combined total of \$19.2 billion. The vast network of facilities maintained by the DOJ’s Bureau of Prisons is funded to the tune of \$8.4 billion.

Created in 2002, the Department of Homeland Security is the other principal home of repressive agencies. Customs and Border Protection in total has a budget of \$16.5 billion, with \$7.2 billion of that money earmarked specifically for Border Patrol. ICE received \$8.8 billion in the most recent budget, including funding to operate its network of notorious detention centers with a capacity of 34,000 detainees. Both agencies are reviled for their racist brutality.

In a society with such deep impoverishment, collapsing basic infrastructure and woefully inadequate public services, it is obscene that this is what the government chooses to spend the public’s money on. It is a reflection of their true priorities – death, destruction and terror for the sake of ever greater profits for corporate America.

‘This Country Is Your Country’: Tulsa Race Massacre Survivors Granted Ghanaian Citizenship and Property In the Motherland

Published March 8, 2023 | **Atlanta BlackStar** By Nicole Duncan-Smith

Two surviving witnesses of the Tulsa Race Massacre are now dual citizens in the United States and an African nation.

The pair was granted citizenship in the Republic of Ghana by the Embassy of Ghana in Washington, D.C.

Viola Ford Fletcher, 108, and her brother Hughes Van Ellis, 102, are now officially Ghanaians, according to a report from The Washington Post. They are two of three last survivors of the horrific national shame, where hundreds of residents were killed, about 800 were injured and over 1,250 homes and property within the 35-square-block area were burned to the ground.

The two attended a ceremony at the Ghanaian Embassy, where they swore an oath of allegiance and signed certification documents recognizing them as citizens of the African country from which a substantial number of enslaved people originated.

KTUL reports the ceremony was hosted and organized by Erieka Bennett, founder of Diaspora African Forum, the Ghana Tourism Authority and members of the Ghanaian government.

Hajia Alima Mahama, Ghana’s first female ambassador to the United States, participated in the program. She first explained what dual citizenship meant before calling Fletcher to take her oath.

“I now invite Queen Mother Naa Lameley Viola Fletcher to take the oath of allegiance,” she said.

Fletcher said, “I swear solemnly, sincerely and truly declare and affirm that I will faithfully bear true allegiance to the Republic of Ghana and I will preserve, protect and defend the constitution of the Republic of Ghana, so help me God.”

The centenarian’s grandson stood beside her and repeated each word after her.

After Ellis finished reciting the oath, he waved a small Ghanaian flag before saying, “I feel like a king. It is an honor and privilege to be a member of Ghana.”

According to the BBC, the Justice for Greenwood Foundation said Fletcher and Ellis are now the oldest African Americans to be granted citizenship of Ghana, adding the foundation was “proud to stand in solidarity with the survivors, celebrating their resilience and their contribution to the history” of Blacks in the Sooner State.

The siblings, who were children during the race riot in 1921 that ended “Black Wall Street,” were previously crowned as royalty in the West African nation. Fletcher was crowned “queen mother” and received the name Naa Lameley, which means “a strong person who stands the test of time.” Ellis was crowned a chief, receiving the name Bio Lantey.

Fletcher and Ellis visited Ghana two years ago during the centennial commemoration of the Tulsa massacre, one of the most heinous cases of terrorist violence perpetrated in America.

During their inaugural visit, they met Ghana’s president, Nana Akufo-Addo.

It was Akufo-Addo who later approved their citizenship, even giving the queen mother a plot of land in Accra, the nation’s capital. The official said the two demonstrated resilience and went on to “tell the story.”

After receiving citizenship, the minister of tourism welcomed the family into the fold.

“Queen Mother and uncle, you are more than beautiful. Let me bring you greetings from the Republic of Ghana,” Ibrahim Mohammed Awal said. “We want you to use this ceremony to look back to your roots.”

As those gathered stood to sing the Ghanaian national anthem, belting out, “God bless our homeland Ghana, And make our nation great and strong,” the minister proclaimed both Fletcher and Ellis are “100 percent Ghanaian.”

While Fletcher and Ellis are two noted African Americans granted citizenship, Akufo-Addo has been inviting members of the African diaspora to visit his country since 2019, the 400-year commemoration of the first African slaves to arrive in the original American colonies.

“This country is your country, and anyone who wants to come to re-establish, connect with us here, is welcome,” Akufo-Addo said in 2021.

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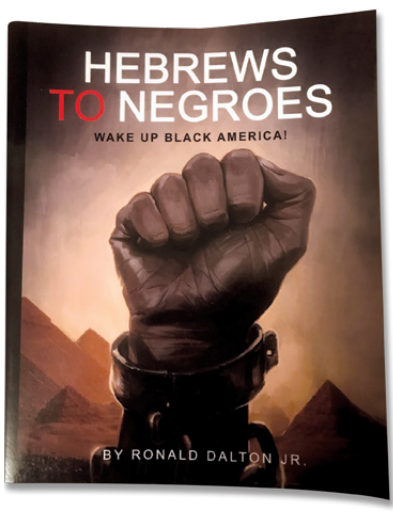
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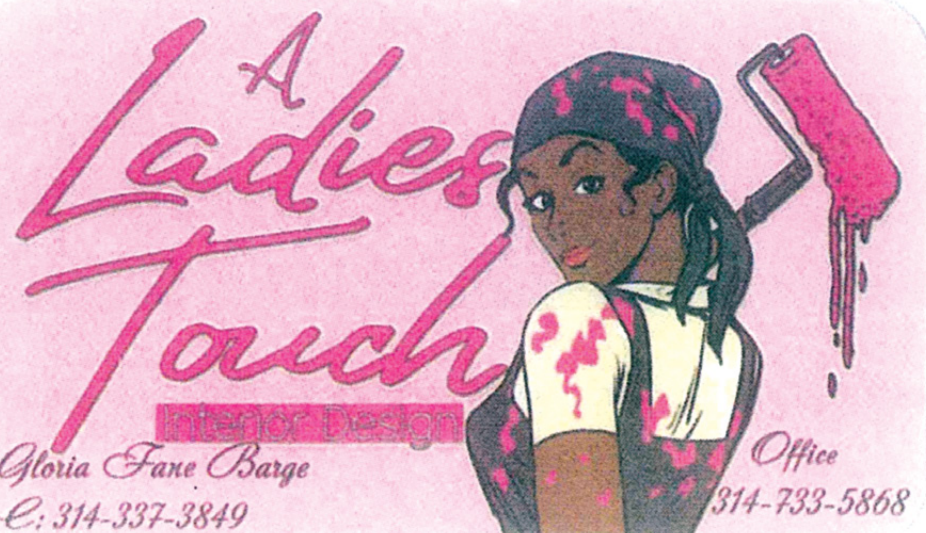
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A. MOTTO B. PREAMBLE C. PLATFORM

One GOD - as opposed to being divided along religious beliefs and ideology; we believe that there is a creator that is greater than us and there will be a day of judgment. We also say that we must unite based on our commonality, which is (1) we are of African descent and (2) we are oppressed within America and throughout the world.

One Goal - Our goal is the liberation of our people spiritually, economically, politically and culturally, whereby we will control our own destiny.

One Destiny - the fulfillment of God’s will for us as a people to have Freedom, Justice and Equality, no matter where we reside and where we as a collective group will fulfill our capacity to grow, develop and expand to our greatest height of self-development.

PREAMBLE

The Universal African Peoples Organization is a progressive business, political, humanitarian, educational, and expansive society; and founded by persons desiring to work for the general uplifting of people of African descent throughout the world. Members pledge themselves to do all in their power to advance the rights of their noble race and to respect the rights of all others, adhering always to the power of the unity and belief

in the Creator. The motto of the organization is **“One God! One Goal! One Destiny!”** Therefore, let justice become reality for all people, realizing that if the strong oppress the weak, confusion and discontent will obstruct progress and development. With respect, equality and justice towards those of goodwill, a new era of peace and plenty will be forthcoming into the world and our future generations will be liberated

UAPO PLATFORM

We will improve the lives of our people when we do the following:

1. Develop, support and expand the growth of African American businesses. Increase the number of African American skilled professionals. Gain our fair share of the tax dollars and services generated by national, state and local businesses. End redlining of the African American community. Develop international trade ventures.
2. We seek to increase the quantitative/qualitative number of African Americans to elected public offices in proportion to our population at the national, state and local levels. We seek the passage of legislation that would directly enhance the quality of life for African Americans.
3. Support the development and expansion of independent African American schools. Support African centered curriculum in the local public school boards with Afrocentric thinking people. Increase the literacy rate and level in our community.

4. Institute community control of the police departments and end racism within the judicial system. Support and expand educational job training and community oriented programs within the penal institutions. Use community service programs as alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders.
5. Develop greater emphasis on health care, knowledge and accessibility. Support a universal assistance program responsible for providing a minimum standard of living to rebuild two parent and/or extended families. End homelessness.
6. Develop programs to assist youth in preparing for the 21st century. We believe in the total equality and advancement of women within the private, public and domestic sectors of our society. We also believe that all women should be respected and protected.
7. End all types of pollution, especially industrial, of Mother Earth.
8. Support and work diligently for the complete liberation of Africa, the Caribbean Islands, and other regions/countries in the world. Actively support the principles of non-interference in the affairs of other nations.

TO SUPPORT OUR CAUSE
Send Donations Payable to:

UAPO

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