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An Organ of the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO)

April 4, 1989 - April 4, 2019
As The UAPO Celebrates 30
Years "Speaking Truth To
Power", A Force Of 144,000
Plus Is Still Needed In
Preparation For The 2020
National And State Elections
And Other Social Issues
Impacting Our Communities.
All Hands On Deck!!!



TWO ST. LOUIS COUNTY POLICE OFFICERS FIRED AS A RESULT OF THE UAPO EXPOSING THEIR WICKEDNESS!!!

African NewsWorld Wire Service (This Article Is A Continuation From Our Fall 2018 Edition)



UAPO Members and Family at Press Conference in Response
to the Firing of White Officers

On Thursday, August 16, 2018 the Universal African Peoples Organization (UAPO) held a press conference at the corner of Tyndall and Airport Road, Berkeley, MO. This conference was held at the scene of a tragic car accident on Friday, August 10th close to 9:00p.m. where two Black men, forty-nine year old Mikel Neal and fifty nine year old Townsal Woolfork were killed. One of the victims, Mikel Neal was the son of a key UAPO member, Ms. Clara Cheeks.

The Missouri Highway Department which was investigating the accident notified Darryl Neal, a brother of Mikel of the fatal crash about 4:00 a.m. that morning. In his conversation, the officer stated to Darryl that he may hear various versions of what caused the crash, "but rest assured their version was the correct one." Upon hearing this statement, it raised red flags to the brother and other family members. Also, in the

morning addition of the daily newspaper, the St. Louis Post Dispatch reported the incident as a one car accident. However, given the weird statement by the patrol officer, the family decided they would go to the crash site and do their own investigation. Sure enough, upon talking to many people who were near the scene of the crash, the witnesses shared with the family that a St. Louis County Police squad car was chasing a vehicle and actually caused the crash. Also, after causing the crash, the squad car immediately turned its lights off and kept going showing no regard for helping the victims of the crash.

It was in response to the people coming forth with this information that the UAPO held the Press Conference to expose the cover up of this car chase by the St. Louis County Police. This exposure was important, because according to their policy, "There are to be no pursuit, unless a serious crime has been committed." Accordingly, after our conference, a spokesman for the St. Louis County Police did acknowledge that there was a red light violation that occurred and the officers reported it, but didn't pursue the car. However, the following day after the conference and official statement by the County Police, the UAPO and family members canvassed a number of businesses along the route taken by the crash victims to see if there were any videos to verify what the witnesses were saying about the chase.

Once again and sure enough, we did find a business that had a video clearly showing that the Police was chasing a vehicle at a high rate of speed.

We shared this video with several local television stations, and they in turn allowed the public to see the chase and how the police had lied.

Along with the media broadcast of the chase, members of the UAPO and our allies would attend the weekly meetings of the St. Louis County Council and also the monthly meetings of the St. Louis County Police Commissioners calling for the firing of the officers involved in the chase.

Caught and publicly exposed for their lies, the St. Louis County police officials were finally pressured enough to fire the two white police officers, Alex Maloy and Mark Jakob which again was the direct result of UAPO and their allies.

Finally, in addition to the firing of the officers, the UAPO is advocating (1) that the officers be decertified so that they will not be able to work elsewhere as law enforcement (2) criminal charges be filed against the officers (3) that an effective Civilian Review Board with subpoena power be created for the St. Louis County Police Department and (4) that the St. Louis County Police Department hire more Black Police officers to reflect the percentage of Blacks in St. Louis County(30%), whereas the current Police force is only 10% Black. In conclusion, both families of the car crash victims have filed civil suits for wrongful deaths of their love ones.

UAPO REPRESENTATIVES FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY STAND IN SOLIDARITY FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY!!!



GG Owens and UAPO Members – Kansas City, Missouri



Bill Goodin and Aaron Turner – Baltimore, Maryland



Queen Freedom and UAPO Members - Denver, Colorado



Al Thomas and UAPO Members – Greensboro, North Carolina



Lionel Nixon - Chicago, Illinois



2016 US Senatorial Candidate for Kansas, Monique Singh Bey – Richmond, Texas

A BRIEF 30 YEAR REVIEW OF HISTORIC UAPO ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMS AND PUBLIC POSITIONS SINCE APRIL 4, 1989 INTERNATIONALLY

- MEMBER OF THE WORLDWIDE AFRICAN ANTI-ZIONIST MOVEMENT 1989-2000
- OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF THE IRAQ WAR AND ORGANIZED MAJOR DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THESE IMMORAL ACTIONS IN 1990 & 2003
- REPRESENTED AT THE 7th PAN AFRICAN CONGRESS HELD IN KAMPALA, UGANDA- 1994
- REPRESENTED AT THE WORLD CONFERENCE AGAINST RACISM- DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA -2000
- REPRESENTED ON FACT FINDING MISSION TO ZIMBABWE- 2002
- REPRESENTED ON FACT FINDING MISSION TO DARFUR, SUDAN-2007
- HOSTED THE AMBASSADORS OF ZIMBABWE, SUDAN AND SOUTH AFRICA AS GUEST SPEAKERS AT OUR ANNUAL MALCOLM X CELEBRATIONS 2004, 2007, AND 2013
- OUTSPOKEN CRITIC OF THE UNITED STATES LEAD ATTACKS, DESTRUCTION OF LIBYA AND MURDER OF ITS LEADER, MUAMMAR QATHAFY- 2011.
- SUPPORT THE NON INTERFERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE PROGRESSIVE AND REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENTS OF CUBA, NICARAGUA, VENEZUELA, IRAN AND ZIMBABWE. THE U.S. SHOULD MIND ITS OWN BUSINESS AND CORRECT THE ISSUES OF RACISM IN AMERICA!!!
- ADVOCATE FOR A UNITED STATES OF AFRICA

SPONSORED THE BELOW LISTED INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN RELIEF EFFORTS

- 1989- SHIPPED OVER 70 BOXES OF NEW AND CLEAN CLOTHING TO NAMIBIA.
- 2003- COORDINATED THE SHIPPING OF OVER 450 BOXES OF CLOTHING AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO ZIMBABWE
- 2004- SHIPPED OVER 550 BOXES OF CLOTHING, FOOD, WATER , EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO HAITI IN RESPONSE TO THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY HURRICANE IVAN
- 2006- DONATED 9000 TEXT BOOKS TO A NON GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY IN ETHIOPIA TO HELP FIGHT ILLITERACY
- 2011-2012- WORKING WITH THE LOCAL ST. LOUIS HAITIAN COMMUNITY RAISED AND DONATED \$5,000.00 TO A NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY IN HAITI TO HELP ITS PEOPLE IN THE AFTERMATH OF A DESTRUCTIVE EARTHQUAKE
- 2015 DONATED OVER 10,000 BOOKS TO A LIBRARY BEING BUILT IN GHANA, WEST AFRICA

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THE TASK AHEAD

A FORCE OF 144,000 PLUS STILL NEEDED IN PREPARATION FOR THE 2020 NATIONAL AND STATE ELECTIONS AND OTHER SOCIAL ISSUES IMPACTING THE BLACK COMMUNITY!!!

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

As an activist who is 71 years young and counting and who has been deeply and actively involved in the struggle to uplift our people in the spirit of Marcus Garvey, Malcolm X, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and countless other Freedom fighters; it is my fervent desire to see a force of 144,000 plus of our people coming together as one to create a massive social, political and economic change for our people here in this country and throughout the world.

Being a believer in the Creator, who is called by many names and a student of history, no great social change occurs without a substantial mass and organized movement of people to make that change happen.

To that end and with a proven track record of speaking "Truth To Power" and working on behalf of our people I /UAPO is once again appealing to those who want to make a difference in our communities to join our organization. But, if you cannot join the UAPO we advocate that you join an organization that speaks Truth to Power. One of the greatest weaknesses in our communities is that there are not enough people supporting those organizations that have been in the forefront of political activism and on the battlefields for justice and equality.

With the coming together of a force of 144,000 plus, our small but dedicated core of UAPO members will be transformed into a most powerful and influential force for economic, political and social change networking with each other to not only uplift the community, but ourselves!

As the 2020 National and State elections approach, the UAPO will continually push for proportionate political representation, especially when we know that in 2019 that there is not a single Black Governor in any of the 50 states, when we should have at least seven. We will continually push to increase the number of Black United States Senators from 3 out of 100, when we should have at least 13.

As 2020 approaches, the UAPO will continually push for community control of the police whereby (1) all Police departments reflect the racial composition of the com-

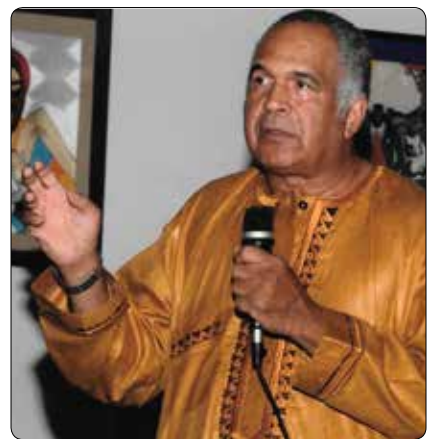
munities they serve. (2) officers are mandated to live in the communities they work and (3) effective Civilian Review Boards with subpoena power are created for every police department.

As 2020 approaches, the UAPO will continually advocate that we effectively channel our economic power by supporting Black own businesses and utilizing our economic power to force positive social change with selective economic boycotts.

As 2020 approaches, the UAPO will continually emphasize the need for the United States government to stop interfering in the affairs of other nations and deal with solving the issues of racism within this country. We will also continually support the creation of an United States of Africa. To end, we celebrate our past international humanitarian efforts in shipping goods and supplies to Namibia, Zimbabwe, Haiti, Ethiopia and Ghana.

As 2020 approaches, the UAPO will continually advocate that our people shall know their true history and celebrate our heroes and heroines such as; Nate Turner, Gabrielle Prosser, Paul Cuffe, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Marcus Garvey, Amy Ashwood Garvey, Amy Jacques Garvey, Malcolm X, Elijah Muhammad, Huey P. Newton, Kwame Ture (Stokely Carmichael), Kwame Nkrumah, Winnie Mandela and countless other Freedom Fighters.

In conclusion it is our firm belief and commitment that with a force of 144,000 plus, a glorious day will be forthcoming for our people!!! BE ONE OF THE 144,000!!



IN THE UPCOMING 2020 NATIONAL AND STATE ELECTIONS, WHO WILL BE OUR CANDIDATES FOR UNITED STATES SENATORS AND GOVERNORS?

Today 2019- Shamefully, there are no Black Governors in any of the 50 states of America, when we should have at least 6-7, if we had "PROPORTIONATE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION!"

Today 2019-Shamefully, there are only 3 Blacks in the United States Senate which consist of 100 members (two per state), when we should have at least 13, if we had "PROPORTIONATE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION!"

"PROPORTIONATE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION" simply means that whatever percentage we are as a people on the national, state and local levels of government, then we should have that percentage of political representation/power. According to the last census, we were 13% of the United States population, then 13% of the United States Senators and Governors should be Black. Again, we ask, who will be our candidates to challenge for the powerful positions for United States Senators, Governors and other statewide elected positions in 2020?

If candidates do come forward, what will be their platform and will they be strong enough to endorse the 19 points of **BLACK SELF DETERMINATION** generated by the Black Is Back Coalition of which the UAPO is a member.

To address these issues:

MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 20th & 21st
THE UNIVERSAL AFRICAN PEOPLES ORGANIZATION (UAPO)
5th NATIONAL BLACK LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE
FOREST PARK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
5600 OAKLAND AVE, ST. LOUIS, MO

LISTED BELOW ARE THE STATES WHERE ELECTIONS FOR GOVERNORS AND UNITED STATES SENATORS WILL BE HELD IN 2020.

GUBERNATORIAL ELECTIONS 2020

DELAWARE-INDIANA-MISSOURI-MONTANA-NEW HAMPSHIRE- NORTH CAROLINA-NORTH DAKOTA-UTAH-VERMONT-WASHINGTON-WEST VIRGINIA

UNITED STATES SENATE ELECTIONS 2020

ALABAMA-ALASKA-ARIZONA-ARKANSAS-COLORADO-DELAWARE-GEORGIA-IDAHO-ILLINOIS-IOWA-KANSAS-KENTUCKY-LOUISIANA-MAINE-MASSACHUSETTS-MICHIGAN-MINNESOTA-MISSISSIPPI-MONTANA-NEBRASKA-NEW HAMPSHIRE-NEW JERSEY-NEW MEXICO-NORTH CAROLINA-OKLAHOMA-OREGON-RHODE ISLAND-SOUTH CAROLINA-SOUTH DAKOTA-TENNESSEE-TEXAS-VIRGINIA-WEST VIRGINIA-WYOMING

Attack On Angela Davis For Supporting Palestine Backfires

By Hannah Vinsant



‘One of the most globally recognized champions of human rights’

The recent cancellation of a human rights award to Angela Davis by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute due to her support of the movement to Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israel has badly backfired.

A roar of outrage has forced the resignation of three BCRI board members for this action, and the group has had to apologize for rescinding the award to such a storied civil rights activist, and a native of Birmingham. Another Birmingham group has stepped up to organize an event honoring Davis.

Among those expressing shock at BCRI’s action was the Birmingham City Council. Its members unanimously approved a resolution of support for Davis expressing embarrassment and dismay at BCRI’s action.

On short notice, a letter supporting Davis signed by 350 scholars was organized by Jewish Voice for Peace. The letter reads, “The canceling of this award by the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute is unjust, insulting and ill-conceived, especially because it is likely premised on Professor Davis’ long-standing support for Palestinian human rights.” The letter urges BCRI to reinstate the award.

Support for Davis has also come from the National Lawyers Guild, Southern Region, and a great many individuals from all walks of life in Birmingham.

On Jan. 14, BCRI expressed that it “deeply regrets” its decision to rescind the award. However, it stopped short of saying it would give the award back to Davis.

The newly formed Birmingham Committee for Truth and Reconciliation, whose members include civic, community, religious, legal, educational and business leaders, stepped up, and honored Davis on Feb. 16, 2019 with a day of community dialogue and an evening event titled “A Conversation with Angela Davis.”

What happened?

In September 2018, the BCRI selected Angela Davis to be the recipient of its Fred Shuttlesworth Human Rights Award. This is a prestigious honor of which Davis is more than

deserving.

Davis, a Birmingham native, has exemplified herself as an author, professor, and impassioned advocate in the fight for Black liberation and in the feminist, socialist, and national liberation movements. Following the announcement of the award, the BCRI came under pressure from outside forces hostile to Davis’ legacy as a revolutionary and to her staunch support for the Palestinian struggle. On Jan. 5, the board released a vague notice announcing it was rescinding the award and canceled the Feb. 16 gala event.

A close look at the events leading to this cancellation gives an illustration of how radical voices are suppressed in the United States.

The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute says it is “a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of civil rights developments in Birmingham.”

Its human rights award is named after Fred Shuttlesworth, an Alabama minister who fought in the Civil Rights Movement for the recognition of the rights of Black Americans. A freedom rider and comrade to Martin Luther King Jr., Shuttlesworth’s legacy is one which very much resonates with that of Davis.

The recipient of the award is chosen every year by the BCRI’s Board of Directors, which is largely made up of CEOs and middle managers of corporations in Birmingham. Past recipients include actor Danny Glover, Dr. John Hope Franklin, and Congressman John Lewis.

Shortly after the BCRI decided to give this year’s award to Angela Davis, President and CEO Andrea Taylor said, “We are thrilled to bestow this honor on Angela Davis, and excited about her return to her hometown of Birmingham, which is the very launching pad of the modern human rights movement. Arguably, she’s one of the most globally recognized champions of human rights, giving voice to those who are powerless to speak.”

The board’s justifiable enthusiasm for Angela Davis would abruptly reverse after opposition from several powerful figures in Birmingham.

The opposition mobilizes

On Dec. 23, 2018, editor Larry Brooks published an article in Southern Jewish Life magazine about the upcoming award to Davis, calling attention to her anti-Zionism and outspoken support for the BDS movement. This sparked an outcry from the Birmingham Jewish Foundation and staunchly pro-Israel evangelical Christian churches in the city.

Adding to the opposition, on Jan. 1, General Charles Krulak,

retired Marine commander, former president of Birmingham-Southern College, and board member for several corporations, sent an email to the BCRI board expressing his “sadness” at the selection of Davis. He cited Davis’ past membership in the Communist Party, her placement on the FBI’s “10 most wanted fugitive list,” and her 1972 case, in which she was found not guilty of aggravated kidnapping and first-degree murder.

Three days later, the BCRI board called an emergency session of voting members and decided to cancel the event. It released a statement the following night saying that “supporters and other concerned individuals and organizations, both inside and outside of our local community, began to make requests that we reconsider our decision.”

Without specifying anything at all, their statement continued: “Upon closer examination of Ms. Davis’ statements and public record, we concluded that she unfortunately does not meet all of the criteria on which the award is based.”

Attacked by the ‘Jewish community’?

Clearly, the BCRI board was pressured into revoking their award. The question is why.

Media coverage of this episode has played up the idea that Davis’s award was canceled because of outrage by the “Jewish community” over her support for BDS. This formulation, which tries to drive a wedge between the Black and Jewish communities, is divisive and inaccurate.

Jewish people are not a political monolith. A growing number of Jewish people, in the U.S. and worldwide, support BDS and vocally oppose Israeli apartheid. This part of the “Jewish community” does not oppose Angela Davis on this question.

In fact, Angela Davis’s exceptional history in advocating for the liberation of all oppressed peoples, Jewish peoples included, precedes her. In 2015, Jewish Voice for Peace hosted Davis as the keynote speaker at their annual conference, to a tumultuous response. Supporting her against the recent attacks, this group tweeted: “To argue that Angela Davis is unworthy of a civil rights award is beyond shameful.”

To the extent that pro-Israel voices did influence the BCRI’s decision, it is because these voices agree with and have been empowered by the U.S. ruling class and political establishment, which sees Israel as an important instrument for its imperialist project in the Middle East.

Angela Davis has been demonized by the ruling class her entire life – both as a Black woman and as a radical. Rather than blaming a particular “community” of people, we should understand the attack on Angela Davis as one more aspect of the ruling class’s suppression of all radical figures and movements in the United States. Especially targeted are those who reach out in solidarity across different struggles to build multi-factional, international movements against racism, sexism, and imperialism.

The Hypocrisy of the Evangelical Church

By Deacon JB Bond

I was taken aback by the 2016 Presidential Election because the Evangelical Church Body as a whole, and the rest of America, knew about then candidate Donald J. Trump’s character flaws and unscrupulous business dealings and multiple bankruptcies. Nevertheless, the Evangelical Church body rallied for Mr. Trump to be the 45th President of the United States of America and he won. Fast forward two years later, the Evangelical Church is still going along with everything the Trump Administration does. One would expect the Republican Party to go along with all the lies, name calling, disrespect for women, LGTB and other lifestyle diversities. Given the way the Republican Party in the House and Senate have legislated, they make it plain and forthright that they too have little respect for women and various lifestyle diversities. But for the Evangelical Church Body to follow in lockstep is shameful at best, and how does one square this with the teachings of Jesus Christ? The short answer is – you cannot! The Evangelical Church Body has made a choice to serve man rather than God. When one concerns oneself with the preservation of one’s political party rather than the teachings of Jesus Christ, one demonstrates hypocrisy. In my opinion, the Evangelical

Church Body is acting like modern day Sadducees and Pharisees. These were the religious groups that Jesus warned the people in biblical times not to listen to their teachings (Matt 16:12)

The church is supposed to avoid dealing craftily and dishonestly with the Word of God (2 Cor 4:2) The church is not a social club that selects who can be a member and who cannot. The scripture teaches: whosoever will, let him or her come and drink freely the water of life (Rev 22:17). One of the things that must happen is that the leadership in the Evangelical Church must get past their own misguided Christian upbringing that taught them to think they were a superior people. This will not be an easy task, but it is what choosing to do right looks like.

To show just how low some people will go, during the Summer of 2018, there was an advertisement on a billboard on Hwy 170 between Natural Bridge Road and St. Charles Rock that read, “And the Word was made flesh, “with a picture of President Donald J. Trump with hands stretched out and mouth open wide as if he was the Word made flesh. Now for all who may not be familiar with this phrase, see St. John Chapter 1:14 and

you will find that this verse is talking about Jesus Christ. How could anyone compare Donald Trump to Jesus? This is outrageous!

The hypocrisy has no bounds. Many of the Evangelical Church members and its supporters were against Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he was on the scene and now find themselves quoting him in their pulpits and on their radio and television broadcasts. Nelson Mandela quotes are also mentioned at their convenience. Just because someone claims to be Pro-life does not mean they love children. It simply means they are pro-birth. All the indictments against members of the Trump Administration are real with more indictments sure to follow. The Evangelical Church Body seems to have turned a blind eye to it all. Bott Radio Network (BRN), a national Christian radio broadcasting station was all over the Obama Administration about any and everything he did. The hypocrisy is resounding!

As this Trump Administration continued to separate children from their parents at the southern border, BRN Christian radio broadcasts said nothing. Oh yeah, they continued to talk about being Pro-life. While children screamed when they were being torn from their parents. Like I said before,

just because they claim to be Pro-life does not mean they love children. This being said, I am moved to remember a great quote from Arthur C. Adams who said, and I quote, “We need not fear those who do evil in the name of evil, but heaven protect us from those who do evil in the name of good.” So, to the Evangelical Church body if you are not willing to tell everybody about somebody who can save anybody, take down your signs so that the true Believers will have no reason to just drop in.



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Don't Fall For Trump's Lies About Venezuela

By Walter Smolarek



People in the United States are being hit with an avalanche of propaganda about Venezuela and the government of President Nicolás Maduro. This happens in the run up to every U.S. war. The tactic is to psychologically prepare people to accept the coming aggression by connecting it to a noble cause. The information war always precedes the real war.

The ANSWER Coalition has issued an anti-war call to action — based on opposition to the U.S.-backed coup, sanctions and war — which allows people with varying opinions of the Venezuelan government to find the necessary points of unity to take action together. The PSL agrees that this is the correct approach for building the movement. With that said, we think it is critical to challenge the mass media's depiction of the Venezuelan government.

That demonization is constant — led by Donald Trump, Mike Pence, John Bolton and Marco Rubio and then echoed by the “opposition” like Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden, CNN and the New York Times. It is repeated so often that it has an impact even on progressive people who are against a new war. In opposing a coup or intervention, many will quickly add “of course I don't support Maduro” who is “dictatorial,” “corrupt,” and “undemocratic” or “has mismanaged the economy.” But is this really true, or is it just propaganda of the war-makers themselves?

Is Maduro a ‘dictator’?

If President Maduro is a dictator, why has he allowed large demonstrations to take place on a regular basis calling for his ouster, promoted by huge private media corporations? Does a dictatorship allow 11 opposition parties to take part in elections, as happened in the most recent vote the country held last December?

Even the U.S.-backed coup leader Juan Guaidó, who pronounced himself president and every day calls for the military to mutiny and for a hostile foreign power to intervene, is free to travel around the capital city giving speeches and holding meetings as part of his campaign to overthrow the government.

Is the electoral system fraudulent?

Venezuela has had 24 elections since Chavez was first elected in 1998. International observer missions have long verified the electoral system as free, fair and top-notch. The right-wing opposition even won some of these elections and didn't claim fraud then! The system is unchanged since then. The claim of electoral fraud has not been backed by evidence; it has been made precisely because the opposition could not find a way to dislodge the governing socialist party and President Maduro.

What about the images of violence on the streets?

Opposition protests large and small take place all the time in Venezuela without incident. Following Maduro's first election in 2013, right-wing forces initiated a series of riots called “guarimbas” in 2014 that claimed 43 lives. The majority of the 43 people killed were bystanders or others who were targeted by the rioters, including nine members of the police or national guard. They set up barricades and barbed wire to close off intersections and whole neighborhoods, and commit horrific violence against those who stood in their way.

Elvis Rafael Durán was one of their victims. His father Luis recalled two years after his death, “On [my son's] way home he crashed into a barbed wire that was hanging across the boulevard and he was decapitated. ... If these people hadn't called for these violent acts, none of this would have happened. My son would not have lost his life.” In 2014, an opposition demonstration marched on a government agency that provides free housing to the poor and attempted to burn down the building, which included a nursery filled with children!

The opposition revived these tactics in 2017 with renewed brutality and with their extreme white supremacy on full display. One of their victims was a young Afro-Venezuelan named Orlando Figuera, who was stabbed multiple times, then doused with gasoline and burned alive.

The riots were aimed at escalating the conflict with Venezuela's government to give the image of instability or provoke the sort of repression which could usher in an international intervention. Any government would punish the perpetrators of such violence. One opposition “freedom fighter” celebrated by U.S. politicians like Marco Rubio was Oscar Perez, who was killed in a shootout while being arrested. His crime? He had hijacked a helicopter and dropped grenades on the Venezuelan Supreme Court.

Despite all this, the government has cracked down on police excesses. After violent anti-government protests in late 2016, for example, seven police officers were arrested and charged with “violations of fundamental rights.” In 2014, a police officer was charged with the murder of an opposition protester despite the fact that he was surrounded and being pelted with rocks. Maduro's interior minister defended the officer's arrest, saying, “We will be relentless in the application of justice and the law.”

Are opposition leaders being arrested?

The right-wing leaders who were arrested and jailed, like Leopoldo Lopez, Freddy Guevara and David Smolansky, were those who organized and encouraged this violent movement. They were not arrested because of their beliefs. This is who the U.S. considers “political prisoners.” Opposition parties and leaders, drawing on huge sums from the country's upper class and U.S. agencies, continue to organize and agitate openly. One such opposition leader Henri Falcon ran in the 2018 presidential election and received 2 million votes (just under 20 percent). He accepted his defeat to Maduro.

What about the removal of opposition parties?

Some of the opposition parties that boycotted the last few elections have been de-listed by the government. That is true, but hardly a scandal. In most states in the United States too, a third party is only on the ballot if it reaches a certain threshold in votes in the last election, and if it fails to do so it has to start from scratch.

Did Maduro ‘ruin the economy’?

The country is in the midst of a serious economic crisis. But laying the blame on Maduro ignores both the causes of the crisis and the government's response.

The main reason for the economic problems is the historic collapse of the price of oil that began in 2014. For the last 100 years, Venezuela has depended on oil almost exclusively to fund its national budget and acquire foreign currency earnings. The Bolivarian Revolution has led to enormous social progress since Hugo Chavez's election in 1998, but it has not yet been able to overcome this legacy of foreign domination, a difficult task that few countries have been able to accomplish.

The price of oil reached a peak of more than \$105 per barrel in June 2014 and then fell dramatically to under \$35 in February 2016.

This has been greatly exacerbated by U.S. sanctions against the industry that has now turned into a full-blown blockade, which Trump's National Security Adviser John Bolton estimates will cost Venezuela about \$30 million a day. At the urging of the United States in late 2017, Belgian financial services firm Euroclear froze \$1.65 billion of Venezuelan public funds — including \$450 million of cash! — that the government was attempting to use to purchase food and medicine. In January, the Bank of England essentially plundered \$1.2 billion worth of Venezuelan gold that the government had deposited with them, announcing that they would only allow the coup leader Guaidó to access the assets. This is pure colonial looting.

Is the economic crisis because of socialism?

While the Bolivarian Revolution and Venezuelan government have declared that their project is to build socialism and have made major strides in that direction, the vast majority of the economy is still in the hands of capitalists. The private sector controls 50 percent of production and distribution of food, 80 percent of personal hygiene items, 70 percent of pharmaceutical items, and 80 percent of clothes and shoes.

Venezuela exists in a global order dominated by hostile capitalist classes, to whom it has to sell its exports, such as oil, and from whom it has to import goods as wide-ranging as food to technology and spare parts. Even the state-owned and nationalized enterprises have to operate by the rules of those foreign corporations, banks and creditors. All this creates a large toolkit for the forces of capitalism — not socialism — to sabotage, extort and undermine Venezuela's economic development.

What about the inflation?

In 2003, Hugo Chávez instituted currency exchange controls to keep the Venezuelan elite from taking their money out of the country and its banks, exchanging it for dollars, which would leave the country broke and collapse its currency. Only certain amounts of currency could be exchanged for dollars and it had to go through government approved institutions.

This led to an underground exchange of currency that widened over time. When oil prices collapsed, the government could have done what the governments of the rich do: cut off all social programs, sell off government assets to private investors, and let the poor fend for themselves and starve. Instead, the government continued to finance these programs and import food and medicine with its dwindling foreign currency reserves. The government tried to issue debt to investors to stabilize its finances, like so many others do, but U.S. sanctions and a pullout by international capital limited this. In response, the Maduro government printed more money to import needed food and technology (for the people). This increased inflationary pressures, however.

There is also considerable evidence that suggests the U.S. Federal Reserve devalued Venezuelan currency at various moments for political reasons. Meanwhile, privately run websites like DolarToday, publishes wildly inflated estimates of the “true” value of the Venezuelan currency relative to the U.S. dollar. DolarToday is run by Gustavo Díaz, a former Venezuelan military officer who participated in the failed 2002 coup. This constitutes a form of psychological warfare constantly throwing workers and businesses into doubt about the real value of their wages and products. With each exchange rate spike, stores increased their prices, but, fearing future instability, did not then lower prices in equal measure when the exchange rate declined. This too accelerated inflation.

Meanwhile, private distributors and importers hoarded goods to inflate their costs and deepen the social crisis. State-subsidized and price-controlled goods (such as gasoline) have been pilfered into the underground market and resold at huge profits at the Colombian border. For instance, one raid conducted by security forces in 2015 uncovered a stockpile of 176,000 liters of gasoline, 1,260 liters of vehicle oil, 2,000 cases of beer, two tons of sugar, three tons of rice, a half ton of cooking oil and nearly 15 tons of other essential food goods.

Altogether these factors created a crisis of confidence in the currency as a whole. Mistakes and mismanagement are of course part of the problem — as the government has always declared — but at its core Venezuela has been punished by international capitalism for continuing to prioritize the needs of the poor throughout this economic downturn and against the sanctions.

Is the government letting people starve?

No. Six million families now benefit from a new initiative called Local Committees for Supply and Production that directly distributes packages of essential food and other consumer goods on a regular basis to those who are most affected by inflation.

The Venezuelan government has repeatedly raised the minimum wage to try and make up for inflationary pressures. Other steps include making the metro transportation system of Caracas, although already affordable, completely free so people can go to work and school unimpeded by finances.

Are all the country's resources being stolen by the Venezuelan leadership, as the U.S. government claims?

There is of course bureaucratic corruption in Venezuela, as the government readily admits, and as there is in many countries. But in the face of this crisis, the Venezuelan government has focused on defending the living standards of poor and working people. In 2016, during the collapse of oil prices, the Venezuelan government allocated 73 percent of its budget to social programs.

In 2017, Maduro announced a new program aimed at guaranteeing jobs to young people called Chamba Juvenil. Nearly 200,000 youths enrolled in the program. Venezuelan youth, especially those historically excluded from higher education because of poverty, now enjoy free education and real opportunity, thanks to 45 public universities and colleges that have been created in 20 years of the Bolivarian Revolution.

[continued on pg 11](#)



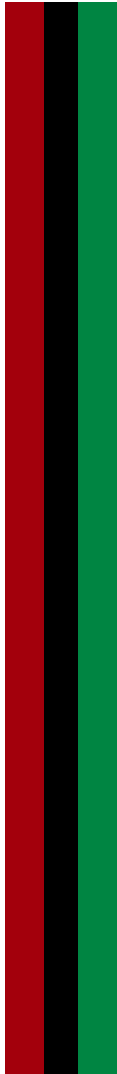
FROM CO-FOUNDERS: ZAKI BARUTI
AND SAFIYAH CHAUVIN
AND THE ENTIRE UAPO STAFF



FROM GG OWENS, FOUNDER OF THE
UAPO'S 1st CHAPTER - KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI (1989) AND ZAKI BARUTI

**TO ALL OF THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE UAPO
THROUGHOUT OUR 30 YEAR HISTORY, WE SAY A
SPECIAL THANK YOU! WE ALSO SALUTE THE
LEGACIES OF OUR FALLEN CO-FOUNDERS AND
COMRADES. THEY INCLUDE SYLVIA MILLER (MIKADA
SHABAZZ 1936-1998), HENRY MEDLEY
(1949-2000), PAKI MAHDEE (1953-2006) AND
WILLIE MARSHALL (1941-2007).**

**ALONG WITH THESE FALLEN COMRADES, WE
REMEMBER THE MEMORIES OF KEY SUPPORTERS
WHICH INCLUDE JOHNNY “RED” ROSS, GERALD REED,
SYLVESTER CHAUVIN, HARDIN MURPH, JACKIE REED,
COLUMBUS REID, ARTHUR GOODIN, HENRY GOODIN,
JABARI SNEFERU, JOHN BROOKS AND CHARLES HILL.**



NATIONAL LEADERS WHO HAVE SPOKEN AT UAPO SPONSORED EVENTS

NATION OF ISLAM LEADERSHIP

- HONORABLE MINISTER LOUIS FARRAKHAN - 1988 AND (2013-THIS EVENT WAS JOINTLY SPONSORED BY THE UAPO AND MOSQUE #28)
- MINISTER AKBAR MUHAMMAD-NOI INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE MULTIPLE TIMES THOUGHOUT THE YEARS STARTING IN 1987
- MINISTER ALIM MUHAMMAD-FORMER NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON FOR MINISTER FARRAKHAN - 1990
- MINISTER AVA MUHAMMAD-ASSISTANT TO MINISTER FARRAKHAN - 1993
- MINISTER ISHMAEL MUHAMMAD-ASSISTANT MINISTER TO MOSQUE MARYAM - 1995

OTHER NATIONAL LEADERS

- CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM CLAY SR. - MISSOURI 1ST CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - 1984
- CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES-OHIO 1984
- RON DANIELS-INDEPENDENT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE - 1991 & 1992
- MARCUS GARVEY JR.- SON OF THE HONORABLE MARCUS GARVEY, PRESIDENT/GENERAL OF THE UNIVERSAL NEGRO IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 1992
- BOB LAW-FORMER NATIONAL SYNDICATED RADIO TALK HOST OF”NIGHT TALK” - 1992, 1994 & 1995
- TURWANIRE KIMATHI MANDLA- HISTORIAN - 1996
- SISTA SOULJAH-ACTIVIST, AUTHOR, RECORDING ARTIST AND FILM PRODUCER - 2000
- SULTAN LATIF-NOTED AUTHOR OF “SLAVERY, THE AFRICAN AMERICAN PSYCHIC TRAUMA” - 2003
- RON MURRAY-CEO OF STRAIGHT TALK INTERNATIONAL SOUTH AFRICA - 2003
- DR. SIMBI VEKE MUBAKO -AMBASSADOR OF ZIMBABWE - 2004
- MALIK ZULU SHABAZZ-NOTED ACTIVIST ATTORNEY AND FORMER CHAIRPERSON OF THE NEW BLACK PANTHER PARTY - 2005
- CHOKWE LUMUMBA-RENOWNED NATIONAL ACTIVIST ATTORNEY AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE NEW AFRIKAN PEOPLES ORGANIZATION AND FORMER MAYOR OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI - 2006
- UKALI MNENDO-PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NEW AFRICA - 2006
- ERIC FLEMING-FORMER MISSISSIPPI STATE SENATOR AND CANDIDATE FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR/MISSISSIPPI - 2006
- CHARLES JOHNSON-PRESIDENT OF MATAH - 2006
- BARBARA BECNELL-FORMER CANDIDATE FOR GOVERNOR OF CALIFORNIA AND NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINEE - 2007
- ELAINE BROWN-MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SERVED BRIEFLY AS THE CHAIR OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY AND AUTHOR OF “A TASTE OF POWER” - 2007
- JOHN LUETH UKEC-AMBASSADOR OF SUDAN - 2007
- CYNTHIA MCKINNEY-FORMER GEORGIA CONGRESSWOMAN - 2011
- EBRAHIM RASOOL-AMBASSADOR OF SOUTH AFRICA - 2013
- DR. JAMES PETERSON-DIRECTOR OF AFRICANA STUDIES AT LEHIGH UNIVERSITY - 2013
- WILLIE WILSON -MILLIONAIRE BUSINESSMAN/CHICAGO, ILLINOIS AND PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE 2016 - 2015
- KAMM HOWARD-REPARATION MOVEMENT/CHICAGO, IL - 2015, 2016, 2018
- OMALI YESHITELA-CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLES SOCIALIST PARTY - 2015, 2016
- DONNIE BRADFORD-ONE MILLION CONCIOUS VOTERS COALITION - 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018
- CHARLES BARRON-NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLYMAN - 2017

A NUMBER OF LOCAL ST. LOUIS, POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC LEADERS HAVE ALSO SUPPORTED OUR PROGRAMS.

PLEASE NOTE: THOSE LEADERS WITH DATE APPEARENCES PRIOR TO OUR UAPO FOUNDING DATE OF APRIL 4, 1989 WERE IN ST. LOUIS RESPONSE TO THE CAUCUS FOR COMMUNITY PROGRESS AND CAMPAIGN TO ELECT ZAKI BARUTI (LAVOY REED) AS GOVENOR OF MISSOURI WHICH EVOLVED INTO THE UAPO!!!

Brief 30 Year Review cont'd

- SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER IN ADDRESSING POLICE AND VIGILANTE VIOLENCE AGAINST THE BLACK COMMUNITY.**
- Member organization of the Coalition Against Police Crimes and Repression 1989-2014
 - Supported the successful Implementation of removing Oversight of the St. Louis Police Department from the Missouri Governor's office to local St. Louis City control. Also, supported the successful creation of a Civilian Oversight Board for the St. Louis Police Department.
 - Member Organization of the justice for Micheal brown Jr. Leadership Coalition

- ONE OF THE MAIN VANGUARD ORGANIZATIONS IN HIGH PROFILE POLICE AND VIGILANTE KILLINGS.**
- Marilyn Banks-20 Years Old, 1983 Shot and Killed By White St. Louis Police Officer, Joseph Ferrario.
 - Belleville, Illinois- 1993 Organized Demonstrations Against Bellville and Fairview Heights, Illinois Police Departments for Racist Stops Against Black Motorists.
 - Garland Carter- 17 Years Old, 1996- Shot in the Back and Killed by White St. Louis Hispanic Police Officer, Eddie Sanchez.
 - Julius Thurman- 19 Years Old-1999 Beaten to Death While in Police Custody by White St. Louis Police Officer, Robert Dodson.
 - Arthur Dobbins- 19 Years Old, 2000 Shot and Killed by Negro Pagedale, Missouri Police Officer, Charles Hubbard.
 - Earl Murray- 36 Years Old and
 - Ronald Beasley 36 Years Old 2000 Both Killed in The Infamous Berkley Jack N The Box Shooting by Several White St. Louis County Police Officers.
 - Lenord Gakiyah-27 Years Old 2002 Found Hanging From 100' Communication Tower in Springfield, Missouri
 - Jena Six- 2006 The UAPO in Support of the Jena Six Organized A Mass Demonstration at the Old Court House Downtown St. Louis, Missouri
 - Anthony Lamar Smith- 24 Years Old 2011 Shot and Killed by a White St. Louis Police Officer Jason Stockley. Case Became Publicized by

- Anthony Shaheed in 2016.
- Cary Ball- 25 Years Old, 2013 Shot Over 25 Times by White St. Louis Police Officers.
 - Von Derrit Myers- 18 Years Old, 2014 Shot and Killed by White St. Louis Off Duty Police Officer Jason Flanery.
 - Micheal Brown Jr- 18 Years Old, 2014 Shot and Killed by White Ferguson Police Officer Darren Wilson.
 - Mikel Neal -49 Years Old and Townsal Woolfork-59 Years Old, 2018 Both Killed in Car Crash Caused by Two White St. Louis County Police Officers Alex Maloy and Mark Jakob.

POLITICALLY

- HAVE SINCE THE FOUNDING OF OUR ORGANIZATION ADVOCATED FOR THE MOST PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL THOUGHT OF THE 21 CENTURY.**
- “PROPORTIONATE POLITICAL REPRESENTATION” which simply means that whatever percentage that we are as a people on the national, state and local levels of government then we should have that percentage of representation/ power.
- Have Sponsored Four Missouri Statewide Black Peoples Conventions.**
- 1984-St. Paul AME Church- St. Louis, MO
 - 1986-University Of Missouri, St. Louis MO
 - 1992-Ressurrection Lutheran Church, St. Louis, MO
 - 2001- Ramada Inn Springfield, MO
- Have Sponsored four National Black Political Leadership Conferences.**
- 2015- Greater St. Mark Church- Ferguson, MO
 - 2016-Greater St. Mark Church- Ferguson, MO
 - 2017- Cardinal Ritter HS - St. Louis, MO
 - 2018- Forest Park Comm. Col. - St. Louis, MO

WOMEN

- UNIVERSAL AFRICAN WOMEN UNION (UAWU)** Women need more than protection and respect, we need equity in all areas, especially equal pay for equal work and self-determination of our own bodies. As women of color, along with our men, we are also working for justice, empowerment, reparations and liberation. We come from ancestral sheroes who actually physically fought and led troops to combat foreign invaders. We continue our global

struggle for freedom. We sponsor two major programs. During March, we celebrate Women History Month and International Women's Day. During the month of October, we commemorate the Million Women's March while honoring local and Bi-State phenomenal women.
Executive Director - Safiyah Chauvin

EDUCATIONALLY/YOUTH

- Hosted Saturday Academy for Youth- Pine Lawn, Missouri 1993
- Created Rising Sons And Daughters Chapters- Headed By Brady Baruti -St. Louis and GG Owens-Kansas City
- Supported the African Heritage Youth Organization Founded by Safiyah Chauvin, 1973
- Donated over 200 Black orientated Books to the East St. Louis, Illinois Library
- Supports the Jr Black Chamber Of Commerce founded by UAPO Manager/ General Amari Sneferu
- Currently have adopted Walbridge Elementary School - Gwen Cogshell, UAPO Community Outreach Coordinator.

CULTURALLY

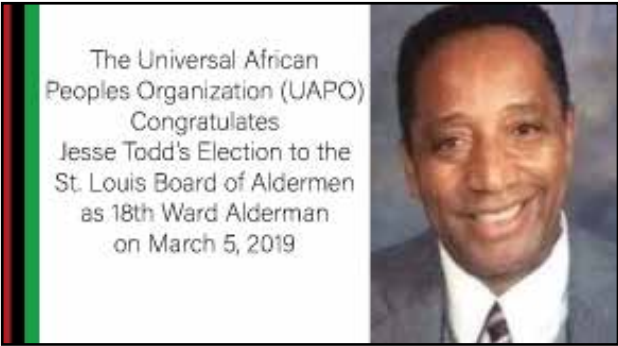
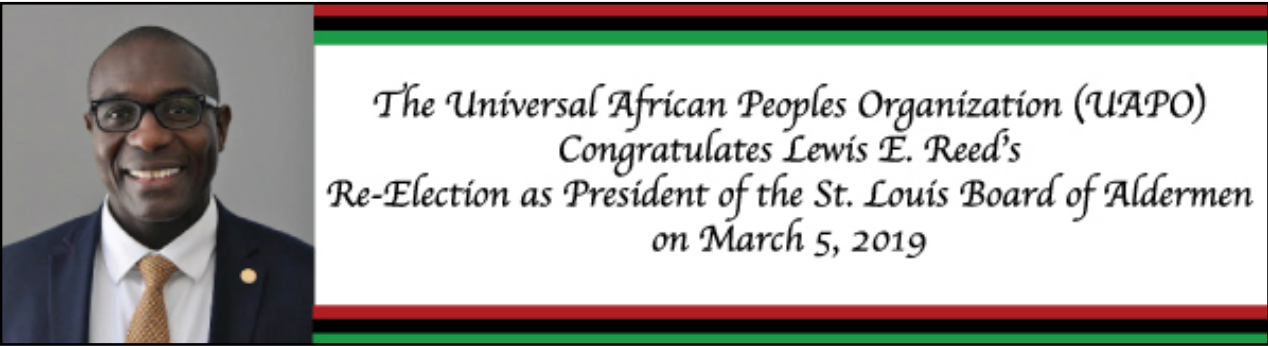
For thirty consecutive years have hosted community programs commemorating the life and legacies of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (January 15th & April 4th), Malcolm X (May 19th) and Marcus “Mosiah” Garvey (August 17th).

HOMELESSNESS

- Have over the years supported The New Life Evangelistic Homeless Shelter headed by Rev Larry Rice.
- Donated large quantities of products to St. Peters AME Church which opened its doors to the homeless during the harsh winter months of 2017-2018.

MEDIA OUTREACH

- Have published our quarterly newspaper, the African NewsWorld for 30 years
- Hosted a radio talk program “Power Hour-Let's Get Busy” 1999-2006
- Currently have produced over 100 shows of the television/Internet talk program (CONVERSATION WITH ZAKI BARUTI)



UAPO OUTREACH ACTIVITIES



UAPO Members Queen Ziah, Marble Davis and Gwen Cogshell with Walbridge Elementary School Staff – Supplies for students

UAPO Member, Michelle Scott with school girls in Kenya

Pictorial Glimpse of Havana, Cuba Through The Eyes of a Twelve Member UAPO Delegation Dec. 22-24, 2018



Queen Freedom, Queen Ziah, Jacqueline Foster, Clara Cheeks, Brady Baruti, Gwen Cogshell, Tracie Reese, Yvonne Bond, JB Bond GG Owens, Zaki Baruti, Coffee Wright



Zaki Baruti with Queen Ziah and Coffee Wright in front of the Capitol Building in Old Havana, Cuba



Zaki and Brady Baruti and JB and Yvonne Bond travelling in Cuba's 1950's Vintage Car



Coffee Wright, Queen Ziah and Gwen Cogshell travelling in Cuba's 1950's Vintage Car



Coffee, Brady and Ziah chilling in Downtown Havana, Cuba



Tracy and Queen Freedom admiring vintage cars in Downtown Havana, Cuba



Clara Cheeks and other UAPO Delegation Members at Outdoor Café in Old Havana, Cuba



Tracy and Queen Freedom hanging out with Cuban Brother in Downtown Havana, Cuba

Architectural Structures of Old Havana, Cuba



Memorial Jose Marti Monumental Statue and Lookout



Downtown infrastructure in Old Havana, Cuba



Sideview of Capitol Building Old Havana, Cuba



Downtown infrastructure in Old Havana, Cuba



Zaki capturing the essence of Old Havana, Cuba



One of several forms of a Taxi in Old Havana, Cuba



One of the many night spots in Havana, Cuba



Zaki in the Plaza of the revolution pointing to the mural of Revolutionary, Che Guevarra

Safer in Cuba

By James Ingram

In East St. Louis, assault weapon fire has become so common that one hardly awakens from one’s nightly slumber because of the sheer frequency of shots being randomly fired.

Neighboring St. Louis is no different, with “We Must Stop Killing Each Other” signs prominently displayed on lawns to illustrate the dilemma of an escalating murder rate, which has gotten out of control, with violence and shootings spilling over into once safe suburban communities.

So-called “experts” state the obvious, that this is the result of insufficient education and high unemployment, compounded by cyclical poverty, single-parent homes, blah, blah, blah. But are these really the reasons?

I’m a product of East Boogie, not exactly the bastion of wealth or the lap of luxury in the Metro-East area. My parents weren’t degreed, but worked hard to achieve the American dream of a home, education for their children and access to upward mobility. I grew up in a neighborhood with everyone from school teachers to blue collar workers to miscreants; there was balance.

Of course there was some criminal activity but nowhere on the scale that we experience today, despite there being a disproportionate number of poor citizens in our midst. That leads me to the conclusion that poverty has become a convenient excuse for crime, murder and devaluation of life.

I concluded this upon returning recently from my second visit to Havana, Cuba (which is truly a poor city). The average salary amounts to about \$15 to \$20 per month, while degreed professionals such as doctors and lawyers are fortunate to make perhaps \$40 to \$50 per month. Their biggest luxury these days are cell phones with spotty internet accessibility. Most wear no designer brands, own no cars and exist on basic diets, with meat being a luxury.

Yet, in two years of travel to Havana, I never encountered a beggar, a homeless individual nor anyone of a sinister or suspect nature. I also never once felt afraid, not even at 3 or 4 a.m., as I roamed darkened streets

(which appeared to be more like alleys) and frequented local clubs and music venues.

Perhaps it was because policia (cops) were walking beats throughout Old Havana to the Malecon seawall or simply because the culture lends itself to peace. And having traveled throughout the Caribbean, I am convinced that Cuba is the safest island despite being the closest (a mere 90 miles) to the USA. And it isn’t a figment of my imagination or some bias on my part.

Lonely Planet says of Havana that there is “almost no gun crime, violent robbery, organized gang culture, teenage delinquency, drugs or dangerous no-go zones.” That is simply unheard of in 2018. They also boast of a 99.8 percent literacy rate and one of the highest doctor-to-patient ratios in the world, in spite of their poverty.

While back in the USA, East St. Louis is ranked as the “Most Dangerous City in America” by the National Council for Home Safety and Security and St. Louis is ranked as “America’s Most Dangerous City” by the FBI and “the least safe city in America” by a recent WalletHub study.

So what’s the solution? I wish that I knew and refuse to pretend to know as some do. There are groups engaged in everything from foot patrols to concocting clever hooks, slogans and signage (some that are literally bullet-riddled), hoping that it will curtail the violence. Police have tried various policing strategies to no avail. Citizens see crimes in progress but are afraid to reveal the names of suspects for fear of their own lives.

Perhaps a field trip to Havana is in order for some answers on gun control, community policing and just plain community pride. Whatever the solution, I am open because clearly we don’t have one in East Boogie, the STL or America.

And it’s become so bad that, depending on how America eventually normalizes relations, I can envision my eventual bullet-free, crime-free retirement on the beautiful island of Cuba.

Email: jtingram_1960@yahoo.com; [Twitter@JamesTIngram](https://twitter.com/JamesTIngram).

Which Way Can Save The Planet: Cuba’s Socialist Planning or the ‘Magic of the Marketplace?’

By Judi Yang and Joyce Chediak



This month Cuba celebrates the 60th anniversary of its 1959 revolution and a government committed to building socialism. Blockaded and sanctioned all that time by the U.S. behemoth just 90 miles away, it is a major accomplishment that this small island nation of 11 million people has survived.

But Cuba has not just survived. With few resources, it has become the world’s role model for how to reduce carbon emissions, reduce atmospheric temperatures and prepare its people, army, and civil defense forces for cataclysmic natural disasters, such as severe hurricanes or tornadoes.

According to the World Wildlife Fund’s Living Planet Report 2016, Cuba has the most sustainable model of development on the planet. Cuba has an environmentally sustainable development combined with an acceptably high quality of life as measured by the UN Human Development Index. Costa Rica recently joined the ranks of Cuba for sustainable development.

That’s happening?

An extraordinary report was recently issued by the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, urgently calling for swift reductions in fossil fuel use by 2030 to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, which it said are approaching much faster than anyone had thought.

The planet is heating up, mainly due to more carbon dioxide, and other man-made emissions in the atmosphere. Rising ocean temperatures and increased acidity are triggering mass die-offs and rising sea levels. Further consequences are more frequent extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis, with extreme weather events now accounting for 77 percent of

total economic losses, \$2.245 trillion, the report notes.

The impact is disproportional. According to a report by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), people in low- and middle-income countries are seven times more likely to die from natural disasters than those in developed nations.

Which way to go?

The U.S. has much wealth and an abundance of resources. If Washington and Wall Street put time, money and effort into eliminating carbon emissions here it would make a huge difference, and other major powers would follow suit. The pressing environmental issues present an opportunity to prove what corporate America has long maintained – the “magic of the marketplace,” i.e., unfettered industry for profit, drives human advancement, and is beneficial for all.

When push comes to shove, however, rising sea levels, increasing ocean and atmospheric temperatures, and record extreme weather patterns are not a major concern to a capitalist economic system where corporations’ profit margins are the priority.

Since the start of his presidency, Donald Trump and his advisers have only shown disdain for the findings of climate change scientists, often amplifying the voices of climate change deniers. The Trump administration has refused to endorse the recent UN climate change report, will not honor commitments for emission reductions made in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement, and is dismantling existing climate-protecting legislation as quickly as it can.

And capitalism’s for-profit “solutions” to climate warming have been shown to actually be part of the problem. For example, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton circled the globe advocating extraction of natural gas by U.S. companies via fracking, claiming that it was “clean” energy. The truth fracking is nothing close to clean: toxic chemicals used in fracking contaminates groundwater while the extraction process causes earthquakes, releases methane gasses that are more climate warming than carbon dioxide and in general takes a toll on public health and the ecosystem.

Cuba reduces carbon footprint

In marked contrast, Cuba has utilized socialist planning and mass motivation and mobilization to achieve major environmental gains.

In 2005, Cuba began a conservationist “Energy Revolution” program that saved over \$1 billion in energy in U.S. dollars

in the first two years. Energy efficient light bulbs, rice cookers and refrigerators were distributed to the population. Cuba transformed its national electricity grid to interconnected decentralized generation plants, with micro-grid generators giving back-up electricity for hospitals, bakeries and food storage.

In the last few years, Cuba has installed 11 mw of wind power and 24 mw of solar power. As a contribution to the Paris Climate Agreement, Cuba agreed to install more than 2,000 mw of renewable generation sources, with 24 percent of their electricity sector to be form renewable sources by 2030.

Cuba has stepped up reforestation, nearly doubling the island’s forested area to 30 percent in 2018, and has the healthiest coral reef system in the Caribbean due to decades of conservation and restoration efforts.

Key services decentralized

The government implemented land reforms and encouraged small farms and farming cooperatives. Food production is decentralized when possible. Small-scale organic production in urban and suburban agriculture near where people live accounts for around 60 percent of vegetables eaten by the population, dramatically decreasing energy required for transport and storage.

There are local service centers containing the stores, health services and schools Cubans need in their everyday lives. This means that people can walk to meet their essential needs rather than using public transportation or needing to own a car.

For local transport, the government imported a million bicycles from China. A taxi in Cuba can take many forms – from bicycle and motor rickshaws to horse carts to vintage cars. Animal carts sometimes transport fertilizer for urban agriculture. Cuba has a high percentage of people who walk from place to place.

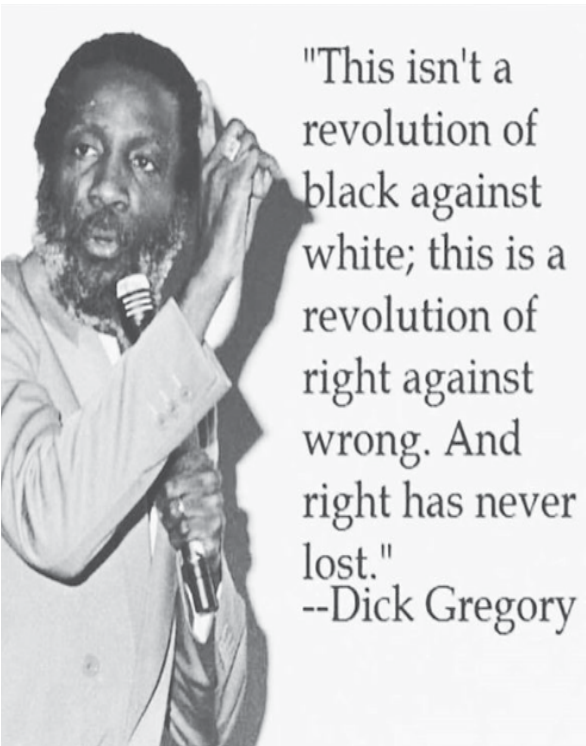
Little waste

Everything that can be is recycled is. There’s little waste and the lifespan of products is extended well beyond what would be considered possible in the United States’ throw-away society. Due to the blockade, disposable income hardly exists, and, to the shock of many Western visitors, imported consumer goods are prohibitively expensive. While Cuba lacks material goods, its society is known for its friendliness and sense of community.

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Right and Wrong

By Lionel B Nixon



As I got older, made some life decisions professionally that perhaps may have cost me the accumulation of a lot of wealth, but provided me the freedom to have more control over my time and action to study, research, teach, write, advocate, propose and impact the formation of public policy, function as a political operative using digital communication methodologies and theme creations on social media on behalf of selected progressive political candidates and causes.

I recognized that at the highest-level of struggle across the world, America and even here in Chicago that what Dick Gregory taught us in his ecapulation of this quote underpins the very essence and causality relative to the issues that we face across the world, such as prejudice, systemic racism, religious persecution, economic exploitation, sexism, violence, political corruption, war, poverty. Spatial Deconcentration, scientific weather experimentation and chemtrailing the negative environmental implications and affects, pollution, the biological and chemical restructuring

of natural food growth, the accumulation of lead and chemicals in our planets natural drinking water and oceans, the accelerated reduction of wildlife nature centers and extinction of wildlife as well as population reduction to name a few.

Yes in America there are issues of race. Bad things that are done to Black people in particular that I am most familiar with and knowledgeable of from personal life experience.

Of course there are other people here in America and around the world of whom are victims of bad things being done to them as well.

But at the highest level of causality, laying aside all excuses there is the fundamental issue as expressed in this quote by Dick;

“Right and Wrong”



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Cuba’s socialist planning cont’d

People’s needs are met

Some apologists for capitalism argue that the world’s people, especially those in the West, have grown accustomed to all the conveniences associated with high carbon emissions, and to change this would severely impact on quality of life. But Cuba is able to do all that it does without a drastic effect on the quality of life of its people.

Why? Because the Cuban government makes sure that all people’s basic needs are met. It has a free national health care system focused on preventative medicine, subsidized medications, one of the highest doctor-to-patient ratios in the world, and an infant mortality rate of 4.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, lower than that of the U.S.

Education on all levels is free and literacy stands at 99.75 percent. All Cubans have enough to eat through the monthly ration program for staple foods and a cap on food prices.

Rent is no more than 10 percent of income and 85 percent of the people are homeowners. Houses can be exchanged, but not sold for a profit. Electricity, telephone, gas and water are subsidized. There is no homelessness.

Global model for hurricane preparedness

Having one’s basic needs met opens the door to a sense of community and neighborly concern that goes a long way in another form of Cuban conservation – hurricane preparedness. Cuba has been cited by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the United Nations as a global model for hurricane risk reduction. This preparedness involves the whole population and even Cuban children know what to do.

When Hurricane George hit in 1998, 600 people were killed in neighboring countries. In contrast, only four people were killed in Cuba. Due to their preparedness program, Cuba has survived

its last 17 hurricanes with only 35 deaths.

While 2016’s Hurricane Matthew killed 44 people in the United States, it killed no one in Cuba, despite causing much destruction. Hurricane Katrina left as many as 1,800 people dead in the U.S. In 2008, Hurricanes Gustav and Ike pummeled Cuba at the peak of their intensity killing seven. But in the U.S., 30 people died, even though the storm had lost much of its strength. In 2003, Hurricane Isabel killed more in the U.S. than six major hurricanes did in Cuba from 1996 and 2002.

Everyone has a role to play

Cuba’s preparedness is attributed to its government’s civil defense forces instilling disaster preparedness on a daily basis and the mobilization of the entire population to help as needed.

Every capable citizen has a role to play in disaster preparedness. It’s not a voluntary task. Cuban citizens share a sense of duty and determination to protect their island nation, not just from foreign invaders, but also from natural disasters that can destroy crops and infrastructure.

With an extremely high literacy rate, all Cuban residents know how to interpret meteorological reports, which are broadcast every six hours, and more frequently as hurricanes or other natural disasters approach.

“A taxi driver can tell you what a hurricane 5 is on the Saffir-Simpson scale and they will give you a whole lecture on what they need to do to prepare,” said Gail Reed, executive editor of the Medic Review, a peer-review journal about health and medicine in Latin America.

The nationalized TV and radio networks broadcast the national plans for evacuation, which is mandatory, resulting in fewer deaths unlike in the U.S. and elsewhere where residents are less informed of the dangers and often lack the economic resources

to evacuate voluntarily.

Not only is the entire country mobilized, but the country’s people prepare for disasters, not only just before they happen but on an ongoing basis. Overgrown trees near phone and electrical lines are cleared so there is less risk of fires and electrocution from downed power lines. Cooking gas lines are shut down to prevent gas explosions from high wind. Crops are harvested to the extent possible in advance of an oncoming hurricane.

Cuba protects personal property, replaces belongings

Cuba also emphasizes the protection of personal property, such as furniture and appliances, moving peoples’ belongings to higher ground long before disaster strikes. The Cuban government also replaces belongings that get damaged, at government expense. Cuba makes its most vulnerable populations a priority temporarily relocating women, children and the elderly.

As an island, Cuba is especially vulnerable to rising sea levels. Cuba has begun implementing Project Life, a plan to prepare the country for climate change over the next century. This includes plans to boost coastline protection, implement engineering to buffer waves, and relocating low-lying villages. “Impressive,” is how David Guggenheim, a marine scientist and president of Ocean Doctor, a nonprofit in Washington, D.C., describes this plan. He adds, “Cuba is an unusual country in that they actually respect their scientists, and their climate-change policy is science driven.”

How does Cuba do it?

Armando Choy, a leader of the Cuban Revolution, said, “This is possible because our system is socialist in character and commitment, and because the revolution’s top leadership acts in the interests of the majority of humanity inhabiting planet Earth – not on behalf of narrow individual interests, or even simply Cuba’s national interests.”

Trump’s lies cont’d

Perhaps the Maduro government’s most impressive social program is the Grand Housing Mission Venezuela, an initiative to give free or nearly free homes to every Venezuelan who is in need of dignified housing. At the beginning of this year, the Housing Mission reached a new milestone: 2.5 million new homes constructed and distributed to the people. Taking an average family size of four, this means one-third of Venezuela’s 30 million people benefiting from the program. Imagine the U.S. government — which is far richer — providing homes to 100 million poor people!

What about the medical shortages?

Venezuela’s constitution guarantees the right to medical care, and more than 20,000 Cuban doctors and nurses provide free care to the population. With Cuban-Venezuelan cooperation, thousands of Venezuelans have been trained to become the new generation of doctors.

But these health gains have been threatened by U.S. sanctions and even right-wing violence targeting these facilities and doctors. In 2018, Venezuela’s purchase order of five major medical shipments was blocked by U.S. banks under government order. The year’s vaccination program for children was delayed for five months, and the country’s 60,000-plus diabetics were denied insulin, again because of U.S. sanctions.

Why is the Maduro government blocking ‘humanitarian aid’?

The United Nations and Red Cross have both declared that the “aid” at the Colombian border does

not meet the definition of humanitarian, which has to be neutral, apolitical and requested by the receiving country. Why would Venezuela allow the very countries that have looted its resources and treasury to now pretend to be for “humanitarian aid”? It rightly views this as political theater to try and humiliate the government in the media and provoke it into a military conflict.

Venezuela has not rejected aid from its international friends. Venezuelan Health Minister Carlos Alvarado announced last week the arrival of 933 tons of medicines and medical supplies from China, Cuba, and the Pan American Health Organization. Earlier this week, President Maduro announced that 300 tons of Russian aid is scheduled to arrive soon. This is more than 10 times the amount being “offered” by USAID, whose director has been giving militant speeches calling for regime change in Venezuela.

Conclusion

There is no need to bow before the lies about Venezuela from Trump, Bolton or Senator Marco Rubio. There is a reason that the Maduro government continues to enjoy its widest support among the country’s poor and working class, even though they have been hit hardest by the economic crisis. Millions see that the government and United Socialist Party has consistently tried to make society more just, equal, participatory and independent — and that is precisely why U.S. imperialism and the country’s oligarchy are trying to strangle it.



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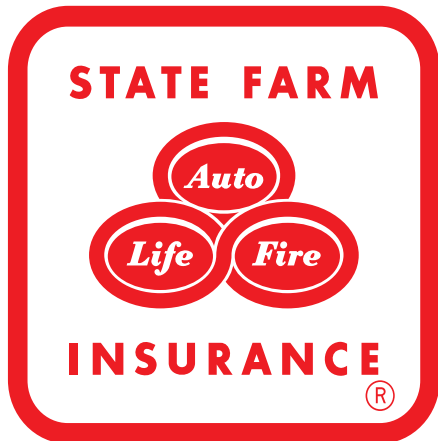
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DIVERSITY AT MSD:

MSD understands the role of diversity in creating a strong and vibrant St. Louis community. Accordingly, we have had policies in place for many years that help develop and grow minority- and women-owned business enterprises (MWBES).

From July 1, 2017 – MSD's most recently completed fiscal year – through March 31, 2018, minority-owned firms performed \$29,362,005 million in capital work, representing 19.86 percent of our capital program for that period. Women-owned firms performed \$4,630,762 million in capital work, representing 3.13 percent of our capital program spending.* During that same timeframe, minority workforce participation was 574,676 hours or 29.54 percent of total hours worked on capital projects. Women participation was 115,258 hours or 5.93 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.

• MSD PROJECTS:

To learn about bidding on MSD projects visit www.stlmsd.com/msd-work/bidding-projects.

• MSD SMALL CONTRACTOR PROGRAM:

MSD is seeking small contractors to participate in its Small Contractor Program, offering bid opportunities under \$25,000 with minimum requirements. For more details visit: <http://www.stlmsd.com/small-contractor-program>.

• EMPLOYMENT WITH MSD:

For information on current job opening at MSD or to submit a job interest notification for future openings, visit www.stlmsd.com/careers.

• MSD MINORITY SCHOLARSHIPS:

Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville (SIUE) and MSD have teamed up to create scholarships for the Water Quality Control Operations Program at the Environmental Resource Training Center (ERTC) of SIUE. For more details, visit www.stlmsd.com/msd-offers-minority-scholarships.

• SUPPLIER DIVERSITY:

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*Numbers are as of June 29, 2018. Please note, as project documentation is finalized, precise numbers may fluctuate.



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URBAN LEAGUE of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc.

SOS | SAVE OUR SONS

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES | CHANGING LIVES

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

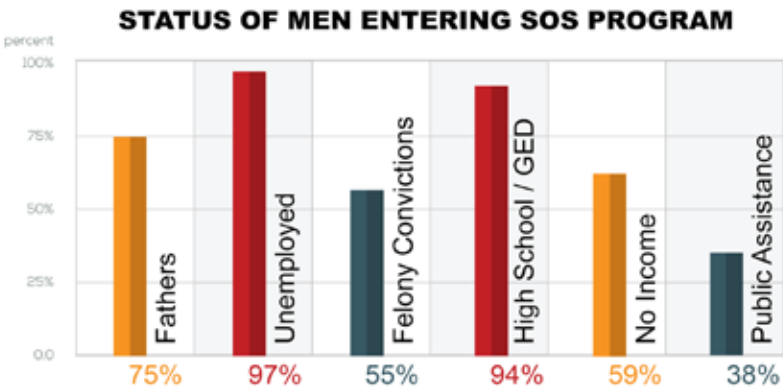
The mission of the Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis, Inc. is to empower African Americans and others throughout the region in securing economic self-reliance, social equality and civil rights.

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.



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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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 out 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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