



# THE **African** NEWSWORLD

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An Organ of the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO)

## **MOVING FORWARD: The Vision of the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO)**



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## **A Salute to our Pan-Africanist Leaders**



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### **Pan-Africanist Leaders from left to right**

Marcus Garvey, Amy Ashwood Garvey,  
Amy Jacques Garvey, W.E.B. DuBois,  
Shirley Graham DuBois, Kwame Nkrumah,  
Kwame Ture, Miriam Makeba,  
Muammar Gaddafi, Winnie Mandela

## “Was Ferguson A Moment or Movement?”

Thoughts from Ferguson Activists



### **Michael Gardner-**

I believe Ferguson 2014 was a moment that sparked an everlasting burning fire for a movement. So many people have been brought together numerous times for many causes through unity. The movement within has brought travel and many resources into Ferguson for our youth to utilize and to be passed down for generations! Resources such as a center being built over what was known as ground zero. Legacies have also been left behind of great leaders for our children to grow into great, fearless and future leaders! The platform is yours in Ferguson Missouri to be heard and you never know who your message may affect in a great way! This movement will never end and we will maintain it forever!



### **Calvin “Cap” Kennedy-**

Ferguson was a serious movement that woke us all from the dead. We learned so much on how the system works with lies, white privilege, capitalism and police brutality. Ferguson became a moment to those who only came to capitalize and gain photos, destroy, infiltrate, agitate and misuse people with money and scams. The Ferguson movement is still growing and boots are the ground. The Ferguson movement is all about exposing police brutality, saving and helping to find missing people and building and loving our people. The movement isn't going nowhere! We are the movement that will fight until we get justice, peace and equality!



### **Tiffani Relliford-**

It was this moment we defined what community looked like for us. Because we came together due to the murder of Michael Brown Jr. killed by Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson. We watched with the rest of the world as Brown's body laid in the hot summer sun for four hours. We saw his mother cry in pain and his stepfather standing on the corner of W. Florissant and Canfield holding a sign which said, “Ferguson Police Just Shot My Son.” It was at this moment, the Black community had enough of the senseless killings of our loved ones by police officers.

Michael Brown's murder became a moment for this generation who started a movement of new leaders, activists, revolutionaries and political leaders. It was within this movement that we all became social justice warriors based on the concepts of human rights and equality. For this generation, the fight for freedom became just as important as it had been for Malcolm X, Martin Luther King Jr. and many others who fought for freedom. Tragically Michael Brown Jr. lost his life and I truly believe his family and many others touched by his story are making constant efforts to make sure that his death will bring change. However, it's because of what happened on August 9, 2014 with Michael Brown death, Ferguson/St. Louis made history. Also, the world saw the consequences of those events when people have been oppressed for too long. Ferguson is this generation's movement.



### **Maurice Brown-**

For me, the murder of Michael Brown Jr. by the racist Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson was a moment of historic significance that has evolved into an everlasting and powerful movement. The tragic death of Mike has awakened a new generation of activist willing to commit themselves to transforming this racist and sick society. The full power of this movement will become an avalanche of political, economic and social change for generations to come!



### **Julia Davis-**

On August 9, 2014, the actions taken by the collective Black community in the City of Ferguson was an organic movement. A movement which moved from a place of “sick and tired of sick and tired” of a system built to oppress black people. Recognition of whom our enemy was, united us in a way that once upon a time we have only imagined; until we rose to fight back for Michael Brown Jr. and the countless family members, friends, and neighbors of our own whose lives have been taken by white police officers while “petty rolling” our communities.

Our unity on the ground, in conference rooms, living rooms and kitchens were steadfast. Our anger spoke the same narrative of demand to hold accountable the people responsible for the death of Michael.

The Black community united from inside and outside of Ferguson. Black resident's of St. Louis, Normandy, Pine Lawn, Dellwood and other municipalities and townships stood lock-step with us against police brutality. We knew the who, what, where, how and why of what we were up against. The media portrayed us as having no leadership or having no direction or real understanding of what we were doing. The media's narrative was a lie, but after consistently being fed this lie; many onlookers locally and nationally accepted their lies as truth. But no matter how much they lied, we maintained our position.

Ferguson was a Movement that is now a multiplicity of moments. Moments were replayed in detailed as each activist, organizer, protestor, and leader expounded on their individual celebrity. The composition of individuals, grassroots groups and organizations turned moments into a movement.



### **Tyrean Lewis-**

To me, Ferguson was a moment and a movement. It was a moment in time that will always be remembered and never be forgotten. I will never forget how St. Louis came together for one cause and stood up against white supremacy. It was a movement because a lot of young black people were awakened. Now we have a new wave of young black people interested in politics, civil rights, black economics, community outreach and grassroots organizations.



# A STORY OF TREACHERY, FRAUD AND UNJUST TREATMENT BY FIRSTAR N.A. BANK NOW KNOWN AS US BANK

**AS TOLD BY THE VICTIM STEPHANIE BROWN!!!**



Entrepreneur Stephanie Brown



5878-82 Delmar (Across from Loop Trolley)

*Another Case for Reparations? You Decide?  
Reporting from the Front Line...  
Ya'll Better Get On Board with  
the 144,000 Movement.*

In the year 2000, twenty-nine-year-old Ms. Stephanie Brown was in her fourth year as a salon business owner and hairstylist who was doing quite well financially at her business located at 5942 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO. In order to hire additional hairstylists, Stephanie incorporated a business known as E'NAHPE'TS ENTERPRISES, Inc.

Looking forward to expanding her enterprise into the popular business district known as the Delmar Loop, in April 2001 she decided to apply for a commercial real estate loan to purchase commercial storefront properties at 5878-5882 Delmar Blvd with a sale price of \$150,000.00 (located directly across the street from the new LOOP TROLLEY Station). These properties were a few blocks from where she was operating her former blooming salon business. The bank chosen for this loan application was Firststar National Bank which shortly afterwards merged with US Bank and the assumed US Bank name. Stephanie chose this bank as her client Kendra Martin was a business banking officer with the Firststar Bank.

Firststar Bank approved Stephanie for \$120,000.00 loan in May 2001 to purchase the property requiring Ms. Brown make a 20% down payment (\$30,000) of her hard-earned savings that was necessary for her to get approval for the loan. At the closing on July 2001, Firststar bank also directed her to utilize her above mentioned enterprise by co-signing it as a CONTINING GUARANTY (Unlimited).

With great expectations of expanding her successful business venture, Stephanie was very excited that she would reap a positive financial return on her investment. She was popular among the local residents near her business and highly respected among her industry peers. Stephanie wanted her success to be a beacon of hope for other up and coming young entrepreneurs like herself, but before the deal was officially closed a set of circumstances began to unfold which led to a downward spiral of her great hopes and aspirations of achieving financial security.

As explained by Stephanie, her experience of being a victim of treachery, fraud and unjust treatment by US Bank began when she was introduced to a Black US Bank official, Tyrus Sanders, Regional Senior Vice president, through a mutual political friend. Although, Mr. Sanders was not involved in Stephanie's loan approval; subsequently after their initial meeting, Tyrus approached her with the offer that he would be able to help her get additional funds from the bank to update the newly purchased properties. He assured her that he could make this happen prior to the official closing of the loan, because the bank had committed itself to the Community Reinvestment Act.

With the loan approval at \$120,000.00 because of her down payment, Tyrus' proposal captured Stephanie's attention. She realized that the additional dollars could help in upgrading the properties. Tyrus further stated that in order to get these funds, she would need architectural drawings which would cost \$8,000.00. He also asked could she pay this amount out of her own pocket and made a verbal promise that the bank would reimburse her. Being young and naïve, she agreed.

Immediately, upon Tyrus's above recommendation, Ms. Brown hired an architect. As agreed upon, she began to pay the architect up to \$3,000.00 out of her own pocket between May 2001 and June 2001. But due to unexpected financial difficulties, Stephanie was unable to keep paying

the architect. It was her hope that the bank would reimburse her for the expenses already paid to the architect so she could keep his services. However, in July 2001 the loan was officially closed, but to her dismay, neither the additional monies for upgrading the properties nor monies for reimbursement were approved. Therefore, In August 2001 she had to terminate the architect. After the official closing of her loan did not provide the additional monies, Tyrus still insisted that he could get her additional funds for updates and improvements to the properties. This time, he advocated that the best approach would be for her to refinance the newly approved loan, but she would need to make on time payments for a year on the loan. Also, in the same breath adamantly saying Ms. Brown needed to provide the bank with completed architectural drawings.

Being determined to achieve her goal and "not smelling the coffee," Stephanie continued to rely on Tyrus directives, especially in light of the fact he was a Regional Senior Vice President of US Bank. Accordingly, for the next year, Ms. Brown made her timely monthly payments to the bank. Also, having to overcome her earlier financial difficulties, she was able to hire a new architect and from 2002 – 2003 paid him a total of \$7,000.00 for the architectural drawings requested by Tyrus.

After a year of the on-time payments, rather than refinancing the original loan, Ms. Brown applies for a small business loan in 2002 under her business corporation E'NAHPE'TS ENTERPRISES INC., to make the property improvements with assistance from Kendra Martin (her original loan officer). Shortly thereafter Kendra Martin was fired by Tyrus. Again, for a second time, Stephanie is disappointed because Tyrus Sanders informs her that the corporation did not qualify per application so the loan failed and that she would have to apply under her personal name which she did. He also stated that she needed an appraiser to appraise the property, but she didn't understand this request. However, to her great surprise, the bank in January 2003 approves the second loan for an additional \$224,000.00.

Along with the approval for the second loan, she was provided with a (1) a Secured line of credit of \$20,000.00 (2) \$24,000.00 for fixtures and (3) a \$10,000.00 demand line of credit for working capital. Having secured the above financial arrangements Ms. Brown was now obligated to US Bank, the real estate loan balance \$116,000.00 and now the second loan of \$224,000.00 for a total of \$340,000.00. To help her make the two loan payments, it was agreed upon that the payments would be packaged as one payment of \$2,751.73 per month. Tyrus now promised Stephanie that he could get her to make only interest payments on the \$340,000.00 loan through the year 2003 which he did make happen. In addition, her line of credits totaled \$54,000.00. Accordingly, she was now indebted to the bank for \$394,000.00.

After getting the above financial transactions completed, Ms. Brown next task was to get a general contractor to make the necessary updates and improvements to the properties. So she reaches out to at least four contractors who are Black, but each one is rejected by Tyrus between the timeframe of January through September 2003. Finally, Stephanie is directed by Tyrus to hire a white contractor, Dan Green of ISC Contracting; who happened to be a member of the advisory board of US Bank. Along with this development, Tyrus coerced her to sign an amendment for additional interest only payments to allow more time for the completion of the upgrades on her properties.

However, one of the stipulations for paying the contractors per the bank's Construction Draw Procedures was that the

inspector, who was hired by the bank, had to first sign off on the work; then the bank had to have Stephanie's approval before funding. With this stipulation, she felt some comfort in moving forward, although she never had direct access to any of the \$340,000.00 loan to make the necessary improvements. Brown had no expertise as a contractor but only as a cosmetologist/salon owner.

The white contractor began what was supposed to be the improvements on the property which included heating, cooling, tuck pointing, demolition and roofing. His work never met her expectations per the agreement and the inspector never showed up to sign off on his work, so Stephanie being very dissatisfied fired the contractor. That's when the fraud, deceit and sabotage began to become apparent to Stephanie.

Immediately after firing the white contractor and now hiring a Black contractor which to her shock, the bank now approved; she began to receive numerous calls and visits from Tyrus that the white contractor had to get paid. She ignored the calls; c'd Tyrus a copy of the letter terminating ISC Contracting. However, to her utter outrage, in June 2004 her CPA firm discovered that the white contractor had been paid with two cashier's checks charged to her loan, a total of \$43,000.00 plus interest.

Along with that troubling news, she found that a \$20,000.00 lien had been placed on the property. The bank had been negligent in collecting notarized lien waivers per the Construction Draw Procedures. Compounding the above situation, all of a sudden Tyrus Sanders could not be contacted, he was not returning Ms. Brown's calls and the bank claimed her loan files were missing. Ms. Brown later learned that Tyrus had left the bank and moved to another state and was employed by another bank. He also never returned her calls.

After being made aware of the unauthorized payments, Stephanie informed the bank about this fraudulent payment, but she received no favorable response. Now paying both the principal and interest on the \$340,000.00 combined loans and with an unauthorized payment of \$43,000.00 plus interest being placed on her account, along with the unwarranted \$20,000.00 lien; Stephanie refused to pay her loan for three months.

After retrieval of the loan file by US Bank Fund Control Group and her refusal to make the regular monthly payments, the loan was sent to the bank's Special Assets Group (for troubled loans) headed by the Vice President Timothy Scheer. Brown met with Scheer in late December 2004 and made him aware of the unauthorized payments to ISC and reiterated the banks CONSTRUCTION DRAW PROCEDURES as it related to the lien. However, Scheer never took any action that would resolve this issue. Wanting to keep her property and feeling pressured to do so, she resumed making payments after signing a mutual settlement agreement to pay off the lien which she did. She also brought her past due monthly payments up to date.

In 2007, still bothered by the unauthorized payment of the \$43,000.00 plus interest to the white contractor and the lien she paid; Ms. Brown hired an attorney. She also reached out to numerous political officials, including the Missouri Attorney General, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and US Bank CEO, Richard Davis, and the Comptroller of Currency who governs national banks, but all to no avail.

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# ST. LOUIS FILMMAKER AND UAPO ACTIVIST SUES ST. LOUIS LAND REVITALIZATION AUTHORITY (LRA) AND LOCAL DOCTOR FOR MAJOR PROPERTY DAMAGE

By UAPO STAFF



COFFEE WRIGHT

In an effort to bring the concept of Hollywood to St. Louis and to develop as well expose local talent, Coffee Wright, an independent union Filmmaker, writer and activist in 2001 relocated from California to her native city of St. Louis. To accomplish her vision in 2002 she purchased a commercial total Arts Center that would be ran by her newly created organization, St. Louis Inner City Cultural Center Enterprise (SLICCCE.COM). Prior to Ms. Wright making her investment, the west wall of her property adjoined the property owned by St. Louis city Land Revitalization Authority (LRA). In 1996 LRA demolished the adjacent property leaving a vacant lot. However, LRA never completed the demolition and three layers of bricks were left attached to her side of the building.

Along with this factor, after the purchase of the property, large trees began to overlap her property with the tree roots displacing the foundation and tree branches

overlapping the roof of her building. Wanting the LRA to complete their demolition by removing the layer of bricks attached to her side of the building, Ms. Wright immediately contacted the Supervisor of the LRA Demolition department, Mark Hempin. He assured her that the Authority took full responsibility for removing the bricks and tuck pointing and stuccoing the remaining standing wall.

But as time and years passed as well as checking with Mr. Hempin office periodically per phone conversations and an official letter being sent, Ms. Wright was informed that LRA would not fulfill its obligation, because of the lack of money. Upon being informed of this excuse, Ms. Wright made a direct appeal to her local alderman, Terry Kennedy. Mr. Kennedy immediately contacted LRA. By this time, a Rowland Comfort is now in charge of LRA Demolition Dept. He informs both Ms. Wright and Alderman Kennedy that he was also aware of the situation but again stated that LRA had no money and the Missouri Statute of Limitations had been reached, therefore LRA didn't have to do the work they had previously agreed to do.

Of course, this turn of events completely infuriated Ms. Wright. Compounding the above situation in 2011 LRA sold the vacant lot adjacent to her property to a Dr. Climes of Gateway Diagnostic Liver Center. Ms. Wright further maintains that the construction company hired by Dr. Climes to clear the trees adjoining her property damaged the west wall of her building and caused her roof to collapse. She reiterated that she witnessed the heavy equipment as it bumped her wall and how the roof collapsed and how she found fresh cut trees inside the building. She also can provide photos, videos

and other witnesses. With her personal savings, she replaced the roof.

In her ongoing dispute with Dr. Climes who had bought another property on the east side of her building, she emphasized that he tried to purchase her building, but she refused to sell. Ms. Wright furthered explained that Dr. Climes installed a 6 foot wrought iron fence around his vacant lot and attached it to the SLICCCE building which has prohibited her access to make needed repairs on her property. She also sent a United States Postal Certified letter requesting Dr. Climes to sign and easement agreement, however he refused.

Given the above circumstance, in 2015 Ms. Wright filed a lawsuit against both the Land Revitalization Authority (LRA) and Dr. Climes, for damages to her property totaling excess of \$50,000.00. Her case is still pending, but will likely be settled this year.



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## BOYS TO MEN: WE AS A COMMUNITY OF BLACK MEN MUST BE AWARE OF THE FUTURE OUR BLACK BOYS MAY BE FACING

By DEACON JB BOND, Koinonia Baptist Temple

The harsh reality is that many of our boys have fallen so far behind their white counterparts in this United States of America. That is shameful. We must begin to turn the tide of this tragic reality. In my humble opinion, it starts with our men who are already upstanding, stable and committed and are working with some of the young African American boys already. (If you are a man with the afore mentioned attributes, this means you.) Men like Anthony Shahid, Amari Sneferu, James Clark, Brother Sunshine of East St. Louis just to name a few. These men and others, whom I did not name are making impact on the situation. Still they need more financing and it should come from the community as well as the Black church.

I would ask every adult household in the community to budget \$5.00 per week, provided you have an annual income of at least \$20,000. Any family exceeding \$75,000 in annual income would be asked for \$10.00 per week. I would ask the Black church to contribute 10% of the annual income provided it exceeds \$100,000.00 annually.

Remember this is a fundamental effort and one should be as willing to join this effort as easily as they would be willing to give to the United Way, Red Cross, or some TV Evangelist church. It's so important to always be mindful that these are our boys and if we don't make the commitment to bring them up from boys to men, no one else will. It benefits the other man and not the brother man to have a community full of pawns and no knights, rooks, bishops, kings or queens. This is why you can have a majority population of Blacks in Ferguson and not be able to elect a black mayor and basically the same situation in St. Louis City and no Black person was elected mayor.

The church can play a major role in this endeavor because the church has the ear of the Black community; therefore, the Spiritual message must include the lack of spirituality in our young boys and begin to build that spirit in them through the gospel

message, songs, and teachings so that they can see and hear how God used a young boy named David to defeat a military giant called Goliath (1Samuel 17:50). If our young boys see this love for them coming from the church and the community all across America, then they will start to see their fellow young Black boys in a whole new light. They will see each other as having the same struggles and frustrations. Likewise, they will be afforded the opportunities to overcome these struggles and frustrations because they would now be introduced to an entirely new mindset called *love-hope-faith*. Through this process, they will hear this *love-hope-faith* in the ministers' message, in the choirs' song, in the deacons' teaching and in the community meetings expressing love and concern for them. We must make our boys lives a priority in our communities from the time they get here until they become men and we hand over the reins to them. Through our guidance now they will be willing to put the word Soul back with the word Brother and see themselves as Soul Brothers, so they can become the men we know they can be.



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# WE ARE DIVINE LEADERS

By FARRAKHAN ALI SHEGOG  
YOUNGVOICES WITH ACTION, INC.



Giving thanks to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all he is doing in our lives and the lives of our people as well. Thank you to my ancestors and all leaders and people that have come before me and laid the foundation for me to be here today. I salute great men and women of all time such as Mansa Musa, Marcus Garvey, Adam Clayton Powell, Louis Farrakhan, Zaki Baruti, Shirley Chisolm, Muammar Ghadaffi, Nelson Mandela, Dr. King, Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, Booker T Washington, and many many great men of our race.

We are living in a time of a busy God. In the spirit of love and unity, I am grateful for this fight I have inherited. I am grateful for the spirit of God for giving me the ambitions to try and better the lives of his people. I am aware that we would not have been able to do what we are doing if the Lord was not on his side.

We indeed are divine leaders. God has given us purpose. God had given us direction. As it is written in Jeremiah 29:11, God said, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end”. Also in Jeremiah 1:5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

We must always remember this! Divine leadership is needed. A genuine leader is one who is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus. A leader whose actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader. That leadership we celebrate and work towards in bringing to reality. We have seen leaders before. We have seen God use them when they had nothing but that which he had given them. Carrying nothing but the word of God. And they were asked, what do you have in your hand that makes your leadership divine? Adam Clayton Powell explained it well.

A young slave boy stood one day before the greatest ruler of his day and God said to Moses, what’s in your hand? And Moses said Lord, I only have a stick that is all. And God said let me use what’s in your hand. And God used that slave boy with a stick in his hand to divide the Red Sea, march through the wilderness, bring water from a rock, Mana from heaven and his people to Freedom land.

What’s in your hand? What’s in your hand George Washington Carver? Who was so frail he was traded for a broken down horse as a slave boy. G.W. Carver sitting in the science laboratory at Tuskegee said I just go out in the field each morning at 5 o’clock and I let God guide me. And he brings back these little things and works with them in his laboratory. And that man did more to revolutionize the agricultural science of peanuts, cotton, and sweet potatoes than any man in the field of agricultural science.

What’s in your hand? Just let God use you that’s all. What’s in your hand? I have this

little string in my hand that’s all and I’m flying a kite. And way up in the heavens, lightening strikes it, and I Benjamin Franklin discovered for the first time the possibility of electricity with a string in my hand.

What’s in your hand little hunchback man sitting in a roman jail? I don’t have anything in my hand but an old quill pen. But God says write what I tell you to write. And Paul wrote. I have run my course with patience, I have finished my course and I have kept the faith. What’s in your hand little boy. All I got is a sling shot and the enemies of my people are great and big and more numerous than we are. Well little David go down to the brook and pick out a few stones and come on back and close your eyes if you want to and pull back that sling shot and let them go. And David killed the biggest enemy the leader of the giants and his people became free. Just letting God guide a stone in his hand.

And a few years past, David is a King. And God asks, what’s in your hand? He says I have a harp in my hand. And he said so David play on your harp and he played the:

Lord Is My Shepard.  
He maketh me lie down in green pastures,  
He leadeth me besides the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul, he leadeth me in the paths for  
righteousness for his name’s sake.  
Yea thou I walk through the valley of shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil, for thou art with me;  
Thy rod thy staff they comfort me  
Thou prepares a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;  
Thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;  
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

What’s in your hand, a man hanging from a cross? I got two nails in my hand. Father I stretch my hand to thee, no other help I know if thou withdraw thyself from me whither shall I go?

And that man with two nails in his hand split history in half. BC and AD.

And what’s in your hand tonight black people of America, the children of God. You have God in your hand. And he’ll let us win because he is on our side and one with God is always on the majority so walk with him and talk with him and work with him and stick together and fight together. And with Gods hand in our hand, the victory will be accomplished here right now. Sooner than we dream and sooner than we hoped. Sooner than we prayed for and sooner than we imagined.

We are Divine Leaders!

## H.R. 40 IS NOT THE ONLY ANSWER

By AL CALLOWAY, Journalist, South Florida Times



Typically, too many African American political leaders, preachers and so-called intellectuals shy away from the issue of Reparations. As a result, the black body politic has not risen to demand that the U.S. government, industry, and white Americans in general, deal with rectifying the heinous wrongs experienced both by our enslaved black forebears and present day African American citizens.

In the final analysis, African people throughout the Diaspora are due compensatory justice from the global “white supremacy system/culture” as a result of slavery, colonialism and neo-colonialism. Reparation is always a divisive issue, so be it. We are dealing with crimes against humanity for which justice has to be meted out.

Reparations from Germany built most of Israel’s electrical system, railroad and other infrastructure improvements. Some American tribes have received compensation for crimes against them and now own wealthy casinos and other properties. Japanese Americans got paid for being interred during WW 11. In 2001 there was a 10-day “World Conference Against Racism” in Durban, South Africa, attended by black activists, scholars, political and religious leaders from throughout the world.

The Durban conference ended with “the Diaspora United on Reparations.” However, back in America, most civil rights groups continue to side step the Reparations issue

in terms of support because it is controversial. What that means is since their hustle is white corporate “gifts” and foundation philanthropy, they have chosen to operate within the status quo, (within the realm of what the white plutocracy approves).

For every Congress since 1989, Congressman John Conyers (D-MI) from Detroit, Michigan has introduced H. R. 40, a bill that would establish a Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. Interestingly, when Barack Obama became President in 2009 and Conyers got Chairman of the Judiciary Committee and could have introduced H. R. 40 himself, House Majority Leader, Nancy Pelosi talked him out of it for fear it would be to divisive. (Although a touted so-called liberal, Pelosi is one of the richest members of Congress at the 0.1 percent bracket or wealth in the top one-tenth of the 1 percent of Americans! She is a plutocrat, folks.)

The CARICOM group of fifteen Caribbean nations has instituted a lawsuit against the United Kingdom, France and Holland for Reparations and is being supported throughout the Diaspora. The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA) is forever on the case. In 1993 the NAACP endorsed Reparations and stalwarts including activist Callie House, the late Black Nationalist “Queen Mother” Audley Moore and SNCC leader James Forman were early advocates.

If there is a point at which righteousness outweighs avarice and genocide on the scale of justice, then Africans throughout the Diaspora will be made whole. Whether it comes before or after the pending great destruction of

WW III matters little. Africans are ordained to survive and thrive. We are the world. All human life throbs within the original human beings, the owners of melanin – the great shield.

While those conditioned to struggle for Reparations through the white man’s labyrinth political maze continue chipping away there, let the rest of us explore an undeniable, clear thrust to the heart of the matter. It is simple and profound. It is a truth that sits there waiting for us to reveal it. It is your last name black people! The white man gave you his last name. Look him up, mostly through the Mormon’s records, Census information, state and county records, like that.

One thing is certain. The progeny of those who enslaved our forebears are right here; yet enjoying the fruits of ill gotten wealth. Let us begin the final stage of the American Revolution: Reparations. Match your last names with plantation owners, records of slave ships, brokers, past presidents of the U. S., signers of the Declaration of Independence and the American Constitution. Check all political officials from before 1619 onward to 1900 (we know they still managed to sneak blacks in here from the Islands or wherever after slavery supposedly ended). In the June 2014 Atlantic Monthly cover story on Reparations, black author Ta-Nehisi Coates wrote, “America begins in black plunder and white Democracy, two features that are not contradictory but complementary.”

■ Al.Calloway715@gmail.com





# THE TASK AHEAD

## The Making of 144,000 Like-Minded People

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

Wouldn't it be very advantageous for the Black Community, if many of the many social activist organizations and movements regardless of different philosophical viewpoints had massive numbers of active members and/or financial supporters?

A few examples of these organizations and movements would include the traditional ones such as the NAACP, Urban League, and nontraditional ones like the Nation of Islam, CORE, Moorish Science Temple, Hebrew Israelites, New Black Panther Party, Malcolm X Grassroots Movement, Republic of New Africa, Organization For Black Struggle, National Black United Front, National Action Network, All African Peoples Revolutionary Party and ours, The Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO) as samples of organizations/movements throughout the United States and the world seeking justice, equality and liberation for our people.

However, both the traditional and nontraditional organizations/movements are lacking the significant membership and financial support of the masses of our people, even though there are over 60 million Blacks in the U.S. Therefore, because of the lack of manpower and the financial crisis impacting our

organizations/movements, many of the serious ills facing our community go unanswered.

It is in the spirit of the above reality, that The Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO) probably reaffirms its commitment to make into reality 144,000 like-minded people, joining together as a collective force to uplift and make a better day for our people as we continue into the 21st century. The making of 144,000 like-minded people will revolve around several factors, which include the following:

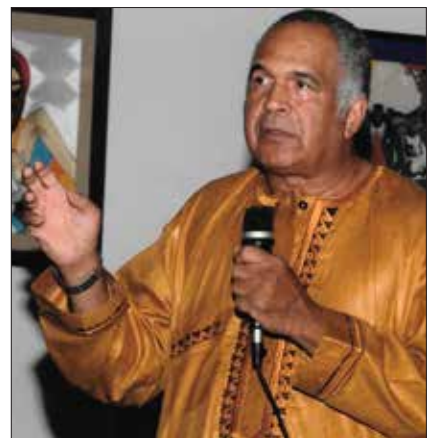
- Our motto "One God – One Goal – One Destiny"
- Our Platform
- Scriptures from the Holy Bible – Genesis 7 and Revelations 7 verse 1-4 and the Holy Quran, Surah 103

With a proven track record of speaking "Truth to Power" and working diligently to uplift our people, we know definitely that our ability to achieve great works would be enhanced to unprecedented heights when we accomplish our goal of 144,000 like-minded people. With the support of 144,000 annual dues paying members of \$25, we will immediately become an economic, political,

educational and social force that will be able to influence the Socio-Economic policies of this society that negatively impacts our communities.

With the making of 144,000 we will be able to proclaim unto the Creator that we look forward to divine intervention as mentioned in the Scriptures, but recognizing that as a people we must "Do for Self" and "Faith Without Works is Dead".

Help us redeem our people – become one of the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO) 144,000 members/supporters!!!



## Global Pan-Africanism

BY AMARI SNEFERU, MGR. GENERAL OF THE UAPO



In the spirit of the Ancestors, we must unite based on our commonality of African descent and based on our common condition of being oppressed throughout this world. It is our common interest to pursue the goal of total liberation for all African people. We endeavor to control our own destiny, and provide for ourselves the fruits of freedom, justice and global power. The Universal African Peoples Organization is fostering a movement predicated on these ideas using the philosophy of Pan-Africanism as a means. Pan-Africanism represents an aggregation of historical, cultural, spiritual, artistic and scientific legacies from past to present. It is also an ethical system that traces its roots from ancient times and continues to promote values that are products of a high African civilization. It speaks to our struggle against slavery, racism, colonialism and neo-colonialism. In the United States the term Pan-Africanism is an ideology of African identity politics. The term was originally coined by Henry Sylvester-Williams back in 1900, but was said to have originated even before then with Edward Wilmot Blyden. This philosophy embodies a commitment of making Africa the center of our culture, politics, economics, spirituality and beyond. It is our best vehicle for arriving at our long awaited destination of true liberation.

However, in many ways liberation is more of a process than a destination. In this regard we as an organization have been proactive and sometimes re-active on issues impacting our people on a global scale. We have been pro-active in the fight to eradicate illiteracy in Ethiopia by shipping over 9,000 books in 2006. We also shipped relief supplies to Namibia in 1989, to Zimbabwe in 2003, to Haiti in 2006, again to Haiti in 2012 and over 10,000 books to Ghana in 2015. Since our inception we have been committed to extending the humanitarian hand of support to our beloved brothers and sisters in need. We have also been proactive in promoting the message that we are a global people and we must learn and teach our children about the nations of the world as well as the issues

that affect them. We also promote educating ourselves about movements and revolutions, and how they affect African people in particular. It is imperative that we develop the ability to critically analyze the world and what must be done to forge our own path to greatness.

On the other hand, we as an organization have been re-active globally in the sense that we lead the charge against injustice and unwarranted American aggression. It's the legacy of our organization's founders (Zaki Baruti and Safiyah Chauvin), to speak truth to power. Whether it comes in the form of blistering articles from our Newspaper (The African NewsWorld) or by way of vigorous protest; we are committed to that legacy of speaking truth even when no one else does. We have taken bold and courageous stances against U.S. misguided foreign policy practices in Africa and will continue to do so no matter who's elected in November. We stood up in reaction to the U.S. and N.A.T.O. bombing of Libya, the assassination of President Gaddafi and the further expansion of AF-RICOM; all happening under an Obama presidency. We vehemently oppose any use of our black tax dollars to weaken or destabilize in any way, our beloved continent of Africa. Freedom, justice and respect of sovereignty; is what we stand for.

No matter how black or white the enemy, we stand grounded in Pan-Africanism. We are compelled to react and fight back the evils of white supremacy whenever it raises its ugly head.

Our vision is to build a powerful and influential organization of likeminded people. Thinking globally and acting locally, we embrace the ideology of Pan-Africanism because it encourages the solidarity of African people worldwide. It is based on the belief that African unity is vital to our economic, social and political progress. This ideology asserts that the fate of African people, regardless of dialect or distance, remains intertwined. Pan-Africanism is a belief that African peoples, both on the continent and through-

out the diaspora, share not only a common ancestry, but a common destiny. With that said, huge obstacles and schisms still remain in our path. Mass incarceration of our mind body and spirit continues to be our challenge to undo. So here we are in the fall of 2016; still inebriated from 500 years from spirits forced-fed by our conquerors. The solution is to make our coffee black and strong; to not allow the infiltration of other agendas to dilute our mission and keep us asleep. We must allow this mission to inspire a true black movement; one that will resurrect and restore that which has been broken.

Pan-Africanism is the right tool for building a collective reality of self reliance for our people. It removes our shameful legacy of dependency. It restores our dignity and re-energizes the power of the African spirit. This is the prescription for our success and the shared vision of leaders like Marcus Garvey, Kwame Nkrumah, Patrice Lumumba and Malcolm X; we are the whirlwind manifestation of their vision; reemerging to advance the work of our beloved ancestors. We must keep the coffee black and strong. An all-African alliance united under the Red, Black and Green; is what we need. This will empower African people on a global scale and lead to a power consolidation in Africa. That alone would compel a re-allocation of global resources; unleashing a renaissance of economic, political and cultural energy enough to alter the balance of power in the world. An international unified African agenda is what Pan-Africanism is all about. It will seed a unified Africa that will bond to its Diaspora. This is our best collective chance for a prosperous future; our best collective chance to compete powerfully on the world stage. The Universal African Peoples Organization is committed to the best collective option for black people; the practice of Pan-Africanism. We warmly extend an invitation for like minds to join us in this noble endeavor to restore African people to our rightful place of power in today's world.



# A BOLD VISION & ACTION NEEDED TO ADDRESS "PROPORTIONATE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION"

A Bold Vision and Action Needed To Address "Proportionate Political Repräsentation"		
" This concept simply means that whatever percentage we are as a people on the national, State and Local levels of this country, then we should have that percentage of political repräsentation/power"!!!		
It is estimated that we are 13% of the United States Population		
Total Estimated Number of Elected Officials In The United States- (511,000)	Total Number of United States Governors (50)	Total Number of United States Senators (100)
Total Estimated Number of Black Elected Officials - (12,000) or 3 Percent	Number of Black Governors (0) or 0 Percent	Number of Black United States Senators (3) or 3 Percent
With "Porportionate Political Repräsentation" That Number Should Be (66,430) or 13 Percent"	With "Proportionate Political Repräsentation" That Number Should Be (7) or 13 Percent	With "Proportionate Political Repräsentation" That Number Should Be (13) or 13 Percent

**To address the issue of "Proportionate Political Representation, "The Universal African Peoples Organization recommends the following:**

1. That Political, Spiritual, Economic and Social Leaders of our communities endorse and support “Proportionate Political Representation.”
2. That these same community leaders attend and support our annual National Black Political Leadership Conferences and adopt the 19 Points for National Black Self-Determination.
3. Implementation of Statewide Black Political Leadership Conferences across the United States to seek candidates for statewide and local elected offices and educate those in attendance to the issues impacting us on the local, state, and federal levels of government.
4. To have statewide candidates campaigning simultaneously on the same issues impacting our communities across the United States.

Such an effort described above would increase our political status nationally and will eventually help us to acquire power that would enhance our opportunities to reshape the public policies impacting our communities.

Achieving “Proportionate Political Representation” will also help influence the expenditures of the billions of dollars that flow through national, state, and local governments, especially in light of the fact that we are taxpayers. Finally, we once again strongly encourage every Political, Spiritual, Economic and Social Leaders of our communities to endorse and support “Proportionate Political Representation.”

**Let’s Begin To Target The 2018 Federal and State Elections!!!**

Remember – There are No Black governors when there should be at least 7 and there are only 3 Black United States Senators when there should be at least 13.

As a key component of our National Black Political Empowerment Movement, we are seeking a team of Black Men and women willing to become candidates for the United States Senate and Governors in the upcoming 2018 Elections. We also ask that these candidates endorse the National Black Agenda 19 Points for Self -Determination.

*For more information call (314) 833-4151 or (314) 477-4629*

**United States Senate Seats Up For Election in 2018 and the Percentage of the Black Population Per State**

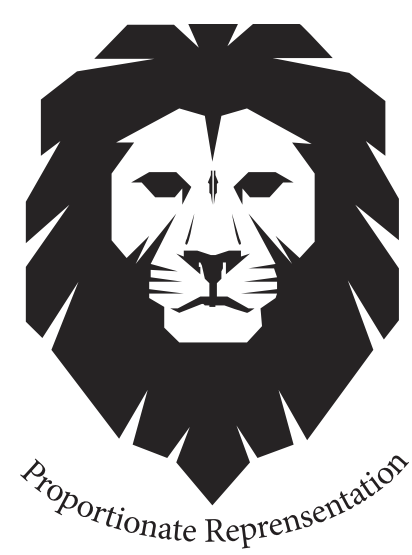
1. Alabama - 26.4%	8. Indiana - 9.1%	15. Missouri - 10.5%	22. North Dakota - 1.1%	29. Vermont - 0.7%
2. Arizona - 4.2%	9. Maine - 1%	16. Montana - 0.7%	23. Ohio - 12%	30. Virginia - 20%
3. California - 6.7%	10. Maryland - 30%	17. Nebraska - 4.5%	24. Pennsylvania - 11%	31. Washington - 3.7%
4. Connecticut - 10.3%	11. Massachusetts - 8%	18. Nevada - 8.1%	25. Rhode Island - 7.5%	32. West Virginia - 3.6%
5. Delaware - 21%	12. Michigan - 14.4%	19. New Jersey - 14.4%	26. Tennessee - 16.7%	33. Wisconsin - 6.1%
6. Florida - 16%	13. Minnesota - 4.6%	20. New Mexico - 3%	27. Texas - 12%	34. Wyoming - 1.3%
7. Hawaii - 3.1%	14. Mississippi - 37.3%	21. New York - 15%	28. Utah - 1.3%	

**Governors Seats Up For Election in 2018!!!**

1. Alabama - 26.4%	9. Georgia - 31.4%	17. Massachusetts - 8%	25. Ohio - 12%	33. Texas - 12%
2. Alaska - 4.2%	10. Hawaii - 3.1%	18. Michigan - 14.4%	26. Oklahoma - 8%	34. Vermont - 0.9%
3. Arizona - 4.8%	11. Idaho - 1%	19. Minnesota - 4.6%	27. Oregon - 2%	35. Wisconsin - 6.1%
4. Arkansas - 15.8%	12. Illinois - 15%	20. Nebraska - 4.5%	28. Pennsylvania - 10.8%	36. Wyoming - 1.3%
5. California - 6.7%	13. Iowa - 2.7%	21. Nevada - 8.1%	29. Rhode Island - 7.5%	
6. Colorado - 4.3%	14. Kansas - 6.2%	22. New Hampshire - 1.2%	30. South Carolina - 28.5%	
7. Connecticut - 10.3%	15. Maine - 1%	23. New Mexico - 3%	31. South Dakota - 1%	
8. Florida - 15.9%	16. Maryland - 30%	24. New York - 15.2%	32. Tennessee - 16.7%	

THE UNIVERSAL AFRICAN POPLES ORGANISATION (UAPO) EXTENDS A SINCERE THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS WHO SUPPORTED THE LEWIS REED FOR MAYOR OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI CAMPAIGN. WE ALSO PROUDLY PROCLAIM THAT WE WERE VICTORIOUS IN THE OVERALL VOTE TOTAL FOR THE FOUR CITY WARDS THAT WERE OUR RESPONSIBILITY DURING THE CAMPAIGN SEASON!!!

(Listed below are the Tuesday, March 7th, 2018 Democratic Party Results from the four wards mentioned above)



Candidates	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 21	Ward 22	Total
Lewis Reed	465	562	559	375	1,966
Antonio French	430	334	684	268	1,716
Tishaura Jones	517	388	445	318	1,668
Lyda Krewson	101	167	86	48	402
Jeffrey Boyd	44	53	45	226	368
Jimmy Mathews	6	6	7	5	24
Bill Hass	4	3	1	0	8

**PLEASE NOTE:**

There are a total of 28 Wards in St. Louis City. Unfortunately, because there were 5 Black candidates in the Democratic Party Primary Election our votes were divided and the eventual winner by an 888 - vote margin was Lyda Krewson, the white female candidate. She was supported by the former racist Francis Slay and the predominate white police union. On April 4th, Lyda Krewson was officially elected as mayor in the general election. How Sad!!!



# Pictorial Scenes of R

A Special Thanks to the P  
Rostand Darbouze, Queen Zulu A

## Jazz Tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. featuring 3 Central Jazz Band January 28, 2017



Participants at Political Forum November 2016



Young Brothers Joining UAPO at Men's Day Program January 14, 2017



Circle of Love at UAPO Meeting February 7, 2017



Young People Excited About the African NewsWorld

**Tune into the Television Program  
"Conversations with Zaki Baruti"  
every Saturday Night on  
Channel 24 KNLC at 11PM**





# Recent UAPO Activities

Following Photographers  
Aza, Roderick Bell, Amir Brandy



**On the Campaign Trail for  
Farrakhan Shegog, Councilman  
Wellston, Missouri April 1, 2017**

## UAPO Night at the Movies Previewing James Baldwin's "I Am Not Your Negro" March 9, 2017



**Chillin' At Birthday Brunch For Queen Ziah, April 2, 2017**



**Congratulations to  
UAPO Member, Carmen  
Austell on being elected  
2nd Ward City Council-  
woman, Blackjack, MO  
April 4, 2017**



**UAPO Street Patrol/Founder's Day Celebration April 11, 2017**

l-r Gwen Cogshell (Imani), Tracey Reese,  
Winfield Scott & George Harris



**Anthony Shahid, Pres. Tauheed Youth Group Presenting  
Community Service Awards April 7, 2017**

l-r Mike Brown, Sr. Zaki Baruti, Tory Russell & Brother Sultan



**UAPO Members at Tauheed Youth Group Dinner  
Supporting Zaki April 7, 2017**



l-r Brandon Bosley, (3rd Ward Alderman),  
Farrakhan Shegog (UAPO Member) &  
John Muhammad (21st Ward Alderman)



UAPO Ward Organizers l-r  
Myron Holman El, Rochelle Riggins  
Tyrean Lewis & Winfield Scott



# CHINA SOUNDS THE ALARM: TRUMP PREPARES FOR WAR AGAINST NORTH KOREA

By BRIAN BECKER, ANSWER Coalition National Coordinator



Since this article was first published, the U.S. military has dropped the Massive Ordnance Air Blast Bomb on Afghanistan. The MOAB is a weapon of mass destruction, the most powerful non-nuclear bomb in the U.S. arsenal. Contrary to the Trump administration’s lies about the MOAB being necessary to destroy ISIS tunnels, but it is not an earth-penetrating munition and serves no purpose other than to sow terror by incinerating all life in its blast radius. In addition to being a monstrous crime against the people of Afghanistan, this is a clear and highly dangerous signal designed to intimidate North Korea and China.

It is not possible to overstate the impact on U.S. and global politics of Trump’s unilateral, surprise cruise missile strikes on Syria at the very moment that he was having dinner with China’s President Xi Jinping.

China got Trump’s message: China must either break from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea – North Korea – or minimally it must apply immense pressure on it to suspend its nuclear and ballistic missile tests, or Trump is prepared carry out a another round of unilateral military action on China’s border.

With each passing day it becomes clear that the Trump administration has borrowed a page from the Ronald Reagan playbook. Like Trump, Ronald Reagan was written off at first as nothing more than a right-wing, lunatic, grade B-actor/entertainer. But he became a vessel for the Pentagon and eventually was made into an establishment icon because U.S. imperialism recovered from its declining role under his strategy of hyper-militarism and escalating threats.

Trump’s military action against Syria muted his ruling-class critics, and he won the praise of the Democratic Party leadership and the mainstream media. Trump is on a roll and the next target is North Korea. The Democratic Party “resistance” to Trump has been replaced by obsequiousness. Congress barely whimpered that Trump didn’t even bother to ask for authorization for new war.

The Chinese leadership is obviously stunned. In fact, China is now convinced that a new U.S. military strike in Asia may be imminent unless the DPRK backs down from further expected weapons tests perhaps as early as this coming Saturday – the birthday anniversary of Kim Il Sung, the founding leader of the DPRK.

It must be remembered that the DPRK has consistently offered to suspend nuclear weapons tests in return for the United States cancelling its massive, annual military exercises that simulate the destruction of the North. Both the Obama administration and the Trump administration immediately rejected this offer. The DPRK has also made it clear that what it actually seeks is a peace treaty with the United States to formally end the Korean War that began nearly 70 years ago.

Should Trump take military action and the DPRK responds, which is likely, a new major war could be unleashed.

China lost more than 180,000 soldiers helping North Korea’s military units push U.S. troops out of North Korea in 1950. On the Korean side, more than 5 million Koreans perished according to the Encyclopedia

Britannica and the destruction caused by U.S. aerial bombardment was so complete that not one structure higher than one story high was still standing in the capitol of the North, Pyongyang. China understands that Trump’s actions could lead to another and possibly greater catastrophe.

Trump is using the most extreme hawkish rhetoric against the DPRK – far beyond the usual presidential warnings and threats. “We are sending an armada. Very powerful. We have submarines. Very powerful, far more powerful than the aircraft carrier, that I can tell you.” Trump is correct on that point: the Ohio-class Trident submarine can launch a salvo of 192 nuclear warheads able to simultaneously and almost instantly destroy 24 cities.

**Trump ready for war in Korea? China thinks so** “The U.S. is making up its mind to stop the North from conducting further nuclear tests, it doesn’t plan to co-exist with a nuclear-armed Pyongyang,” reports the lead April 12 editorial in the Global Times, a media site that unofficially reflects the actual thinking of the Chinese leadership.

Trump tweeted on Tuesday April 11: “North Korea is looking for trouble. If China decides to help, that would be great. If not, we will solve the problem without them!”

Following his tweet Trump placed a direct phone call to Xi Jinping to warn and threaten China.

Immediately after the phone call with Trump the Chinese media sounded the alarm and insisted that the DPRK not proceed with its expected missile tests. The Chinese media sharply demanded that the DPRK cancel any weapons test for April 15. The Global Times editorial is truly unprecedented and announces that China is ready to cut off oil exports to North Korea whose economy has stabilized in recent years.

It is essential to read the words of the remarkable lead editorial by the Global Times:

“The U.S. aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson is headed toward the Korean Peninsula after abruptly turning back from sailing to Australia, and Trump sent a warning via his tweet. These are probably related to reports that satellite surveillance shows North Korea is likely to conduct new nuclear tests.

**“Washington’s latest threat to Pyongyang is more credible given its just launched missile attack at an air base in Syria. The Korean Peninsula has never been so close to a military clash since the North conducted its first nuclear test in 2006.** (our emphasis)

“If Pyongyang conducts its sixth nuclear test in the near future, the possibility of U.S. military action against it will be higher than ever. Not only is Washington brimming with confidence and arrogance following the missile attacks on Syria, but Trump is also willing to be regarded as a man who honors his promises.

“Now the Trump team seems to have decided to solve the North Korean nuclear crisis. As the discussion runs deeper, a situation of no-solution will not be accepted...

“The U.S. is making up its mind to stop the North from conducting further nuclear tests, it doesn’t plan to co-exist with a nuclear-armed Pyongyang.

“China supports solution of the North Korean nuclear issue under the framework of UNSC and Six-Party Talks. If the U.S. takes unilateral action, it will win little international support. Pyongyang can continue its tough stance, however, for its own security, it should at least halt provocative nuclear and missile activities.

**“Pyongyang should avoid making mistakes at this time.”** (our emphasis)

**“Military First”: Trump employs the Ronald Reagan playbook**

Donald Trump is clearly adopting the strategy of Ronald Reagan in the 1980s. Reagan’s surprise 1980 presidential victory led to a profound realignment of global politics. It was an earlier iteration of Trump’s “Make America Great Again” brand. Reagan and the Pentagon were arguing that America was in decline but that a vast show of military spending and military power could turn the tide.

Reagan employed vast increases in military spending coupled with reckless threats and preparation for wars abroad as a way of gaining leverage over major world powers. In the 1980s, China joined Reagan in an anti-Soviet alliance and in return was rewarded with the U.S. government’s decision to allow American corporations to engage in foreign direct investment in China while maintaining severe sanctions and technology embargoes on the Soviet Union at a time when the USSR’s economic growth had already slowed.

Reagan’s “military first” strategy ultimately allowed U.S. imperialism to regain its global role following the humiliating defeat it suffered in Vietnam, which in turn created space for anti-imperialist forces everywhere. U.S. troops were forced out of Vietnam in 1973. In the face of weakened U.S. power, revolutionary movements swept Portugal, Angola, Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau, Ethiopia, Afghanistan, Iran, Nicaragua and El Salvador. It looked like the empire was in dramatic decline.

But Reagan and the Pentagon brass employed a new strategy of military build-up, brute force, military threats, and a carrots-and-stick approach of economic and diplomatic rewards and punishments, allowing the United States to either destabilize or reorient the positions of both China and the Soviet leadership.

This was how American imperialism became “great again” following its setbacks in Southeast Asia. This now is the Trump/Pentagon prescription to “Make America Great Again” following its debacle in the Middle East wars of the past two decades.

Today, the danger of igniting regional and global confrontation is real. China and Russia are backpedaling, hoping that their prudence, or possible appeasement, will deter or deflect the danger. Their position is understandable given the level of risk. But appeasement, as we know from history, poses its own risks in the face of bullying and aggression. Appeasing the bully, the aggressor, invites more not less aggression.



# BIGGER THAN SPORTS: KAEPERNICK AND THE TRADITION OF RADICAL ATHLETES

By ABRAHAM MARQUEZ, Liberation News



Last year in game 3 of a 4 game National Football League pre-season series, quarterback Colin Kaepernick chose not to stand for the National Anthem. It wasn't the first time he did this, but it was the first time a reporter noticed. Like millions of other people across the country, it was after this game that Kaepernick said publicly he'd had enough of the injustice that people of color experience in the United States.

In the United States, the combination of professional sports and political activism is nothing new. However, by not only refusing to stand up for the National Anthem, but also calling out the U.S. government for the mistreatment of African Americans and war veterans on national television was one of the boldest political moves we've seen or heard in over a decade from a professional athlete.

Even recently, prior to Kaepernick's protest, other athletes had expressed their political views about police brutality and racism. Some of these athletes took it to social media and/or joined the community in protest. We saw New York Knicks guard Carmelo Anthony marching with the people in Baltimore demanding justice for Freddie Gray. We also saw the NBA team Miami Heat post a team picture of everyone wearing a hoodie in solidarity with Trayvon Martin. In addition, we saw players like Kobe Bryant and Kyrie Irving wear "Can't breathe" t-shirts before a game. Later, we saw three Women's National Basketball Association teams wear Black Lives Matter t-shirts in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Despite these actions, most of us have grown accustomed to most professional athletes saying and doing very little about injustice, racism and a corrupt presidential cycle.

But in 2017, we've crossed a line. The discussion about racism in America has not only intensified in our own communities, it has reached a critical mass in the sports world. We are now seeing more and more athletes take a stand about the killings of unarmed African Americans and grand jury decisions that have set fire in the streets as the nation watched another killer cop get away with murder.

Kaepernick is joining the ranks of Muhammad Ali with his refusal to fight in Vietnam and Tommie Smith and John Carlos with their Black Power salute at the 1968 Olympics. He's also joining Craig Hodges, who won two NBA titles with the 1991 and 1992 Chicago Bulls.

Hodges did something no other athlete had ever done before. Hodges was known for his charitable work in oppressed and impoverished Black communities, and also known for calling out Michael Jordan for his lack of involvement in Black communities. After winning the 1992 NBA Championship, the team got to visit then-president George H. W. Bush at the White House. Hodges, unlike the rest of the team, showed up in a dashiki proudly representing his West African roots. He then handed the president a letter, addressing issues in African American communities. As a result, Craig Hodges never played professional basketball in the United States again and was titled an "embarrassment to the league" by many team owners and executives. Hodges never fully escaped being banned from playing in the NBA. Kaepernick too has been accused of being un-American, unpatriotic, and a "traitor to the nation." His situation highlights the cavernous gap that still needs to be crossed in confronting the brutal truth and legacy of racism in the United States. Kaepernick's statement about police brutality is not some story line fabricated to drive up jersey sales and television ratings. These are realities known and felt by millions in the United States. There are videos clearly displaying cops killing unarmed people, taking innocent lives.

In addition, Kaepernick's statements on the corrupt presidential election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump also hit a nerve. If anything, Kaepernick is saying what a lot of us have been thinking. First, anyone that followed the 2016 election knows that Hillary Clinton is a racist, war mongering mouthpiece for Wall Street. Secondly, anyone with a pulse knows that Donald Trump is an out-and-out racist. That is why the media's anti-Kaepernick campaign coverage from the start has focused on anything but the actual message and has since stayed there.

Kaepernick is a role model whose example shows that if you see and experience injustice you fight back. That if you learn that your government is sending you to fight wars overseas to destroy a country that poses no threat to your freedom, you fight back. If you see a cop get away with murder for killing innocent people, you fight back. Most of all, his situation shows the hypocrisy of a sport that has given second chances to players such as Greg Hardy and Ray McDonald, who were accused of domestic violence and Ben Roethlisberger, twice accused of sexual assault, and yet finds itself in crisis over a player

protesting for the victims of racist violence.

Athletes speaking out is nothing new. During the 1960's and 70's, millions of African American workers were

actively engaged in a struggle against the intense racism of U.S. society. The civil rights and Black power movements helped politicize huge sectors of the working class. In this historical context, great athletes like Muhammad Ali, Roberto Clemente, Tommie Smith and John Carlos inspired people across the world with their uncompromising solidarity with the oppressed. These sports heroes were often strong advocates in the struggle against racism. Now, in 2017, we are seeing more and more athletes displaying solidarity with every social movement that's come in the last ten years, such as Occupy Wall Street, Black Lives Matter, Fight for \$15 and NoDAPL. But how did we get here?

Did someone personally call Colin Kaepernick and all the other professional athletes to take a stand? The honest answer is "no." We got here because of the power of the people. It was the people who took over the streets in protest in the 1950's, 60's, 70's and 80's and now to demand justice for the killings of unarmed and innocent people. It was the people who took over the streets when George Zimmerman walked away "not guilty." We saw the same after Oscar Grant, Freddie Gray, Sandra Bland and the many others. It was the people, the fans and athletes, who spoke out and removed two racist NBA owners, Donald Sterling and Bruce Levenson, after they were exposed as racists. The league already knew they were racist, but it wasn't until the people spoke out that pushed the league to force them to sell the teams. Big game protests

Professional sports are a media spectacle to be sure. Every year, millions of workers across the country turn their attention to the big game, the Super Bowl, the NBA Finals, the World Series and other prominent athletic events. These events are huge money-makers for the capitalist class. Billions of dollars change hands as corporations vie for the best advertising slots, the most prominent billboards along the field, the biggest star's endorsement of their newest product and so on.

But in 2017, the Super Bowl opened with a protest of fists in the air after the national anthem as Patriots free safety Devin McCourty and tight end Martellus Bennett expressed their solidarity with the struggle for justice.

After winning the Super Bowl, it didn't come as a shock that Bennett and McCourty were the players with New England to reject the team visit to the White House. In the Patriots' first game of the regular season, both players raised their fist after the national anthem. Now, up to four players have declined to join the team in visiting the White House and President Donald Trump.

Seattle Seahawks defense lineman Michael Bennett made a last-minute decision that came as an embarrassment to the State of Israel and the U.S. empire. Originally, Israel invited a group of professional football players to visit. Israel called this a mission aimed at improving the country's image and that the visit would help against "the false incitement campaign that is being waged against Israel around the world" as Israeli Cabinet Minister Gilad Erdan put it. Edran leads the Ministry for Strategic Affairs and has waged a campaign to boost Israel's image and counter the influence of the BDS movement. In Michael Bennett's letter rejecting the visit to Israel, he expressed his solidarity with Palestine and cited the example of Muhammad Ali and the late boxing legend's support for the Palestinians. Bennett said he too wants to be a "voice for the voiceless."

It was the pressure from the Black community and many other social struggles that ultimately brought the attention to mainstream media of police brutality. Now, we are seeing professional athletes such as Michael Bennett speak out on the genocide of Palestinians by the hands of Israel and the U.S. empire.

How many more Fergusons, Oscar Grants and Trayvon Martins are we going to experience in our communities? Colin Kaepernick and Michael Bennett along with millions of Americans are tired of this injustice. They are doing what many of us have done for decades—that is to protest and stand up for what is right—and we have to continue to organize and protest the injustices so that everyone, including professional athletes, working people and students, can join us in the streets to demand justice.

Speaking the truth was Kaepernick's only crime. That is why he is being forced out of the sport, just as Hodges was. But the strength that Kaepernick, Hodges and Bennett have shown should provide strength in turn to our movement against injustice, oppression, poverty and exploitation.



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# A STORY OF TREACHERY

Continued from Pg. 3

Not getting answers on the unauthorized payments, Stephanie again refused to make full payments on the loan to such an extent that the bank started offering modifications to the loan which she refused to accept. In responding to her not accepting the modifications, US Bank foreclosed on the properties.

In 2010, after being evicted, Ms. Brown finally sued US Bank, its subsidiary SA Group Property, Tyrus Sanders, ISC (the white contractor) and Steven Leask , an officer of Old Republic Title Company who sold the property at the foreclosure sale .

The case went to trial in 2013 but she was not able to get a jury trial. The judge who presided over the case ruled that the bank was in Breach of Contract in allowing the unauthorized \$43,000.00 plus interest payment to the white contractor and forcing her to make the \$20,000.00 lien payment. However, the judge also ruled that she was in default of the loan, which upheld the legal loss of the properties. Adding insult to injury, she also was mandated to reimburse the bank's attorneys \$49,000.00 bringing her total now due to \$109,674.00 which negated the previous

financial ruling in her favor.

Stephanie requested and paid for a copy of all exhibits and a transcript of record from the trial court to file an appeal. However, Judge Deiker and his court reporter Susan Moody both withheld requested information for 6 months after the final ruling. Once she received the transcripts, she noted that the exhibits and the trial transcripts did not align and Some of the exhibits were missing. Being a determined fighter, she took her case to The Missouri Court of Appeals Eastern District. in 2015, but was not successful in her appeal.

Ms. Brown maintains that US Bank through its misfeasance and malfeasance mislead her into the position of a co-signer on a loan that they took out. The bank and others have been unjustly enriched because of their illegal acts such as misrepresentation, deception, wrongdoing, unwarranted interference, negligence, and fraud. These actions included, Breach of contract, interest payments on fraudulent disbursements, hiring a contractor to perform the work who sat on the bank's advisory board, assuming control over the loan funds and the project and

misplacing her loan file. Along with the bank misconduct Ms. Brown maintains the judicial system treated her unfairly in denying her a jury trial and she feels this unjust treatment was based on race and gender.

Ms. Brown has learned a valuable lesson in her unsuccessful business venture. As a business owner you must do your homework, always have legal representation when negotiating business and be extra careful to align yourself with people of integrity.

In conclusion, the ordeal Ms. Brown had to endure with US Bank has caused her tremendous emotional stress and duress, great financial loss, and the opportunity for a comfortable retirement.

She wants her reparations from US Bank to make herself whole again. Do you agree? If yes, please Email: [stephsalonspa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stephsalonspa@sbcglobal.net) or Contact: US Bank President Richard Davis, phone (513)-832-4234 Fax: (513)-832-4967 or Timothy N. Scheer, Vice President of US Bank and S.A. Group Properties Phone: (314) 418-2458 Fax: (314) 418-2135.

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## ST. LOUIS FILMMAKER Continued from Pg. 4

Finally, Ms. Wright wants everyone to be fully aware of LRA perpetrates the blight prevalent in the Black community. First of all, the people should know that LRA was formed in 1984 to receive title to all tax delinquent properties sold at the Sheriff's sale. It also receives title to properties through donations. The SLDC Real Estate maintains markets and sells these properties and supposedly performs land assemblage for future development. However, according to a study by the think tank "Show Me Institute" in 2012, LRA rejected more than 40% of purchase offers which runs counter to their stated goal of putting property back on the tax rolls and getting them redeveloped.

Secondly, the LRA has over 12,000 abandoned commercial and residential buildings and structures throughout St. Louis that are truly eye sores and havens for criminal activity.

Thirdly, many low income citizens' homes were taken by St. Louis city and gifted to LRA because they are violated by city inspectors for undone repairs within a allotted time the city requires. Most commonly undone repairs are merely the need of tuck pointing and chip paint on the exterior of the homes. The Majority of these homeowners affected are senior citizens who have struggled to better their homes for 30 years. Therefore, fines placed on citizens by the City Housing Courts add up rapidly causing homeowners to lose their properties per the tremendous fines.

In conclusion, the question of the day is, Why hasn't (Land Revitalization Authority) been fined for all of the neglected properties it owns throughout the city

causing the extreme amounts of blighted areas that exist in our communities?

### If you are interested in how LRA operates see below:

- Meetings are held in the Board room of the St. Louis Development Corporation 1520 Market Street, suite 2000 at 8:30a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month. All meetings are open to the public an agenda is posted approximately 5 days in advance of the meeting.

- **Member of the Board**  
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- THE POLITICS OF REPARATIONS • COUNTERING GENTRIFICATION
- STRATEGIES FOR SELECTING CONSENSUS CANDIDATES
- A STRATEGY FOR THE UPCOMING 2018 STATE & FEDERAL ELECTIONS

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OMALI YESHITELI - AFRICAN PEOPLES SOCIALIST PARTY - ST. PETERSBURG, FL  
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B

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C

Cabo Verde

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Democratic Republic of the Congo

Republic of the Congo

Cote d'Ivoire

D

Djibouti

E

Egypt

Equatorial Guinea

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Ethiopia

G

Gabon

Gambia

Ghana

Guinea

Guinea-Bissau

K

Kenya

L

Lesotho

Liberia

Libya

M

Madagascar

Malawi

Mali

Mauritania

Mauritius

Morocco

Mozambique

N

Namibia

Niger

Nigeria

R

Rwanda

S

Sao Tome and Principe

Senegal

Seychelles

Sierra Leone

Somalia

South Africa

South Sudan

Sudan

Swaziland

T

Tanzania

Togo

Tunisia

U

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Z

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# Universal African Peoples Organization

## PLATFORM

**OUR VISION...** to build a powerful and influential organization of 144,000 like minded people who accept the principles of our:

### 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.

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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.

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