



THE **African** **NEWSWORLD**

A Media That “WE” Control

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SPRING/SUMMER 2018 EDITION

An Organ of the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPPO)

**Spread The
Word!!!**

Remember This Date

**Tuesday,
August 7, 2018**

**Be One of the
144,000+
Who Support
“Proportionate
Political
Representation”**

**Vote In The
Democratic
Primary Election**



**Carla “Coffee” Wright
United States Senator/Missouri**

***Coffee is Bold, Beautiful and Represents The Interest of the
Working Class and Poor People of Missouri and America***

LET THE PEOPLE BE HEARD

“Why Will You Be One of the 144,000+ to Vote for Coffee Wright, U.S. Senator?”



Marble Davis - 50
Green Party Candidate for St. Louis Collector of Revenue

I will both vote and support Coffee Wright because she is 200% bonafide and ready to get the job done as the next United States Senator. Ms. Wright is passionate and dedicated about the issues that affect me as an African American tax payer Righteous Citizen. Three critical points that she's passionate about as I am includes (1) the mass incarceration of our people (2) education reform and (3) assisting the unhoused citizens of Missouri that's why I say vote "Coffee -Coffee-Coffee".



Larry Freeman - 44
Entrepreneur

I will be one of the 144,000 plus voting for Ms. Coffee Wright because she stands for justice, equality, peace and prosperity for all the people of Missouri and the United States. She also stands for the Principle of "Proportionate Political Representation" which we need now to counter taxation without representation. Run Coffee Run!



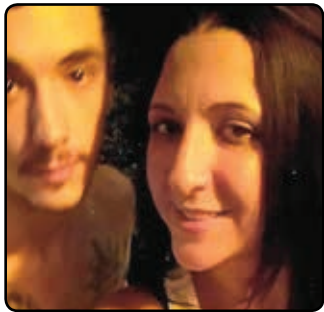
Ren E Ankh - 74
Retired

I'm voting for Coffee Wright because she calls for immediate impeachment of racist and sexist Donald Trump. Also, her core values are identical to mine including Community Control of the Police, amnesty for nonviolent offenders, end to homelessness and host of other great values.



Assata Storm - 52
Former Educator, Entertainer, Independent Caregiver

Coffee Wright is a Community Activist and leader with a big heart of love for the people. She stays on the front line and cares for all people including homeless people, missing people, people in need of an education, people murdered and the unjust treatment of people. Coffee does what a lot of folks only talk about. She is currently running for the U.S. Senate in hopes of winning to give a voice and power to the people. She is a mother and woman of strength, love, integrity and commitment. Coffee isn't rich in money, but she is rich inside, in the heart and in her belief. So please be like me and vote. Vote Coffee Wright.



Gina Torres - 40
Caretaker for father Dennis Torres/ Part-time Bartender

I am the mother of four children, one of whom is deceased. Isaiah Michael Hammett was my oldest. He was only 21 when he lost his life to the hands of the murderous St. Louis Police Department by way of the S.W.A.T. team. Carina Maria Hammett is my second born and she just turned 16. She is a Freshman at Gateway STEM and a participant in the Junior R.O.T.C. program. My two youngest, Angelo and Bobby are 10 and 6. They both attend St. Louis Premier Charter School.

My reason for voting as well as standing beside the Wonderful Coffee Wright is simple. Coffee is for the people that matters as much as any others for Justice. Personally, I see her as a sister; a dedicated and determined strong Black Woman. What's understood, doesn't need to be explained. Vote for Coffee Wright.



Rhea Willis
Educator - St. Louis Public Schools

It is wonderful to have our sisters of color to run and hold government and state positions. We need more women of color to continue with encouraging and supporting each other in this journey. As it is known that women of color are lacking representation in this area, in which there are more Caucasian men and women in these revolving positions of power. The change is needed and we should unite and support our Black women who have the courage, strength, and dedication to lead and not allow their emotions to cloud their decision making. I am voting and praying that Coffee Wright is elected U.S. Senator for Missouri



Bruce Morrison - 55
Attorney - Great Rivers Environmental Law Center

My name is Bruce Morrison. I am one of the 144,000 plus who will cast my vote for Carla Coffee Wright. Generation after generation, people of color in this country have been forced to bear a greater share of our country's burdens without being given an equivalent access to our country's benefits. One of candidate Wright's core values is to reinstate climate accords. Carbon pollution not only fuels climate change, it also triggers more asthma attacks and respiratory disease. Dirty air, exacerbated by climate change, disproportionately affects people of color and low income communities in Missouri and throughout our nation. Change is needed today. Let's not leave the solving of these problems to yet another generation.



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Phone: (314) 833-4151

PUBLISHER'S CORNER

Zaki Baruti - Publisher
Safiyah Chauvin - Editor
Queen Ziah - Assistant Editor

Elston K. McCowan - Associate Editor
Rostand Darbouze - Photographer
Constantine Adebayo - Design Editor

Contributing Writers

Deacon JB Bond
Gwen Cogshell
Black Is Back Coalition (BiBC)
Liberation News
CNBC

Proportionate Political Representation

UAPO NewsWire

This concept simply means that whatever percentage we are as a people on the National, State and Local levels of this country’s political institutions; then we should have that percentage of political representation/power!!

However, in 2018 even though it is estimated that we are 13% of the United States Population It is a Damn Shame that the following statistics exist!!

- 1) It is estimated that there are over 511,000 (half a million plus) elected officials yet we hold less than 20,000 when we should have at least 66,000 plus Black Elected Officials.
- 2) There are fifty State Governors, yet of that number none are Black when we should have at least 6-7 Black Governors.
- 3) There are One Hundred United States Senators, yet only Three are Black when we should have at least 13 Black U.S. Senators.

It Is A Sin and A Shame For The Above To Exist!!! Therefore, The UAPO Salutes The Following Candidates Who Are Seeking To Be Elected Statewide.

Ideally, We Should Have Strong Black Statewide Candidates In Every Statewide Election Across The Country!!!



Carla “Coffee” Wright
US Senator
Missouri



Jennifer Ferguson
US Senator
Washington



Connie Johnson
US Senator
Oklahoma



Stacey Abrams
Governor
Georgia



Carl Brewer
Governor
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Governor
Maryland



Rushern Baker
Governor
Maryland

VOTE #1 ON THE BALLOT

VOTE AND ELECT DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY AUGUST 7, 2018

UNITED STATES SENATE/MISSOURI

CARLA "COFFEE" WRIGHT

"POWER TO THE PEOPLE"



- ST. LOUIS NATIVE • MOTHER OF TWO
- EDUCATED IN ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
- GRADUATE OF ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
- ENTREPRENEUR • MEMBER OF SCREEN ACTORS GUILD (SAG)
- MEMBER OF AMERICAN FEDERATION OF TELEVISION/RADIO ARTISTS (AFTRA)
- CAMEO APPEARANCES IN MOTION PICTURES & TELEVISION
- STARRING ROLES IN INDEPENDENT FILMS • CERTIFIED CHILD CARE DIRECTOR
- ORGANIZER OF ST. LOUIS JUNETEENTH PARADE & CELEBRATION
- ACTIVIST FOR THE HOMELESS & MISSING PERSONS
- PROUD MEMBER OF UNIVERSAL AFRICAN PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (UAPO)

DONATE email: coffeewrightmoussenate@yahoo.com



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PAID FOR BY COMMITTEE TO ELECT CARLA COFFEE WRIGHT • TREASURER WESLEY FONDREN

SPREAD THE WORD **VOTE #1 ON THE BALLOT**

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY ELECTION TUESDAY AUGUST 7, 2018

UNITED STATES SENATE/MISSOURI

CARLA "COFFEE" WRIGHT

"POWER TO THE PEOPLE"

DONATE email: coffeewrightmoussenate@yahoo.com



CORE VALUES:

- IMPEACH DONALD TRUMP • PROPORTIONATE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION
- INCREASE MINIMUM WAGES • FULL EMPLOYMENT • REPARATIONS
- END HOMELESSNESS • AFFORDABLE AND DECENT HOUSING • REBUILD URBAN CITIES
- FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION • UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE • GUN REFORM
- AMNESTY FOR NON VIOLENT OFFENDERS AND POLITICAL PRISONERS • REBUILD BLACK FAMILIES
- COMMUNITY CONTROL OF POLICE • DECRIMINALIZE MARIJUANA • JUNETEENTH NATIONAL HOLIDAY
- TERM LIMITS FOR CONGRESS • LIMIT CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES • ABOLISH ELECTORAL COLLEGE
- WOMEN EMPOWERMENT • DACA • SUPPORT FAMILY FARMS • MISSING PERSONS AWARENESS
- QUALITY PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS/DISABLED • RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS • REMOVE AFRICOM FROM AFRICA
- NUCLEAR WEAPONS DISARMAMENT

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Coffee Wright with Minister Akbar Muhammad, International Representative for the Nation of Islam, Judge Jimmy Edwards and Supporters

Personal Reflections On Restoring Our Community “One Family At A Time”

Gwen Cogshell | UAPO Outreach Coordinator

The Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO) adopted Walbridge S.T.E.M. Academy located in the Walnut Park neighborhood in the Fall of 2017. The adoption of Walbridge is a reflection of our organization and my personal spiritual connection to this particular community. On the personal side, I’ve lost two nephews in Walnut Park. One, who was three-years old was a victim of a hit and run incident. The other nephew, who had no prior felony conviction, but was struggling with mental illness was given a twenty-year sentence for a nonviolent drug offense.

On the spiritual note, the influence of the UAPO in this neighborhood has been manifested through the work of our Minister/General, Rev. Elston K. McCowan, who serves as the Family Outreach Coordinator for Walbridge Academy. He also pastors Star Grace M.B. Church which sits in the middle of Walnut Park. His church, along with the church that I’ve been attending for over twenty years, Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church have consistently provided a wide range of community services to the residents.

However, over a period of time we’ve seen a vibrant community which once was filled with middle class Black Families and youth who proudly claimed their communities, turn into a cesspool of crime and debauchery. This decline began when many of these Black middle class families began migrating to North St. Louis County, along with white flight. This exodus of families that had provided stabilization for the neighborhoods led to a decline of social and civic services that resulted in school closings and loss of property values. Also, many of the remaining residents lost jobs which has caused many vacant homes/buildings; creating a haven for drugs and vagrancy. The system has offered nothing to the taxpaying citizens of the North-side, and the blight has led to a sense of hopelessness.

The UAPO believes that these conditions can be reversed by electing committed politicians who will respond to the needs of the North-side Community and by choosing serious political candidates who will address the issues of the poor and disenfranchised, because we can not continue to “put a band-aid on a bullet-wound.” We are currently working with a family who is in need of a new roof. This family consists of a grandmother and five of her grandchildren who live across the street from Walbridge Academy -- which all five children attend. The UAPO does not receive funding of any kind except for donations from those who recognize and value what we do. We also raise money from business persons/entrepreneurs who purchase ads in our newspaper, The African NewsWorld and of course from our own members of the UAPO. Because of the profuse leaks due to the large quantity of rainfall, our organization has paid \$600 for the temporary repair on the grandmother’s roof. Due to no funding, we have reached out to some Black contractors, entrepreneurs, concerned citizens and volunteers who are willing/able to donate their time and/or some much needed building and roofing materials such as tools, paint, dry wall and etc. If you can donate money, volunteer time or supply any of the above mentioned building materials, please feel free to contact me, Gwen Cogshell at our office number, (314) 833-4151. I will return your call. We Will Change The Climate Of Walnut Park!!! We Will Bring Back Hope!!! We Will Take Back And Restore The Community!!! One Family At A Time!! Peace... Thanking you in advance for your help.



UAPO Members Queen Ziah, Marble Davis and Gwen Cogshell presents educational gifts to Walbridge Academy Staff Member, Tracey Moore (in blue)



Walbridge Academy “Donuts for Dads” participants: Principal Mildred Moore (in white coat) - Program organized by UAPO Member, Rev. Elston K. McCowan (also in white coat)

Are We Our Brother's and Sister's Keeper?

By Deacon JB Bond | Koinonia Baptist Temple | jbbond@hotmail.com



As the lack of affordable housing continues to grow nationwide, so does the homeless population in the United States of America. The fact is that many Black Americans will not get the chance to get a job that pays more than \$20 per hour. The attitude that the private sector has of Black America is by far one of the reasons for homelessness and poverty for Black America. Foreclosures have increased the number of Black Americans who experience homelessness.

Poverty and homelessness are linked; people are often unable to pay for housing, utilities, food, etc. They are forced to decide to live on the streets temporarily in hopes that things will get better. Serious illnesses and layoffs also have been known to lead to eventual eviction; thereby leaving a person or family homeless. If you are living in poverty and have a drug or alcohol addiction, you increase your chance of being homeless. Mental illness accounts for many homeless people (therefore, mental illness facilities, mental health facilities or services are need to accommodate this growing population). Domestic violence also accounts for a major percentage of homelessness such as a battered woman in an abusive relationship.

We need people who were homeless helping people who are homeless, because who knows better than a person who has been in that same situation. The homeless people are basically good people, ordinary people who do not have a place to live. And as we have heard, many of us ourselves are only one or two paychecks away from being homeless.

Knowing this, let us be mindful of how we treat those who we encounter who are homeless. We should be kind and considerate— never looking down our noses at them as if they were less than human beings. Take the time, if time permits, to engage in a meaningful conversation with them, because it could be that you have some important information that the person you were talking to can use and it could change their lives for the better.

Never take for granted that the person whom you may encounter that happens to be homeless is without basic intelligence. On the contrary, the homeless community is comprised of people from one end of the proverbial class ladder to the other: business owners, housewives, clergymen, veterans, addicts and youth. This is what the real homeless population looks like.

Case in point: a couple of people I know personally shared with me their bout with homelessness. Ms. Pamela Winn found herself homeless after an auto accident, divorce and addiction to painkillers. As a successful entrepreneur, never in her wildest dreams did she ever think that this would happen to her, but it did. Depression set in and before she knew it, all was lost. Thank God she found a support group and she is now planning to start a new business venture.

Mrs. Dolores Engram had a brief stint with homelessness. She had to leave a home in St. Louis to go to a shelter for battered women in New Orleans with her children in tow. She went from one shelter to another. Finally, the Salvation Army gave her the opportunity she needed to get a grip on the situation. She went back to school, earned a bachelor's degree at Harris Stowe and is now an Accountant Coordinator for the City of St. Louis.

As a member of the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO), I am proud to say that under the leadership of Zaki Baruti, President of the UAPO, we have indeed been our brother's and sister's keeper. This organization has worked tirelessly on behalf of the less fortunate. Please see any of our quarterly publications of the "African NewsWorld" and read in detail just what this organization has been doing. Recently, Zaki and some of the UAPO members helped Pastor Shepherd of Saint Peters AME Church, located on the corner of Margarettta and Shreve, with some of the items necessary to feed the homeless in the area of the church. We certainly want to thank Pastor Shepherd and his members along with Mama Cat for making Saint Peters a haven for the homeless. While many of these problems of homelessness and poverty are happening to many of our people, we must continue to encourage them to subscribe to the true answer, and that is a truly spiritual connection with God. I know this sounds cliché, but "with God, all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26 KJV). I beseech you to try him because with God, you have everything to gain and nothing but foolishness to lose. Join us, the UAPO. We are our brother's and sister's keeper.



UAPO Members and Supporters donating large quantities of paper products to the St. Peters AME Homeless Shelter Outreach Program

THE
POWER
OF THE

PEOPLE

TUESDAY AUGUST 7, 2018

VOTE COFFEE

CARLA "COFFEE" WRIGHT



THE TASK AHEAD

Taking Time To Thank The Creator

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

First and foremost, as President/General of the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO) I extend a hearty thank you to the Creator for allowing me the opportunity to serve our people to the best of my ability. As an extension of my work, the Creator has blessed me with so many positive experiences that have allowed me to grow in wisdom and knowledge. Those experiences have included many exciting times with family, friends and UAPO members. To that end, the last four months of 2017 were very powerful on a personal note.



My Youngest Grandchild Ejihah expresses his thanks to those attending my 70th Birthday Celebration

These months were powerful because on September 27, the Creator allowed me to bask in the glory of acknowledging my 70th birthday which is a major milestone for Black men.

Secondly on October 7th, I was blessed with a beautiful celebration of my birth and legacy with the presence of over 170 guests and well wishers. In that spirit, I salute and extend a special thanks to my wife Brady of forty-two years, for her hard work in coordinating the beautiful program. Also, another special thanks to family, friends and UAPO members for their attendance.

The following month of November, I was once again blessed per an expense paid trip to Karbala, Iraq with a stopover in the Middle East Country of Qatar. This blessing was a result of Minister Akbar Muhammad, the International Representative for the Nation of Islam. He was kind enough to ask would I substitute for him in attending a Peace Conference in Karbala, Iraq as well as participate in a major religious commemoration of Iman Hussain, the 7th Century martyr and grandson of Prophet Muhammad. This major event known as Arbreen, rivals in attendance the annual Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca. Close to twenty million people each year visit Karbala to enter the shrine of Iman Hussain. (Please Google Iman Hussain, Karbala, Iraq and the Secrets of visiting Karbala). For the Peace Conference, there were other Black activists from across the United States including former Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. Others sharing this experience from St. Louis were Anthony Shahid, President of Tauheed Youth Organization, Michael Brown Sr. and Queen Ziah, my Administrative Assistant and Treasurer for the UAPO. Again, I send out a special thanks to Minister Akbar Muhammad and our host Naber Talebzadeh and his wife Zeina Mehanna and the I Love Hussain Foundation.

Upon our return to St. Louis from Iraq, the following day Anthony Shahid and myself went to Washington D.C. to attend Minister Louis Farrakhan's International Press Conference in response to Donald Trump's Presidency. After the conference, we had a private meeting with our renowned and outspoken Leader.

Finally, in December 2017, several members of the UAPO and self enjoyed a great seven day Marcus Garvey Legacy Cruise to different Caribbean destinations. The cruise is an annual event sponsored by the African Peoples Socialist Party headed by Chairman Omali Yeshitela. This adventure was truly enjoyable and relaxing. On another note, this trip was very spiritual and meaningful to me. UAPO members on the cruise were my wife Brady, Gwen Cogshell, Queen Ziah, Tracey Reese and Coffee Wright. I make the above statement because one night while we were cruising to one of our destinations, I was sitting outside my room on the balcony deck and in deep prayer/meditation and upon opening my eyes, two beautiful birds appeared in the middle of the sea/ocean. Seeing the birds, I immediately summoned my wife and UAPO member Queen Ziah who both bore witness to this unusual occurrence. Accordingly, after returning home, I Googled the meaning of birds in Christian and Islamic theology. Both versions spoke to the fact that the birds were symbolic of the Creator's blessings. In closing, I've shared these personal experiences to encourage everyone to take time off in your busy lives to praise and thank the Creator. Also, having been blessed to have visited over thirty countries, I encourage everyone to travel outside this country with a special emphasis on visiting Africa!!!



President/General with Minister Louis Farrakhan and Anthony Shahid



Zaki preparing to be interviewed for Iranian TV Program



Iranian Diplomat, Cynthia McKinney and Zaki Baruti



Our delegation with host Naber Talebzadeh and his wife Zeina Mehanna

SCENES FROM KARBALA, IRAQ

November 2017



1. Nighttime view of Shrine of Imam Hussain

2. Michael Brown Sr., Zaki Baruti, Anthony Shahid and Queen Ziah in lobby of Karbala Hotel

3. A Karbala Hotel

4. Busy intersection in Karbala, Iraq

5. Mass of Pilgrims visiting Shrine of Hussain

Photos from the Marcus Garvey Legacy Cruise -- December 2017



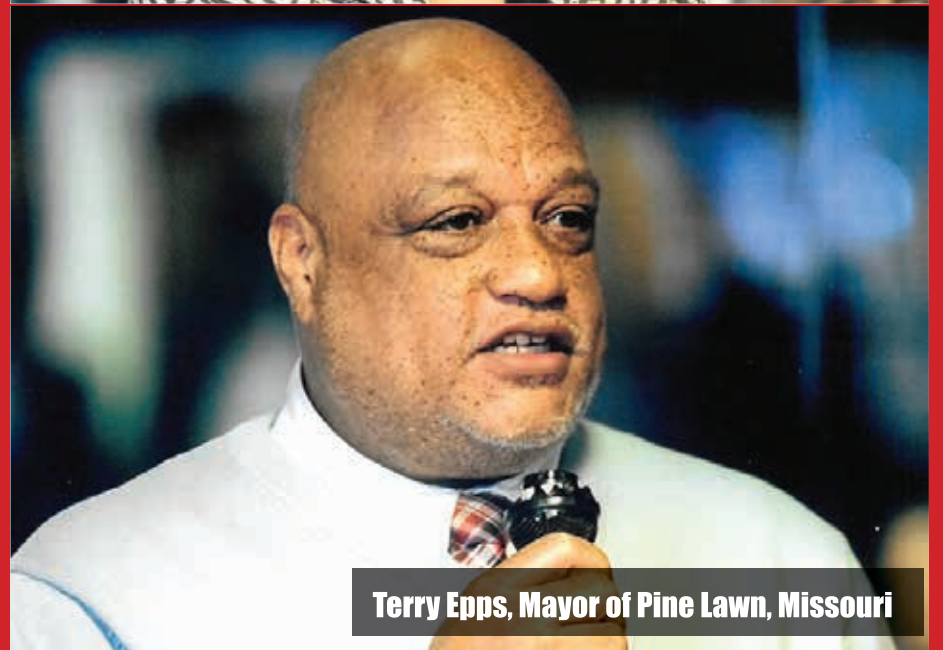
UAPO along with other organizations receiving community Service Award from St. Louis African-American Aldermanic Caucus -- February 2018



Speakers at UAPO Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's Life January 30, 2018



Mavis Thompson, St. Louis City License Collector



Terry Epps, Mayor of Pine Lawn, Missouri



Lewis Reed, President, St. Louis Board of Aldermen



Amari Sneferu, UAPO Manager/General



Farrakhan Shegog, Candidate MO State Representative (86th)

U.S. Out Of Syria; Police Out Of The African Community!

By The Black Is Back Coalition

The Black is Back Coalition for Social Justice, Peace and Reparations (BiBC) condemns in the strongest possible terms the lawless bombing of Syria by the imperialist bandits of the U.S., France and England.

We know that the proclaimed reason for the illegal action by the U.S. and the colonial powers of France and England was contrived to justify escalation of the war against the Syrian people and government by the U.S. following the recent declaration of U.S. President Donald Trump that U.S. troops would be withdrawn from its colonial occupation of that land.

Chief proponents of a strong military presence in Syria include the illegitimate white settler state of Israel that functions as a forward military base for U.S. imperialist parasitic interests in the Middle East and Persian Gulf and some components of the U.S. security State.

The Black is Back Coalition knows that the story of Syrian use of chemical weapons against the Al Qaeda and other terrorist forces warring against the government of Syria is contrived because the U.S. was itself involved in the 2013 and 2014 inspections of Syrian chemical weapons materials and capacity and participated in their destruction.

We recognize that if it is at all true that chemical weapons were actually used in Syria there is a greater likelihood that they were used by the warmongering state of Israel or by elements of the U.S. State opposed to U.S. military withdrawal from the region.

The Black is Back Coalition is accustomed to the lies of the U.S. government and its several police agencies every time they murder unarmed Black men, women and children throughout the U.S.

We also oppose the aggression against the people and government of Syria because African people refuse to be cannon fodder for any more of the unjust wars of U.S. imperialism. To paraphrase Muhammad Ali when he refused to be drafted into the U.S. army to fight against the courageous Vietnamese people in the 1960's:



“Ain’t no Syrian police killing Black people in the U.S.”

When it comes to fighting a war against the people and government of Syria or any other oppressed people of the world for the white nationalist U.S. imperialist government, the Black is Back Coalition, remembering the words of the U.S.-assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that the U.S. is the greatest “purveyor of violence” in the world, say, “Hell no, we won’t go”!

The BiBC recognizes the bombing of Syria as an attempt to degrade the capacity of the Syrian government to complete the defeat of Al Qaeda and other Jihadist terrorist organizations long supported by the U.S. in its efforts to overturn the Syrian government and protect the illegitimate white settler state of Israel. The bombing of Syria at this time exposes the U.S., France and England as objective allies of the same Al Qaeda they claim to be fighting.

The Black is Back Coalition also recognizes the duplicity of the logic that the attack on Syria is defense of the Syrian people from the government of Bashar Assad who it claimed is using chemical weapons “against his own people.”

We recognize that if this logic were to be applied to the U.S.,

Russia or any other power would be justified in bombing Ferguson, Missouri or any police station in the U.S. with a sizable Black population because of the violence and murderous brutality imposed on Africans from these institutions every day of the year.

The Black is Back Coalition is calling on all African and freedom-loving people to reject this brutal act of colonial aggression against the Syrian people who have been suffering the consequences of imperialist-inspired and led war for the last seven years.

Since the beginning of that war a half million Syrians have been killed, a million injured, 4.5 million Syrians, mostly women and children, turned into terrified refugees who have been treated by France, England and the U.S. as undesirable pariahs as they have attempted to enter into these countries that now use the pretext of concern for their well-being as justification for a brutal attack that rained more than 100 missiles on their suffering country.

We recognize that the state of Israel—illegally occupying the Golan Heights—more than 600 square miles of Syrian territory since 1967—has many of the same political features as the U.S., itself being a white nationalist settler state created on stolen land and noted for its concentration camps, euphemistically called Indian reservations and prisons, where Africans and the indigenous constitute at least half of the two and one half million captives.

The Black is Back Coalitions is calling on Coalition member organizations, Africans and all freedom loving people to initiate and join in any and all political actions to protest the U.S.-led missile attack on Syria.

Join us in declaring with a deafening cry: **U.S. out of Syria! Police out of the Black community!**



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Stephanie Brown Warned Us About U.S. Bank

UAPO NewsWire

In the Spring 2017 Edition of our newspaper, we published an article titled “A Story of Treachery, Fraud and Unjust Treatment by Firststar N.A. Bank Now known as U.S. Bank” as told by Stephanie Brown, Also, in our Fall/Winter Grassroots Special Edition we advocated that our people close their bank accounts with U.S. Bank in response to the Jason Stockley verdict of not guilty and the many other police killings of Black men, women and children, along with other social injustices we face in this country. Other targets of our boycott which is still ongoing included Shell Gas Stations, Burger King, Macy’s, Dillard’s, Jet Blue and the NFL. To set an example, our organization closed our account with U.S. Bank in December 2017 in support of our boycott-(please visit www.uapo.com to review the two above editions) Accordingly, we find the below article a reflection of Stephanie’s analysis of U.S. Bank practices.

US Bank to pay more than \$600 million over federal charges it had lax anti-money laundering controls

Liz Moyer | CNBC.com

U.S. Bancorp will pay a total of \$613 million, including \$528 million in a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. attorney in Manhattan. The U.S. attorney charged the bank with two felony violations of the Bank Secrecy Act, and the company has agreed to reform its anti-money laundering controls.

U.S. Bancorp failed to monitor suspicious transactions and other activities that should have raised money laundering alerts, and then its employees tried to hide the deficiencies from regulators, federal prosecutors in New York said Thursday.

In one particularly extreme example, federal prosecutors say the bank’s anti-money laundering watchdogs looked the other way as a customer named Scott Tucker used several accounts to launder ill-gotten proceeds of a fraudulent payday lending scheme.

The government says U.S. Bank “willfully” failed to report the suspicious activity in a timely manner. Tucker was convicted in New York federal court last year of operating the illegal payday loan scheme, and in January he was sentenced to more than 16 years in prison.

The Minneapolis-based bank, the nation’s fifth largest, will pay a total of \$613 million, including \$528 million in a deferred prosecution agreement with the U.S. attorney in Manhattan, who announced the company had made two felony violations of the Bank Secrecy Act.

The agreement also includes the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve Board and the Treasury Department’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network.

U.S. Bank will reform its compliance and monitoring program and has accepted responsibility for its conduct, the U.S. attorney said in a statement Thursday. The bank skimped on staffing and resources that banks are supposed to have to thwart suspicious activities, the prosecutors said. The government said it would seek dismissal of the charges in two years assuming the bank carries out the reforms.

For about five years starting in 2009, U.S. Bank didn’t set up or maintain adequate anti-money laundering systems, the government said. The staff devoted to this area was stretched thin and the bank’s practices missed “substantial” numbers of suspicious transactions. And bank staff tried to hide these resource limitations from its regulator, the OCC, out of fear it



would disapprove. U.S. Bank also didn’t monitor transactions by noncustomers offered in its branches through an outside money transmitting company, Western Union. U.S. Bank stopped allowing these transactions by noncustomers in 2014.

Tucker, operator of the payday lending scheme, was convicted of various charges of fraud, money laundering and truth-in-lending after a five-week jury trial.

From 2008 to 2012, he used sham accounts at U.S. Bank opened under the names of various Native American tribes. Most of the more than \$2 billion in revenue and hundreds of millions of dollars in profit generated by the payday lending scheme flowed through those U.S. Bank accounts.

But bank employees disregarded warning signs, including his heavy spending with money out of the tribal bank accounts on personal items like a luxury vacation home in Aspen, Colorado, and a professional Ferrari racing team.

The bank closed the tribal accounts after press reports in 2011 raised questions about Tucker’s businesses but didn’t file a suspicious activity report, prosecutors said Thursday. Still other accounts Tucker had were left open, allowing another \$176 million from the payday lending scheme to flow through the bank.

U.S. Bank didn’t file a suspicious activity report regarding Tucker until it received a subpoena from the U.S. attorney in Manhattan in 2013, despite knowing the Federal Trade Commission had filed suit against Tucker.

Shares of U.S. Bank, a longtime holding of Warren Buffett’s Berkshire Hathaway, were down 0.2 percent in trading Thursday. It is the second of Berkshire’s big bank holdings, Wells Fargo being the other, to face regulatory heat in recent years.

U.S. Bank said in 2015 that it had entered a consent order with the comptroller over anti-money laundering lapses. On Thursday it said it had already set the money aside to pay for resolving the matter.

“We regret and have accepted responsibility for the past deficiencies” in the anti-money laundering program, U.S. Bank’s president and CEO, Andy Cecere, said in a statement. “Our culture of ethics and integrity demands that we do better.”

South Africa: Major developments in the long struggle for land reform

Liberation News

On Feb. 27, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) and the African National Congress (ANC) voted to amend the constitution of South Africa to allow land expropriation without compensation in an effort to address the legacy of dispossession of African people by white settlers. The EFF tabled the motion in the South African parliament, which passed with the two-thirds majority necessary to amend the constitution. The ANC's 249 seats (62 percent) combined with the EFF's 25 seats (6 percent) carried despite vigorous disagreement from opposition parties.

Although the policy implementation has not been worked out, the reaction to the amendment has been sharply divided. The vast majority of wealth and land is still in white hands 24 years after the end of legal Apartheid, but the corporate media is ignoring this legacy of oppression and prematurely warning that economic catastrophe is on the horizon.

Apartheid gone, but vast racial inequality persists

Despite 24 years of majority rule, the legacy of formal Apartheid still profoundly shapes the political, social and economic life of South Africa. In 2017, the average white South African has income that is five times that of an average Black South African. In 1994, the year of the first democratic, post-Apartheid election, white South Africans held 87 percent of the land of the country, and in 2012 they still controlled 80 percent of the country's land despite the fact that white people make up only 9 percent of the population. Since the end of Apartheid, income inequality has actually increased, and this is most keenly felt in rural areas where economic development has not been prioritized.

As a settler colony, the issue of land in South Africa is also profoundly political. Under Apartheid, Black people were confined to "bantustans" or "homelands" that were nominally "independent" areas for Black people to govern. These areas made up only 13 percent of the country, and were in disparate locations, often on poor quality land and far from urban centers where people could find work. People of working age usually moved to the large cities, leaving the young and elderly to support themselves in desperate conditions.

Outside of these "homelands" Black people had to have identification documents from the Apartheid government, known as "passes", to travel within their own country. Black people could be arrested and deported to the nearest "homeland" for forgetting a pass at home. The indignity and oppressiveness of the pass system created militant protests against their imposition in

1960, leading to the Sharpeville Massacre. While these racist restrictions were removed in 1994, the consequences of these policies have persisted.

The legacy of Apartheid development has fostered a wide-ranging conversation about the need for "radical economic transformation" in South Africa today. At the ANC's most recent national conference, the ANC adopted policy proposals in the name of "radical economic transformation", including a resolution in support of land expropriation without compensation.

The original ANC land reform policy was the market-value based "willing buyer, willing seller", which was replaced in 2013 by the principle of "just and equitable compensation" for appropriated land. Neither of these policies were successful, and despite controlling two-thirds of the South African parliament until 2014 the ANC had not made a significant effort to accelerate the pace of land reform.

The government has not conducted a reliable land audit since 1994, and there is still substantial confusion over who owns what land in South Africa. However, the fact that the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform (DRDLR) has only transferred 8 percent of private farm land from 1994 – 2018 shows that a major acceleration is needed for the majority of land to be in the hands of the Black population. This slow rate of land transfer is a result of the weakness of the department, bureaucratic inefficiency and land reform falling prey to corruption in the government.

The ANC government's market value based policies created opportunities for private corporations and trusts to inflate their land values, and the DRDLR has been forced to pay large sums to white landowners. The department has also not sufficiently supported Black landowners and farmers after they reclaim their land, often leading to land being resold to the same private interests that previously owned it. This broken process represents an ideal environment for government connected business interests to personally benefit from land restitution and for government officials to profit from these deals.

The people demand land

Although the dysfunctional cycles in land reform policy make the possibilities for meaningful restitution seem remote,



the Black masses in South Africa have been continuously engaging in struggles over land. The majority of urban Black South Africans still live in intensely oppressed neighborhoods called townships, which have been strongholds of popular resistance since Apartheid. The desperate conditions in the townships have prompted land occupations, which the elite and their media outlets call "land invasions", of empty or underused land.

These occupations have become a regular feature of urban life in South Africa, with some occupations achieving permanent residence on the land that they occupy. The ANC government has consistently used violent repression against these occupations by destroying structures, confiscating property and brutalizing protesters.

Mass frustration at the ANC's failings created the opportunity for opposition parties to gain significantly in recent years. Emerging in 2013, the radical left party Economic Freedom Fighters has been sharply critical of the ANC, and, although it has a short history and relatively small membership compared to the ANC, it has been able to connect to the disaffection and frustration of many Black people, especially the youth. The EFF has consistently pushed the question of land expropriation without compensation as a way to expose the ANC's slow action on land reform. As recently as 2017, the ANC refused to support this principle in parliament.

The sudden emergence of the EFF has been coupled with rising mass opposition to neoliberalism and racial capitalism in South Africa. In 2015, students led the Fees Must Fall movement and shut down every university and technikon campus in the country, which represented a clear signal that the post-Apartheid "born free" generation is deeply critical of the current state of the country.

Despite a labor movement facing many challenges, South Africa still has the most strikes of any country in the world. A new revolutionary pole in the trade union movement has emerged with the formation of the South African Federation of Trade Unions last year, a development driven by the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa. NUMSA

is also leading an effort to establish a new political formation, a yet-to-be-named organization referred to provisionally as the Movement for Socialism.

In 2012, the Marikana strike at the Lonmin platinum mine made worldwide headlines as 34 miners were gunned down by police. The murder of these heroic miners did not break the strike, however, and the Marikana struggle stands as an example of the militancy and determination of South African workers.

The new ANC and South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa, who has become the face of the land expropriation amendment, has been implicated in the terrible violence against the miners at Marikana. Ramaphosa is one of the wealthiest men in South Africa and holds a seat on the Lonmin board. On the eve of the massacre he urged the national police commissioner to act against what he characterized as "dastardly criminal actions" of the strikers. This is even more shocking since Ramaphosa rose to become a top ANC official after playing a key role in organizing the National Union of Mineworkers, in the 1980s.

While Ramaphosa has provided verbal support for land expropriation without compensation, his personal financial interests and history of anti-worker positions cast doubt on his ability to deliver the radical economic change so many people need.

While the ANC will speak favorably in principle about expropriation without compensation, the details of the new land policy may also have greater emphasis on economic stability than on radical change. But the momentum of revolutionary forces in the country will have a major impact on their calculations. It is clear that the people of South Africa will continue fighting for the demand first raised in the historic Freedom Charter — the 1955 political program that guided the struggle against Apartheid: "The Land Shall Be Shared Among Those Who Work It!"

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From July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 – MSD's most recently completed fiscal year – minority-owned firms performed \$37,324,055 million in capital work, representing 17.03 percent of our capital program for that period. Women-owned firms performed \$6,490,358 million in capital work, representing 2.96 percent of our capital program spending.

During that same timeframe, minority workforce participation was 460,077 hours or 28.95 percent of total hours worked on capital projects. Women participation was 77,021 hours or 4.85 percent of total hours worked on capital projects.

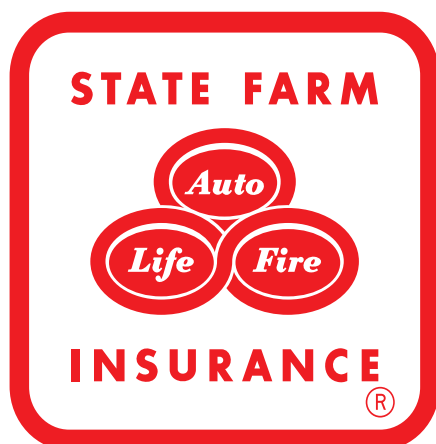
To learn more about MSD's multi-billion dollar capital program and opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses, visit www.stlmsd.com/diversity.

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SOS | SAVE OUR SONS

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PREPARING GENERATIONS FOR THE **WORKFORCE**



The Urban League's Save Our Sons program seeks to help unemployed and underemployed African American men and others in the Saint Louis region and inner communities find gainful employment and have the opportunity to earn livable wages. This program completes these objectives by assisting the participants in obtaining post-secondary, education job training and teaching the imperative career skills and work ethic necessary to become successful employees in today's workforce.



OUR MISSION

The mission of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. is to empower African Americans and others throughout the region in securing economic self-reliance, social equality and civil rights.

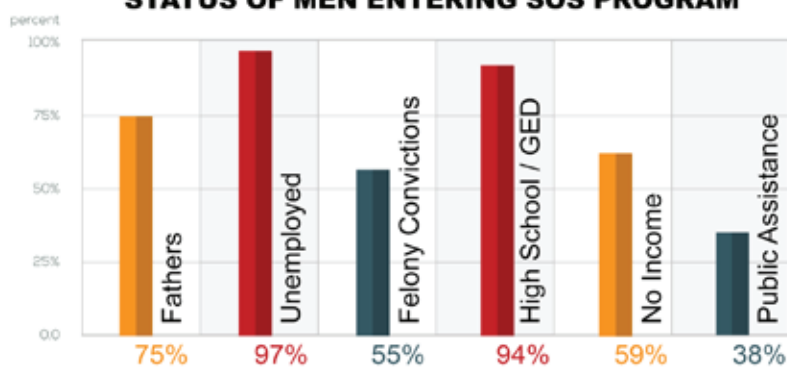
OUR VISION

As the leading champion of empowerment and opportunity for African Americans, the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis envisions a region where all people:

- Are valued members of the community;
- Can adequately support themselves and their families;
- Can live in neighborhoods that are vibrant and thriving;
- and, Share in the region's prosperity and well-being.

Currently 54% of African American men graduate from high school, compared to more than 75% of their peers. Lacking a high school education often leads to elevated poverty and unemployment rates in the African American community.

STATUS OF MEN ENTERING SOS PROGRAM



AGE OF PARTICIPANTS

36 and over **24%**
Ages 22-35 **38%**
Ages 17 -21 **38%**

Jobs for men of color continue to be a significant challenge, the Save Our Sons program helps men ages 17 and older to build soft skills, confidence, responsibility, references, networks and financial literacy.

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September 26, 1936 - April 2, 2018

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Her Family and the People of South Africa!!!

YOU MUST LEARN

Close your eyes and name as many countries on the continent of Africa. Ideally, you should know at least 35 of the 54 countries. Learn their names, spelling and their location.

- A**
Algeria
Angola

B
Benin
Botswana
Burkina Faso
Burundi

C
Cabo Verde
Cameroon
Central African Republic (CAR)
Chad
Comoros
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Republic of the Congo
Cote d'Ivoire

D
Djibouti

E
Egypt
Equatorial Guinea

Eritrea
Ethiopia

G
Gabon
Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau

K
Kenya

L
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya

M
Madagascar
Malawi
Mali
Mauritania
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Morocco
Mozambique

N
Namibia
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Nigeria

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Rwanda

S
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Senegal
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- THE AFRICAN NEWSWORLD ▪ UAPO ▪ SPRING/SUMMER EDITION 2018 www.uapo.org

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.
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.

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