

In Commemoration of Black History Month  
An Historic Pan-Africanist Forum

# Zimbabwe

## Pan-Africanism or Imperialism



Keynote Speaker  
**Dr. Molefi Asante**  
Professor, Author  
Esteemed International  
Pan-Africanist

"The best way of learning to  
be an independent sovereign  
state is to be an independent  
sovereign state."

Kwame Nkrumah



**Professor  
Leonard  
Jefferies**



**Amiri  
Baraka**  
Unit & Struggle  
Newspaper



**Viola  
Plummer**  
December 12th  
Movement



**Dr. James  
McIntosh**  
CE.M.O.T.A.P.



**Atty Malik  
Zulu Shabazz**  
New Black  
Panther Party



**Monica  
Moorehead**  
International  
Action Center



**Chaka  
Cousins**  
All African Peoples  
Revolutionary Party

# Journal Of Presentations

February 8, 2009, National Black Theatre, Harlem, New York City



## DECEMBER 12TH MOVEMENT

456 NOSTRAND AVENUE, BROOKLYN, N.Y. 11216  
P 718.398.1766 \* F 718.623-1855 \* E D12M@AOL.COM

*February 9, 2009*

***Dear Brothers and Sisters:***

*Dr. Molefi Asante, Amiri Baraka, Dr. Leonard Jefferies, Dr. James McIntosh,  
Atty. Malik Zulu Shabazz, Sis. Monica Moorehead and Bro. Chaka Cousins*

*On behalf of the December 12<sup>th</sup> Movement we want to thank you again for  
your contribution to the historic Forum: **Zimbabwe: Pan-Africanism or  
Imperialism.***

*Your defense of the Zimbabwean Revolution and the right of African people  
to self-determination was a needed declaration of war against the inhumane  
and predatory attacks against the Zimbabwean peoples' right to participate  
in the international community as a respected and developing country.*

*The birth right of African people to their land and its resources, stolen by  
European colonialism for centuries was set right by the united determination  
of the Zimbabwean people and their Chimurengas' (armed liberation wars).*

*As you all well described in your individual presentations, the great Pan-Africanist  
Kwame Nkrumah summed up many years ago in analyzing the torturous path of  
true freedom from colonialism and its more devious stepchild Neo-colonialism,  
he said, **"The only way to be an independent sovereign nation is to be and  
independent sovereign nation"**. And so, Zimbabwe remains in the process of  
birthing the nation that was nourished by the blood of its freedom fighters at  
Heroes Acre and the many known and unknown graves throughout the Zimbabwe  
landscape.*

*H.E. President Robert G. Mugabe has stayed the course of liberation through  
its many twist and turns, earning the loyalty, respect and love of all freedom  
loving people who will not gravel at the feet of Imperialism.*

*Your contribution yesterday has raised high the banner of struggle. You not  
only energized the hundreds in attendance, but your words and voices will be  
heard far and wide.*

*Thank you again, for doing what we were suppose to do...*

***U.S. Hands Off Zimbabwe / End The Sanctions Now!***

*In struggle,  
Viola Plummer and Omowale Clay  
for the December 12<sup>th</sup> Movement*

*Presentation by*

## **Dr. Molefi Kete Asante**

*Forum: Zimbabwe: Pan-Africanism or Imperialism  
National Black Theatre, Harlem, New York City  
February, 8, 2009*

### **Hands Off an Independent Zimbabwe! Let an Afrocentric Revolutionary Pan African Nation Rise from Created Chaos!**

The movement for the complete liberation of African people has never stopped and the most progressive theoretical arm of that movement has always been found in Harlem. On the ground in Africa we have seen the convergence of the theoretical and practical in many places; Zimbabwe is the latest ideological point in the long knife of an African thrust into the belly of external domination.

Allow me to set the stage and then I will make a sharp analysis of the current situation, and leave with some proposals.

#### **The Stage is Set**

I have already said and you have read it probably that Obama must leave Zimbabwe alone. Mugabe is the iconic father of his nation. Here we see an African leader, born under the most horrible form of racial domination, educated in the Pan African workshops of practice in Ghana under Nkrumah, commander of Zanu and its military wing Zanla, prime minister and president of his country, a national and international hero, stake out the lines of defense against recolonization in the boldest terms in contemporary Africa. Mugabe is not a monster; indeed he is exceptionally intelligent. as you would expect from someone whose ancestors built more than 800 stone cities in the southern part of Africa. There has always been pride in the country, now there is determination to maintain the victory.

We have come to honor that posture. We have come to insist that the people of Zimbabwe remain free and independent. We have come to announce our solidarity with the most progressive elements in the black

world. So we demand that the Western nations led by President Barack Obama lift all sanctions on the freedom loving people of Zimbabwe.

I am pleased to talk about Zimbabwe, my son MK Jr. was the first African American born in the free Zimbabwe.. I have a special love for Africa and an even greater love for the country of Zimbabwe because it was the first place I saw Africans trying to revolutionize their way of thinking about the world.

I first went to the country in 1980 and went back to live in 1981 and left in the summer of 1982. I saw first hand what the new government was up against; I was a part of the process as the first person to oversee the diploma program for new journalists.

I went to Zimbabwe as an Afrocentrist because I wanted to join the most progressive African government of the day. I had been in Dar es Salaam in 1972 and had met various brothers and sisters who were willing to engage the enemy of Africa on the ground in Mozambique and Rhodesia, but it would be FRELIMO that would capture our attention first and the clarion call of Samora Machel that the struggle continues would reverberate around the world. He also said that the revolution was a university, but everyone did not participate in revolution in Mozambique or Zimbabwe.

Less than ten years later I was in Zimbabwe with the belief that if the country needed me I was willing to give time to see the revolution succeed.

It is where I learned the practical meaning of revolution, but where I also saw the forces that gathered to prevent the true education of the people.

Make no mistake about it. Robert Mugabe has always been pro-African, and pro-revolution, and anti racist. These attitudes were reinforced by his time in Ghana. The condition of the black people in Zimbabwe before the Second Chimurenga was near slavery. Mugabe would have to re-educate people who had long depended upon the whites for their livelihood to reinvent themselves, to see their own history of struggle. ZANU PF had to revise the text of the country, the historical text. Clearly they were unsuccessful.

Whites had managed to segregate the country much like South Africa; blacks lived for the most part in the most impoverished areas of the country. The wages of the African population averaged about ten dollars a month, while the whites made six hundred dollars a month. It was once reported that the whites in Rhodesia had the highest standard of living in the world. Yes, it was as David Walker said about us in 1828, the white Christians were the most cruel, barbaric people in the world, and we the most pitiful, abject beings who ever lived. This is the way it was in Zimbabwe. We are not talking theory now; we are talking reality.

The problem is that young people do not know the trials of those who paved the way for them. They have no appreciation of the struggle for freedom. They do not remember the Chimoi Massacre. They think that the war is won and we are free. After all the United States just elected Barack Obama. Well, the war in Zimbabwe was half-won; that was one of the early mistakes of Mugabe's government. People like Tsvangirai were not in the bush fighting for liberation; he was trying to further his career and so Heroes Acre means nothing to him. He probably laughs at the Independence Day celebrations of the Zimbabwean people.

I worked to train journalists in Zimbabwe. I had headed the communication department at State University of New York at Buffalo and so I wanted to dedicate my skills to the country when I heard that the whites were leaving Zimbabwe to go to South Africa. Mugabe created the Zimbabwe Institute of Mass Communication under the control of Dr. Nathan Shamuyarira and Director Ezekiel Makunike. I also served as speech writer for the head of the Media Trust, Dr. Sadza.

I met Mugabe on several occasions and shared with him my dreams for a free Africa. He was way ahead of me, but he was human and I think he made early mistakes, the same ones that are being made in South Africa. You cannot give the people the impression that murderers of black people are free to walk the streets without punishment. You cannot give the idea that those who fought against the people did not do anything wrong. No, you must exercise judgment and measure out judgment or else the people will demand it.

Mugabe did not punish the white racists who killed black people. He could not do it in many cases because the judges remained white, the British and Americans had made it clear that the white civil servants were to remain in office for at least ten years or until retirement.

They did massive damage to the country.

Even when I came back to the States I remember getting a request from someone in the president's office about translations, educational opportunities, and so forth,. Who would translate greetings from China, or France, or Germany, or Brazil, or India, if they were not in English. Who would make a way for people who had devoted their lives to the struggle to be educated now that the Chimurenga was over?

I remember Freedom Nyambuya, Tichaona Freedom, who commanded 6000 guerillas in the eastern part of the country. I went with her to Mudzi where the people still

remembered her as a hero. Who knows this giant among the heroes of Africa? I tell you this story because she left school in the 7th grade and spent seven years in the countryside fighting against the white Rhodesians. When the war was over she was given a job in the Zimbabwe Institute of Mass Communication as an administrator. We drove deep into the country to establish mimeograph task forces for news distribution and Mudzi was one of our first sites.

Here the veterans would come out of their houses and want to know even then where was the land?

But like all veterans of that war they complained that their victory was being stolen because the whites still dominated the land. Although the number of whites had fallen to just below a 100,000 there were still about 5000 white farmers who controlled the vast majority of the fertile land of the country in 2000.

The Central Committee of Zanu Pf heard their cries and tried to juggle the Lancaster House agreement and the people's needs. They did it for 20 years and then finally decided to act on their revolutionary agenda to take back their ancestors' land.

They did not wait any longer for the British to pay them or to pay the whites as they had declared they would. This was a stalling technique to insure that the whites would remain forever in charge of the economy. President Mugabe and his cabinet had to make a decision. His decision was historic because it was in the interest of the masses of the people. If they had to be broken from the Western womb then it had to be done for the people to become self-reliant. They had to take back the land. They had waited too long. They had to bring justice to an unjust situation that had festered under the eye of the Americans and British. The Zimbabweans knew it would be hard. They also knew that they were right, correct, and just.

They also knew that the white farmers, some who owned 60,000 acres were producing not food crops, but cash crops to make themselves rich. Who eats tobacco and cotton?

Yes, there was maize but most of it was for export anyway. The condition of the people was pitiful in their own land. They were compelled to call for redress. What people would stand by and allow such a small minority to dominate their lives?

### **Brief Analysis of the Contemporary Scene**

Actions bring reactions. Certainly the stakeholders in black oppression did not wait long to react. When Mugabe's government began to take the lands and redistribute them to the people, sometimes to the people who had been working the farms for decades anyway, because the land belonged to their ancestors, the reactionaries started a military resistance by arming themselves and some of their collaborators to fight the government.

Yes, you have black collaborators in these situations I am sorry to say. You can always find people who will collaborate against their own interests.

The white reactionaries used several strategies to confound the redistribution of the land.

They contacted all NGOs in the country and tried to enlist them in the propaganda against the government.

They used the Western media stationed in the country to report on land takeovers and redistributions as if these were bad things.

They organize ethnic conclaves to try the divide and conquer tactics of the old Rhodesian government where they sought to make Shona and Ndebele people see each other through the eyes of enemies rather than as comrades against the minority racist economic overlords.

They threaten to pull all of their money out of the country and cause it to collapse because they had the expertise that would be looked upon by foreigners.

They created an opposition party and funded it with covert and then not so covert money from the United States and Europe. Roy Bennett, the white farmer, became treasurer of Tsvangirai's MDC, and they put a black face on the party.

Once this set of protocols were in place; they seized control of the international media of propaganda and did just what Marcus Garvey said they would do, they outpropagandized the legitimate forces in Zimbabwe. That is why you have black people who think Mugabe is crazy. That is why they ask me, does Mugabe love his people? What is the proper response to stupid questions? I have not yet learned, so I normally disengage from nonsense.

Then you got the preachers, I know we got some thinking ones, but you got a lot of silly ones too, running around talking about Mugabe's persecution of the missionaries. Where do they come from? Where do they get their money from if not America and Britain? We have to challenge the nonsense talk of Archbishop Desmond Tutu and political grandstanders like Prime Minister Raila Odinga from Kenya. Can you believe that they called for military intervention in Zimbabwe? By whom? For what reason?

Tutu led the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa and let the white racists walk free. Why does he want to invade Zimbabwe? Why not take care of the land question in South Africa where whites still dominate the economy and control most of the arable lands?

Raila Odinga from Kenya has not proposed troops to support the black people fighting for their lives in Darfur in Sudan, nor has he sought to support the African Union troops in Somalia. Kenya has not been eager to support Pan African projects anywhere in Africa.

Kenya is home to several American and British military bases, but not Zimbabwe. You have a pro Western government in

Kenya that is against the interests of its own people. They still do not allow African clothes to be worn in the parliament of Kenya. Why should I think that the land of Obama's father would be progressive about Zimbabwe when they have all bought into the white Western world's interpretation of every thing. It is one of the greatest users of whitening creams and the Bible; those things go together, don't you know?

What do they claim?

There is a cholera epidemic in Zimbabwe?

There are more cholera cases in Angola and Mozambique than Zimbabwe. Whose is calling for the invasion of those nations?

The Zimbabwean cholera, according to Sikhanyiso Ndlovu, is a calculated racist attack on Zimbabwe by the unrepentant former colonial power which has enlisted support from its allies to invade Zimbabwe.

They claim that Mugabe drove out the squatters who had camped on the streets of Harare. It is true that the government sought to make the lives of its people better by building cheap houses that were safer, more sanitary, and not built on rubbish heaps. It is true that Operation Murambatsvina is not the only such move in the world. It happens in India, China, Italy, Brazil, and yes, the homeless are often picked up from the streets of Philadelphia and placed in shelters.

We need to ask the religious puppets and the political robots, where was the West when Ian Smith slaughtered men, women, and children at the Chimoio and Nyadzonya refugee camps in 1974?

Where was the West when whites killed Kaguvi 75 years earlier?

Where was the West when the racists killed the spiritual leader Nehanda?

Where was the West when thousands of black bodies were dumped in common



graves by the Rhodesians?

No, do not tell me about the generosity of the West. What they want in Africa is sustainable exploitation. Mugabe is the poster child against that type of exploitation.

What they want is to line Africa up with the security interests of the U. S. The Zimbabwe of today is the Haiti of yesterday. All the nations that have fought against racism have suffered at the hands of racist nations. We have to end the suffering at the hands of racists. Look at Haiti and remember Boukman and Cecile Fatiman and the sacred meeting at Boi Caiman.

Today when we look at Haiti we speak about the violence in the streets, the poverty, the chaos in social services, and the exploitation of the workers. When we see Zimbabwe we see Haiti. When Dessalines defeated LeCler at the Battle of Vertiers he set in motion a white reaction that would be long lasting and one that would seek to punish Haiti.

What crime did Mugabe and his government commit? None, but what they did they took the land that had been in the hands of a small minority, a minority that never bought the land, never paid anybody for it, but took it with the gun and held it with the Bible.

The creation of the Movement for Democratic Change was a movement to unseat Mugabe, not about democracy. Zimbabwe had always been a democratic country.

The split in the MDC into two parties, the Mdc Tsvangirai and MDC Mutambara, is just an indication of the fierce ideological struggle going on in the country.

Zanu PF remains the dominant party because it is the party that won the war against the white Rhodesian regime.

The Zimbabwe case leads to the South African case. Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa was really a

failure because before you have reconciliation you must overcome animosity, you must have conciliation. White South Africans have not conciliated. In Zimbabwe there will have to be vigilance against attempts to force on the country some Western idea of governance based on the MDC's program of change. They want Mugabe out and they want Tsvangirai in so that they can control and sustain exploitation. They would also move immediately to reinvest whites with the economic control of the country. Whites were running around the country in 2008 saying that they would get their farms back as soon as Tsvangirai won the election. If it were to happen, it would be another war. This would create instability and chaos like nothing we have seen in the country because the military is full of veterans of the Chimurenga who will not go along with capitulation. No amount of rude ethnic animosity stirred up by the reactionaries can be allowed to turn back the clock of Zimbabwean independence. No amount of collaboration with the imperialists and white racists can be allowed to prevent the Afrocentric revolutionary agenda for a united Zimbabwe and ultimately a united Africa.

We must applaud the African Union for demanding immediately the lifting of the sanctions on Zimbabwe.

We insist that Zimbabweans reject any moves to divide and conquer the national spirit of revolution and independence. All people who fall under the religious spell of white racial supremacy should be isolated nationally and internationally.

All rogue elements of the nation supported by millions of external funds to overturn the government must be identified and isolated.

We condemn all political and physical acts that are inimical to the interests of the Zimbabwean people.

We call for the nation to remain at peace

until the next cycle of elections can bring about a clearer ruling line of authority.

In the meantime we urge the leaders of ZANU PF because of its vanguard position to teach the nation the historic role played by the party in overturning white supremacy. This is the only way that the masses can be shown the value of security and peace and self determination and will.

It is irresponsible for any Africans to go into this century as beggars. The political apparatus must meet the needs of the nation through self sacrifice and not depend upon handouts. If the sanctions are lifted the country can sell its minerals and agricultural products and at the same time supply its people with their needs.

I am particularly pleased by the heroics of Thabo Mbeki, the former South African leader, who has parked his intelligence in the Zimbabwean arena to bring about an interim settlement. I like what Bheki Khumalo said to Jack Straw, the foreign secretary of Britain, when he told him that he was irritated by British demands for harsher action against Zimbabwe.

Yes, Tsvangirai has collaborated with them. It is clear that he called for interventions against the interests of his own people. He told the IMF to withhold nearly two billion dollars in assistance. He was the one who thought that if he could get the international community to withhold aid, even during a drought, he could bring the country to its knees and it would support him against Mugabe.

The fact is that the South Africans live in the vicinity and they know the story. They have always seen through the ideological shiftiness of Tsvangirai.

South Africans remember full well the fact that Mugabe gave them cover in his country as Mozambique had done for the Zimbabweans during the struggle against apartheid. Khumalo said, "South Africa refuses to accept the notion that because

suddenly we're going to a G8 summit, we must be reminded that we must look good and appease the G8 leaders."

African Union head Jean Ping, when asked about sanctions levied by the United States and European Union, said: "I think that everybody today should help Zimbabwe to rebuild its economy, because an agreement has been reached."

I can tell you that neither Britain nor the United States wanted to hear him say that. They are behind the degradation of the Zimbabwean economy and they are behind the shattered economic prospects of this one thriving nation.

When Morgan Tsvangirai was unwilling to run in the elections after the March 2008 election, he signaled to the West that they should tightened the screws on the economy. Fortunately, Zimbabwe has not been as invested in the global economy as some other nations and it has escaped the worst part of the global meltdown. Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional bloc asked that a unity government be formed according to a strict timeline which would see Tsvangirai sworn in as prime minister on February 11.

Mugabe's party, which had previously threatened to set up a unity government with or without Tsvangirai, has said it will accept the timetable. Ping said: "Imagine that you don't help Zimbabwe, who will be blamed? Everybody is expecting that today, because Tsvangirai is going to lead the economy and everything, that the economy should recover. So if you don't do that who will be blamed by the population? "Today SADC told us they have agreed on a solution, the two parties have agreed on that solution," Ping said, adding: "In politics nothing can be forever. We hope this solution can be a lasting one."

Mugabe is 84 but there are older leaders than Mugabe, even in Africa. There might not be any more Pan African and anti-



imperialist than Mugabe. I salute the President of that brave country and I salute those of us here who will work hard to seek a change in world relationships with Zimbabwe. May the children of Mbuya Nehanda and Sekuru Kaguvi remember their revolution and never give it up! Long live the Chimurenga! Long live the revolution against injustice!

**ALUTA CONTINUA!!**

**Molefi Kete Asante was a trainer of journalists in Zimbabwe during the first year of the Independence of the country. He has written *The History of Africa*. [www.asante.net](http://www.asante.net)**



**Heroes Acre in Harare, Zimbabwe.**

**A statue to the unknown soldiers that gave their lives for Independence.**

**This sacred national monument is a constant reminder that no one gave Zimbabwe Democracy.**

**It was paid for in blood by its freedom fighters, known and unknown.**

Presentation by

# Bro. Amiri Baraka

Forum: Zimbabwe: Pan-Africanism or Imperialism  
National Black Theatre, Harlem, New York City  
February, 8, 2009

*(Unfortunately Bro. Baraka found out he would not be in the country for today's forum. However, he felt strongly enough about this issue that he arranged to video tape his presentation before he left so that he would have some participation and impact. We thank him for his commitment.).*

30 years ago we, in the BLM, cheered Mugabe and the Zanu forces driving the British and white settler forces from power in Zimbabwe, Remember, it was Rhodesia then. I still remember the defiant Ian Smith and his ugly face was one burning symbol of colonialism, and the sickness of Colonialism and white supremacy.

Mugabe's main problem stems from , I think, his failure to complete the job when most of these assembled louses were being run out the door, as open colonialism folded. This .is what haunts him and the rest of us today.

Where is Nkrumah's United Africa under socialism. that beacon of militant Panafricanism ?. Toure is dead. Nyerere is dead. Cabral is dead. (not even mentioning Machel, Chris Hani, Biko, Sibeko, Thomas Sankara)

The entire counterattack of Colonialism as explained years ago in Nkrumah's Neo Colonialism has unfolded as surely as his words. Across Africa the neo colonial standard has been raised and wooden Negroes as cold as anything ever seen have been greased into power openly repudiating the theme of Pan Africanism as raised at the 6th Pan African Congress in Dar es Salaam, as sounded by Sekou Toure and Mwalimu Nyerere, i.e." Pan Africanism is World wide struggle of the African people against colonialism"

Instead we have seen internal massacres between the African governments as senseless and vile as our black teenagers on the streets of inner cities across America slaughtering each other as Bloods or Crips or Latin Kings, or Ignorant vainglorious Fools.. Why, because colonialism like national oppression and white supremacy remain jiggling these poor Negroes strings for money supremacy. So we have the wars all over Africa with Africans killing Africans, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Congo, Darfur, Somalia, Rwanda, Uganda, all positioned by support of one side or the other, depending on their own interests by European Colonialism headed by US and Great Britain.

How can any Black anybody who lived through colonialism ever accept anything Britain and The US or any of the European imperialist nations have to say about Africa.

How can someone who stole your land and then got put off it ask for reparations like a thief who steals your wallet and wants you to pay them when you force them to give it back.

No matter what is happening in Zimbabwe Britain and the US must not have anything to say about it. They are criminal charges still pending against them for colonialism, even for Slavery. The best they can do is

submit to just claims for reparation and hope nobody asks for prison terms. How is it that the greatest murderers and thieves in the world keep getting off without even a dime of reparations than have the nerve to say that the oppressed peoples once freed from straight out colonialism own them something.

The fact that Mugabe delayed tossing the settlers out immediately with whatever rational arrangements had to be made for smooth transition. But the fact that the act of seriously disenfranchising these thieves, murderers and race freaks from the land has given them an opportunity to act now as if they are the violated persons.

Check out the transfer of the land of what was once Palestine since 1946 until now Israel is attacking so that they can claim all of Palestine as Israeli's closest ally was apartheid South Africa.' Zimbabwe, old Rhodesia was once in that white supremacy colonialist ruler ship association, only unified force drove them out.

The embargo the US and Great Britain have levied against Zimbabwe and their propaganda war against the anti colonial hero Mugabe is obscene in the extreme. This embargo like the embargo blockade of Cuba is an act of war. These swine have never even rectified the evils of colonialism now they think merely by paying the salaries of some wooden Negroes to cry they are being abused they can overthrow Mugabe's government It is like the low life Juan Williams accusing Michelle Obama of being "Stokely Carmichael in a designer dress", on National television. We must resist and counterattack against these traitorist forces and their bosses.

## Biography of Bro. Amiri Baraka

Amiri Baraka, born in Newark, New Jersey, is the author of over 40 books of essays, poems, drama, and music history and criticism, a poet icon and revolutionary political activist who has recited poetry and lectured on cultural and political issues extensively in the USA, the Caribbean, Africa, and Europe.

With influences on his work ranging from musical orishas such as Ornette Coleman, John Coltrane, Theophilus Monk, and Sun Ra to the Cuban Revolution, Malcolm X and world revolutionary movements, Baraka is renown as the founder of the Black Arts Movement in Harlem in the 1960s that became the virtual blueprint for a new American theater aesthetics. The movement and his published and performance work, such as the signature study on African-American music, Blues People (1963) and the play Dutchman (1963) practically seeded "the cultural corollary to black nationalism" of that revolutionary American milieu.

The Essence of Reparations is Baraka's first published collection of essays in book form radically exploring what is sure to become a twenty-first century watershed movement of Black peoples to the interrelated issues of racism, national oppression, colonialism, neo-colonialism, self-determination and national and human liberation.

Somebody Blew Up America & Other Poems is Baraka's first collection of poems published in the Caribbean and includes the title poem that has headlined him in the media in ways rare to poets and authors. The recital of the poem "that mattered" engaged the poet warrior in a battle royal with the very governor of New Jersey and with a legion of detractors demanding his resignation as the state's Poet Laureate because of Somebody Blew Up America's provocatively poetic inquiry (in a few lines of the poem) about who knew beforehand about the New York City World Trade Center bombings in 2001.

The poem's own detonation caused the author's photo and words to be splashed across the pages of New York's Amsterdam News and the New

York Times and to be featured on CNN--to name a few US city, state and national and international media.

Baraka lives in Newark with his wife and author Amina Baraka; they have five children and head up the word-music ensemble, Blue Ark: The Word Ship and co-direct Kimako's Blues People, the "artspace" housed in their theater basement for some fifteen years. Bro. Baraka currently writes and edits Unity & Struggle Newspaper and has tirelessly continued his political activism.



Presentation by

# Dr. James McIntosh

*Forum: Zimbabwe: Pan-Africanism or Imperialism*

*National Black Theatre, Harlem, New York City*

*February, 8, 2009*

## "Sanctions: A Weapon of War"

Last Saturday's February 1st, edition of the New York Times reported that respiratory ailments are the number one cause of childhood deaths in the world. Bacterial pneumonia is the number one cause of death among these respiratory conditions. The very routine microbes, streptococcus and hemophilus Influenza germs which cause sore throats, colds and ear aches here in America are the number one culprits for causing death world wide. The Times cites malnutrition as the number one contributor to deaths in children hospitalized for these conditions.

The Medical journal, Lancet, back in 2006, reported that half the children in the World's poorest countries die from 5 preventable causes respiratory infections, [measles](#), [diarrhea](#), malaria and [HIV/AIDS](#). Again, malnutrition makes all of those conditions worse. Imagine your own child dying from what is essentially only a cold, or measles or diarrhea because of not having enough food. Then consider what Madeline Albright said about US Imposed economic sanctions on Iraq. These sanctions killed the babies of Iraq long after the 88 thousand tons of smart bombs and depleted uranium had done their damage in first gulf war. When told by Leslie Stahl that these sanctions had caused the death of a half a million children. Madeline, "No Limit Soldier," Albright's response was "...we think the price is worth it." You hear that? We think the price of 5,000 babies a month is worth it. Albright was obviously the person the poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti was speaking of when he said:

The world is a beautiful place  
to be born into  
if you don't mind some people dying  
all the time  
or maybe only starving  
some of the time  
which isn't half bad  
if it isn't you

But then again he might have just as easily been talking about Richard Nixon.

When discussing the imposition of economic Sanctions on Chile under Allende, Richard Nixon is quoted as saying to the CIA that they must make the Chilean Economy Scream.

Armed with Lopez's statistics on child deaths in the developing world, armed with knowledge of the effects of Sanctions on the health, safety, and nutrition of the children of the countries like Iraq where these sanctions have been imposed, we understand that Richard Nixon did not mean make the economy scream but he meant make the children scream. In conditions of poverty in general and especially in conditions of poverty augmented by US imposed sanctions right now as in all wars the children are screaming the loudest.

Right now in Zimbabwe, preventable diarrhea can even rival respiratory infections now that sanctions have created shortages of supplies in a health care system once described as one of the best in Africa.

During the last few weeks over two thousand people have died in Zimbabwe from the totally preventable cause diarrhea. Their diarrhea has been caused by the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*. *Vibrio Cholerae* will ordinarily be killed by the acid environment of the stomach but when sanitation is poor and great numbers of *vibrio cholerae* are taken into the mouth from contaminated water, some get past the stomach into the gut and a virulent form of diarrhea is caused. As an aside, Cholera was first identified by a guy named Robert Koch in 1883 during an outbreak in Egypt. The name of the disease comes from a Greek word meaning "flow of bile." All you have to do to prevent Cholera is have clean water. All you have to do to treat Cholera is to replace the person's fluids so they don't become dehydrated from the diarrhea which in severe cases can cause the loss of several quarts of fluid per hour. IV fluids are the best and most rapid way to replace these fluids but there is even a cheap oral solution that can be used pretty effectively if you have clean water and utensils to serve it in. The whole process of treating Cholera can additionally be speeded up if the antibiotic tetracycline is used. But Sanctions keep the water supply from being purified in the first place; sanctions create the credit problems that don't permit the purchase of the antibiotics, or water purification equipment or IV fluids.

Understand that I am talking about real babies like your own babies dying because of the economic sanctions that have been imposed. In Zimbabwe, children die for lack of an asthma pump, clean water, or IV solution to replace fluids lost from cholera or some other cause of diarrhea. When we realize that under sanctions shipments of chlorine gas necessary for water purification are blocked, when we realize that



under sanctions aircraft parts necessary to repair crop dusters to grow the grain necessary to stop malnutrition are blocked, then we recognize that the imposition of Economic

Sanctions on a developing nation like Zimbabwe is not an alternative to war but, such imposition, is itself a weapon of war.

Like weapons or even war itself, these sanctions have historically been used for the same purposes. In Zimbabwe the purpose has been to attempt regime change. A time line of the sanctions reveal this to be true. The first sanctions were the unofficial sanctions in the form of the refusal of credit to Zimbabwe by the IMF and others. These undeclared and unofficial sanctions were sparked by the reclaiming of the land by the Zimbabwean people. Mugabe like Malcolm X recognized that land is the basis of all revolution and that the Zimbabwe revolution must be no different. The response of imperialism to land reclamation is always war. In this case it is an economic war-- but economic war is used for the same purposes, achieves the same results and is just as destructive as any war including ballistic war. From the standpoint of some of the classic military theoreticians Sanctions may represent a weapon or even a strategy more effective than ballistics. The great Prussian general, and before any of you listening are asked to denounce D12 because for my calling a Germanic leader great, let me cautiously say wickedly great. The wickedly great Prussian general Frederick the great wrote "The greatest secret of war and the masterpiece of a skillful general are to starve his enemy." See that's what General Madeline Albright was talking about

Sun Tzu in the Art of War wrote that

"The skillful leader subdues the enemy's troops without any fighting; ... he overthrows their kingdom without lengthy operations in the field." That's what General Nixon was talking about.

Sanctions are a way to accomplish what the wickedly great General Colin Powell said when asked about his strategy for fighting the Iraqi's, Powell replied: "First we cut it off; then we kill it."

The title of an article by Joy Gordon captures the fact that Sanctions achieve Powell's objectives without using soldiers. The article is called

Sanctions as Siege Warfare. Let's call Sanctions by their rightful name- Siege Warfare.

Like ballistics US sanctions cause mass death. That concept is captured in another article by Gordon Called "Sanctions as Weapons of Mass Destruction." Let's be clear military metaphors for sanctions are more than

appropriate. Sanctions cause, the same misery, disease, drought, famine, and death whenever they have been imposed. Even in a country with a well developed and well praised medical system such as Cuba, the economic sanctions termed Embargo were found in 1997 by the American Association for world health to have caused malnutrition, shortages in medical equipment and information, and shortages in the supply of clean drinking water and an increase in morbidity in water borne diseases. Be clear Sanctions are a weapon of war and economic war is just that war.

There ordinarily would be no need to debate the point that economic war is war were it not for the fact that we are living in a country where officials are known to argue with straight faces that coerced hypothermia, sleep deprivation and drowning a person until he gives up information, are not torture but technically just harsh interrogation. We are living in a country where politicians still maintain that the events in Korea, involving mainly U.S. Troops were not wars but technically just police actions. We are told that what occurred between Bill and Monica was not sex but technically just foreplay. So it is no wonder that they would call a weapon that kills as many people as Sanctions, "An alternative to war"

In that vein let me say that when we begin to explain the solution for Sanctions let us think of strategies for defeating siege warfare. There classically only 4 main outcomes to siege warfare and each has a name.

1. If the defenders repelled the attackers without aid from outside forces then the position is deemed to have been "held".
2. If the defenders repelled the attackers with the help of outside forces then the position is deemed to have been "relieved" or "raised".
3. If the attackers succeed in taking the position but the defensive forces are able to escape then the position is deemed to have been "evacuated".
4. If the attackers succeed in taking the position and they also destroy and/or capture the defenders then the besieged entity is deemed to have "fallen".

We must not let Zimbabwe fall. We Africans in the Diaspora are the outside forces that can determine that the position will be relieved or raised. During this economic crisis 50 of us could cause major havoc as some housewives recently did in Brooklyn. They went into a bank as a group and demanded the withdrawal of all their money at the same time. They got the attention of the bank official's big time. Let's support D12 in their fundraising and acquisition of relief supplies and organize such actions as group withdrawals from banks around the country and convince the sanctioners that if

they want to live they must back off and end the Siege of Zimbabwe. Long Live The Zimbabwean Revolution.

#### Biography of Dr. James McIntosh

Dr. James C. McIntosh, is a Psychiatrist currently practicing in Queens, New York. He is the Co-Chair of CEMOTAP and a past president of The Committee of Interns and Residents (CIR), the largest union of salaried physicians in the country. He is a graduate of Brooklyn Technical High School, Hunter College of The City University of New York and New Jersey Medical School of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey.

He completed 3 years of internship and residency in the Columbia University Psychiatry Program at Harlem Hospital. He also completed a joint year of Fellowship and Residency in Public and Community Psychiatry at Montefiore Hospital of Einstein Medical School of Yeshiva University. Dr. McIntosh was the founder and owner of The Interns and Residents Licensing Review School which operated successfully between 1987 and 1991.

He is the author of several books, including The Unauthorized Psychoanalysis of Rudolph Giuliani, That Which Cannot Be Destroyed, State Rape and Prosecutorial Misconduct. He currently writes for the Black Star Newspaper and CEMOTAP Drum .and is a former columnist for the Daily Challenge Newspaper, New York City's only Black Daily Newspaper. Dr. McIntosh served as Co-chair of the Queens Million Man March Coordinating Committee for the first Million Man March.

Dr. McIntosh has also received awards from numerous community and Civic organizations including, The Bed Stuy School of Martial Arts, The Science Skills Center, Mosque Number 7 of the Nation of Islam, Women In Support of The Million Man March, The Coalition To Elect a Black Mayor, CEMOTAP, and 100 Blacks In Law Enforcement Who Care. Dr. McIntosh is a proud husband, father and grandfather. He is a past winner of Father of The Year Award from a coalition of organizations including The Southern Queens Park Association and The Queens Million Man March Coordinating Committee. In 2005 Dr. McIntosh was awarded The Malcolm X award from NAKO (National Association of Kawaia Organization). In 2008 he was chosen as Health Activist of the Year by the Family and Friends of Dr. Mutulu Shakur. .



*Presentation by*

## Sis. Viola Plummer

*Forum: Zimbabwe: Pan-Africanism or Imperialism  
National Black Theatre, Harlem, New York City  
February, 8, 2009*

### ***It was about land in the beginning... it has remained about land today.***

There is no one factor that can explain what is happening in Zimbabwe today other than the question of land. The initial onslaught of these most vicious propaganda attacks, sanctions and the advent of Morgan Tsangari find their origin in the redistribution of land to the masses of Zimbabwean people therefore Mugabe at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in 2002:

We join our brothers and sisters in the Third World in rejecting completely manipulative and intimidatory attempts by some countries and regional blocks that are bent on subordinating our sovereignty to their hegemonic ambitions and imperialist interest, falsely presented as matters of law, democracy and good governance. The real objective is interference in our domestic affairs....

That is why we, in Zimbabwe, understand only too well that sustainable development is not possible without agrarian reforms... [Land not] only defines the Zimbabwean personality and demarcates sovereignty but also [is] an asset that has a direct bearing on the fortunes of the poor and prospects for their immediate empowerment and sustainable development. Indeed, ours is an agrarian economy, an imperative that renders the issue of access to land paramount.

In our situation... this fundamental question has pitted the Black majority who are the right-holders, and, therefore, primary stakeholders of our land against an obdurate and internationally well-connected racial minority, largely of British descent and brought in and sustained by British colonialism now being supported and manipulated by the Blair government...

But we say this as Zimbabweans, we have fought for our land. We have fought for our sovereignty. Small as we are, we have won our independence and we are prepared to shed our blood in sustenance and maintenance and protection of that independence.  
*(Excerpted from an address by President R.G. Mugabe at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, September 2002)*

In analyzing this situation, Minister designate for Justice Patrick Chinamasa said, "The trick has always been to gradually wear down the people via economic hardships and thus push them slowly towards an imaginary tipping point - to affect regime change." Another Zimbabwean, the manager of the African

department of a major British bank, has told *New African* that when Zimbabwe's land issue started in 2000, "white people in Zimbabwe started calling our bank, telling us to teach this Mugabe a lesson."

Indeed these brutal, illegal sanctions are to "make the economy scream," hence in the British media in particular the claim is, "We have beaten Mugabe." Dr. Gideon Gono, the governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe answers, "only the bullfighter knows exactly what goes on in the ring."

If we examine the impact of these illegal sanctions on the economy we will see how the drying up of resources contributes to the inhuman suffering of the Zimbabwean people.

### ***What we must do...***

Engage our people in the struggle for truth from facts. We must demand that our "elected" leaders entertain dialogue with President Mugabe. They cheered the meeting of President Obama with Mahmoud Abbas of the PLO not to mention the murders of the Palestinian people, the Israeli government.

We must employ letters, visits, demonstrations and any other means to lift the sanctions.

### ***Pamberi.***





Presentation by

# Dr. Malik Zulu Shabazz, Esq.

Forum: Zimbabwe: Pan-Africanism or Imperialism

National Black Theatre, Harlem, New York City

February, 8, 2009

## Black Power and All Power to the People

In the name of Allah the beneficent the merciful, I bear witness that regardless to land, label or language that there is but one God. I thank God for the ancestors and those who have come in the line of divine for our liberation and salvation.

I speak of Harriet Tubman, Nat Turner, The Honorable Marcus Mosiah Garvey, Shaka Zulu, Toussaint L'Ouverture, The Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Minister Malcolm X, President Kwame Nkrumah, Steven Biko, Dr. Huey P. Newton, Amilcar Cabral, President Seko Ture, Dr. John Henrik Clark, Kwame Ture and my mentor and teacher, the man who preceeded me in this mission, Minister and Dr. Khallid Abdul Muhammad. I greet you: *Black Power, Asalaam Alaikum, Hotep, Free The Land, Uhuru Sasa and Up you Mighty Nation, you can accomplish what you will.*

On behalf of the New Black Panther Party For Self Defense, and it's 26 Chapters here in the United States and throughout the Diaspora in England, the Caribbean and in continental Africa, it is my honor and privilege to be invited as guests of the December 12th Movement to share these few words for a few moments. I promise not to be long, but I must be strong. We must thank the December 12<sup>th</sup> Movement for its consistent stand on behalf of the Black Peoples of Zimbabwe and for being principled helpers to the cause of the liberation of African peoples in general. The organizations I represent, the New Black Panther Party for Self Defense and Black Lawyers for Justice, come here to salute and stand specifically in solidarity with the leadership of our elder, a Black leader who certainly stands up and advocates for the kind of change we can believe in- and that leader is the His Excellency, the Honorable Robert Mugabe, the great leader of Zimbabwe, the liberation movement and the ZANU-PF party.

What kind of change has Mr. Mugabe brought to Zimbabwe and what kind of change will his vision bring to southern Africa and the entire continent from the Cape to Cairo? The fear today is not merely the person of Mr. Mugabe, who is a fruit of the revolutionary movement that toppled white rule in Zimbabwe. The fear is that if Mr. Mugabe's ideas catch on to, and germinate with the peoples of Africa, and the youth in Africa, and the leadership in Africa then the European White man will ultimately be forced to return everything and pay reparations for everything that he took from the Black Man and Woman of Zimbabwe and the from our people all over the whole continent of Africa. Now that is change we can believe in!

Sisters and Brothers, a *revolution is a complete constructive change*. That's what we want: A complete constructive change. Black People were free and self determining in the beginning in Zimbabwe and they must be free to rule themselves in the end, in modern times.

Zimbabwe is the home of original and indigenous Black Peoples, *the Monomatapas* who built great civilizations. Our African brothers and sisters lived in peace, serenity and security on their and his own land prior to the coming of the White Man to southern Africa. Aids, starvation, pestilence, instability, fear and the stench of death were noticeably absent in the country and on the continent prior to the coming of the White man.

The book of *Revelations 6:8* says, "*I behold a pale horse*", and death was the rider on that horse. The same chapter also describes a Black horse and held in the rider's hands were the scales of justice. European colonialism has been death on the African. White western imperialism has been death on the African. Neo- colonialism and western capitalism today is death on the African. I behold a pale horse came to Africa and death is its rider.

Cecil Rhodes, the bloody- British, blood stained DeBeers diamond company magnet who stamped his name- Rhodesia, and his particularly perverse version of colonialism on Zimbabwe. Cecil Rhodes, and the British Empire's twisted and hypocritical legacy endures to this very day, not only in the African holocaust on the African continent that murdered millions of Africans in southern Africa; but in the entrenched inequity of a political, economic and social order that currently leaves colonial Whites in control of land in a nation they clearly forfeited their rights and thus today have no business being there.

Sisters and Brothers, the choice between **Pan-Africanism and Imperialism**, is a no brainer. It is the difference between self determination and slavery; the difference between justice and injustice; between right and wrong; or in theological terms, *the difference between God and the Devil*. Physics law teaches that no two things can occupy the same space at the same time. The implementation of one necessitates the removal and destruction of the other. Thus, Pan Africanism and Imperialism cannot co-exist and therefore one must be removed from the face of the planet earth. Which one will you choose?

We choose to free Africa! All borders in Africa must be dissolved and as President Osagyefu Kwame Nkrumah envisioned, "One Africa." We today raise the call again

for a United States of Africa. A United States of Africa, our motherland, a nation and world of our own with a common representative government, common army and military defense, and good policies that put the resources and people of Africa to work for the benefit of African people, not a few economic bloodsuckers of the poor.

The United States of Africa, and the struggle to build it, and free the continent of the vices and contradictions that keep Africa from becoming one, should be the foremost goal of the Pan Africanist today. Every Blackman, woman and child, leader preacher, teacher and the like on the 196,940,000 square miles of the planet, should be calling out for a United States of Africa which is the ultimate expression of Black Power.

**What is Imperialism?** Imperialism is the policy of extending a nation's authority by territorial acquisition or by the establishment of economic and political hegemony over other nations.

**Imperialism is** policy of extending a country's power, in this case western power, or U.S. and British power and influence through diplomacy or military force: Thus, *the struggle against Western imperialism and the cry "Death to imperialism!"*

Today, Britain and America have determined that they will rule Africa through virtual, digital, high speed, automatic remote control. Using African leaders that are pre-stamped, pre qualified and preordained to be good stool pigeons for the west, and western neo-colonialism under the guise of "responsible and good governance." Any leader, like Robert Mugabe who stands up for justice and righting the wrongs or reparations is lied upon, slandered, attacked, vilified and his people are made to pay the price through economic and diplomatic sanctions, which is are weapons of war by other labels. These are the policies of George W. Bush. These are the policies the policy of Prime Minister Tony Blair. Now, history has vanquished these two men, the people have removed them and cast them off into the dustbin of arrogant rulers who disregarded the rights of smaller nations. The people, Black Brown Red Yellow and White, has removed these two arrogant ones a sign that their ideas and policies are morally bankrupt and repugnant to the universal ideas of mutual cooperation amongst nations and peoples. With the removal of Bush and Blair, so to must come the removal and dismantling of their policies and ideals and indeed a *change must come*.

There are many other things to be done, but time does not permit me speak about them. But, I can say that by the grace of God The New Black Panther Party and The Black Power Movement, under the legacy of Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad and my guidance today will be solid partners to all Pan African organizations fighting against imperialism, fighting against neo-colonialism, fighting against zionism, fighting against the enemies of African people and most importantly building an organization, movement and world that will free

Zimbabwe, free the Motherland and move towards a United States of Africa.

**Black Power and All Power to the people!  
"Hands off Zimbabwe!"**

#### Biography of Dr. Malik Zulu Shabazz, Esq.

National Chairman- New Black Panther Party (NBPP) Founder/ Spokesman- Black Lawyers for Justice (BLFJ). Dr. Malik Zulu Shabazz is freedom fighter, activist, attorney operating on the world stage today. The New Black Panther Party has 27 Chapters operating across the United States, United Kingdom, Caribbean and Africa. Shabazz has been involved in a plethora of major political and legal causes and struggles that pertain to Black peoples in America, African peoples worldwide, and the causes of the Muslim world.

Malik Zulu Shabazz graduated from Howard University and Howard University School of Law. While in Law School he founded and led the **Progressive Student Movement/ Unity Nation**, a Black Nationalist student organization closely affiliated with the Nation of Islam leadership. While at Howard University, Shabazz came under the influence of **Minister Louis Farrakhan and Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad**. During these period seminal scholars such as Dr. Leonard Jeffries, Dr. Yusef Ben Jochannon, Professor Ron Walters, Dr. Ashra Quesi, Dr. Tony Martin, and other African- Centered scholars of the movement would also touch and influence Shabazz.

Some of Malik Zulu Shabazz' organizing/legal highlights include:

- Organizing for the 1995 *Million Man March* and the pre Million Man March Black Holocaust Conference
- Served as National Youth Director over the controversial 1998 *Million Youth March* in New York
- Voted '*Young Lawyer of the Year*' in 1998 by the National Bar Association, America's largest Black legal organization
- Became Leader of the New Black Panther Party in 2001 after serving as National Spokesman and National Minister of Justice, succeeding the Hon. Minister Khalid Muhammad- his revolutionary mentor and ally for 13 years.

Served as National Co-convenor and National Executive Committee Member of the Hon. Louis Farrakhan's 2005 *Millions More Movement*.

Dr. Malik Shabazz regularly speaks on college campuses throughout America, as well as addressed audiences in Churches, Mosques, and other strategic venues. Shabazz possesses a grip on a wide range of subjects not limited to: Law, Islam, Politics, Black History in America, African/ World History, International Affairs, Real Estate and Land investments, Black Nationalism, Pan- Africanism, Community Organizing and Religion in general.

As guide and leader of the **New Black Panther Party for Self Defense**, Dr. Malik Zulu Shabazz, Esq. has spread the size, influence and respect of the NBPP since being appointed as National Chairman.



Presentation by

# Bro. Chaka Cousins

Forum: Zimbabwe: Pan-Africanism or Imperialism  
National Black Theatre, Harlem, New York City  
February, 8, 2009

We bring you greetings from the All-African People's Revolutionary Party. We wish to start by first thanking the December 12th movement for organizing this historic forum and being consistent strugglers for our People's liberation.

Our supreme strategist, Osagyefo Kwame Nkrumah spent his whole life working for the liberation of Africa and African people all over the world. He was a Pan-Africanist of the highest order. He made great contributions to the Pan-African struggle. Nkrumah told us that Pan-Africanism is the total liberation and unification of Africa under scientific socialism. To us of the All African People's Revolutionary Party, Pan-Africanism is an objective which all serious African (Black) Revolutionaries must work to achieve. We must understand that as an African people we will not be totally free or be able reach our full potential until Africa is free of exploitation and foreign domination. After all the years of relentless struggle against British colonialism, Kwame Nkrumah, during his speech at Ghana's independence celebration said that Ghana's independence was meaningless unless it was linked with the total liberation and unification of Africa. He went even further and said that he would be willing to surrender his presidency at any time for a union government. That was his vision.

To further that vision one of the first things that President Nkrumah did once Ghana won its independence was to set up training camps in Ghana for the different liberation movements throughout Africa. One of those young Revolutionaries who moved to Ghana was Robert Mugabe.

Nkrumah said *"Africa needs a new type of citizen, a dedicated, honest, informed man [and woman]. A man [woman] who submerges self in service to the nation and mankind. A man [woman] who abhors greed and detests vanity. A new type of man [woman] whose humility is his [her] strength and whose integrity is his [her] greatness."*

We find President Mugabe to be this new type of man and this is why he is so hated by imperialism. We have found him to be incorruptible by the forces who seek to keep us oppressed.

We know, we as Africans will never be fully liberated unless all of Africa is liberated., regardless of who is in the White House. We are Africans, every African, regardless of where they are on the planet must come to struggle on behalf of mother Africa. This is why we

support Mugabe and ZANU-PF, not out of any kind of sentimentality, but because President Mugabe is a genuine Revolutionary, a genuine struggler for Africans. He will be 85 in 2 weeks and continues to fight for the Zimbabwe masses and on behalf of Africa. The two are not separate; a victory for Zimbabwe brings us one step closer to Pan-Africanism. The struggle that is being waged in Zimbabwe by ZANU-PF is a struggle against neo-colonialism, imperialism and exploitation of the masses by the imperialist powers and those African puppets who are receiving crumbs that have fallen from the imperialist table. The struggle that is being played out in Zimbabwe, is not just about Zimbabwe; it is a link in the chain of struggle against slavery, against colonialism, neo-colonialism, capitalism and imperialism. This struggle will show clearly the forces that are for genuinely fighting for true independence and the forces that seek only to collaborate with imperialism.

Imperialism has declared war against Zimbabwe and the Zimbabwean masses because they dare to struggle for genuine independence. Let us not be mistaken. The sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe are a declaration of war. These sanctions have deprived the country of food, medicine, and badly needed financial assistance. Imperialism tries to confuse the issue by misstating the facts. They will tell you that the sanction is against ZANU-PF leadership and not the People. But, we are clear, ZANU represents the masses. To target ZANU-PF leadership with sanctions is to impose sanctions on the masses of Zimbabweans.

We have already won some victories in this struggle, thanks to SADC, thanks to President MBeki, thanks to the military might of ZANU-PF. In the past, imperialism would just come and assassinate our leaders at will, but that is not the case anymore. We were divided and weak; we had no say in our own affairs. Now, we are better organized. Today when they come, we will give bullet for bullet. It becomes clearer everyday that Pan-Africanism is our only salvation.

Our history of contact with Europeans has been one of exploitation; from slavery and colonialism, to capitalism, imperialism and now neocolonialism. Suddenly, we are being asked to believe that these countries that have raped and plundered Africa for the past 600 years have Africa's best interests at heart. I don't know about you, but I certainly do not believe them. How can the same system that seeks to keep us exploited and oppressed come to serve our interests? The sanctions against Zimbabwe are in fact a maneuver of the neo-colonialists. The imperialists can no longer rule directly, so instead they seek to rule through economic control, and through puppet leaders. History

has taught us that every people and every nation look out for their own interests. We, being no different, must look out for our own interests and be on the right side of history.

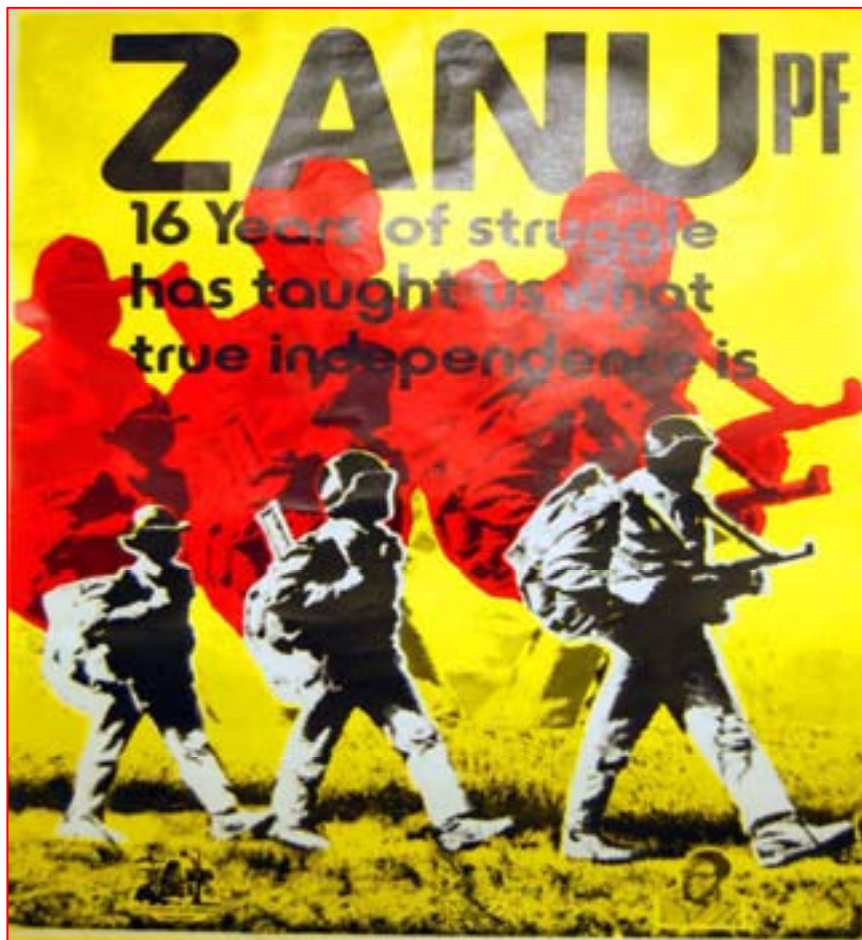
We are currently witnessing the fall of capitalism. Yes, it is crumbling under its own contradictions. Everyday we read about some type of pyramid scheme where the person at the top has stolen the money of those at the bottom. This is precisely how capitalism exploits the masses. Those who don't labor reap and plunder the resources of those who do labor. This system is bound to fail because it is an unjust system, it is an oppressive system and wherever there is oppression, there will always be resistance. This is a law of human nature. So our People are fighting an unjust system, even if it only on an unconscious level. Our duty as Revolutionaries is to raise the level of consciousness amongst our People from unconscious resistance to conscious organization. We must organize to change this exploitative system and bring about a system where those who labor enjoy the fruits of their labor. This, in essence, is class-warfare.

We wish to close with this; Africans, our people are scattered and suffering around the world. What we lack is organization. If you are not part of an organization that is working to alleviate the pain and suffering of our People, then you are clearly against your People. If you are not actively involved in bringing an end to imperialism, then by your inactivity you help to maintain a system that continues to oppress your People. If you love your People, then you must work for your People! We humbly suggest our organization, the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, as one of the many organizations that you could join to aid our People in this historic struggle. But, if you do not join our Party, then there is the New Black Panther Party, there is the Urban League, there is of course, the December 12th movement. Africans, let's get organized.

Organize, Organize, Organize

Ready for the Revolution!!

Forward to One, Unified, Socialist Africa!!



*Presentation by*

# Sis. Monica Moorehead

*Forum: Zimbabwe: Pan-Africanism or Imperialism  
National Black Theatre, Harlem, New York City  
February, 8, 2009*

Sisters and brothers, on behalf of the International Action Center, I would like to thank the organizers of this forum for this opportunity to take part on an esteemed panel to help make a political contribution to this important issue of supporting and defending the right to self-determination and the sovereignty of Zimbabwe.

To begin, historically, sectors of the U.S. left movement have been weak in carrying out a consistent, anti-imperialist perspective especially where imperialism's interests are the most profound. Therefore, struggles especially in Africa and the Middle East face the most intense political isolation due to racism, chauvinism and social-patriotism--all rooted in the ideology of the capitalist ruling class. We in the IAC have always maintained the view that these erroneous mistakes will be overcome by ultimately linking the struggles abroad with the struggles at home in theory and especially in practice. There are many in the movement and understandably so who have doubts about this due to setbacks. It is next to possible to predict when these obstacles will be overcome but it is inevitable. But I want to point to a significant, concrete development that shows the real potential of strengthening solidarity with Zimbabwe's right to independence. Along development that has been a long time in the making and that is the heroic resistance of the people of Gaza against the three-week, U.S. backed-Israeli military assault that resulted in the mass slaughter of at least 1300 Palestinians, the vast majority of them civilians and children.

The significance of this latest heinous military offensive was that despite the horrific loss of life and suffering in Gaza, the Israelis were not able to stop the resistance of Hamas and the Palestinian people which galvanized the world to defend them in the streets and to denounce the war crimes of the Zionist state of Israel. This assault and resistance resulted in the political isolation of Israel never seen before. Millions of people worldwide were in the streets in countless cities, many on a daily basis during the siege, demanding "Let Gaza Live". Tens of thousands of people of all nationalities including Black, Latino/a and Jewish people right here in the U.S. were in protest from New York to Los Angeles demanding that the U.S. stop funding Israeli terror. These demonstrations including takeovers of Israeli embassies and consulates indicate an important sea change in political consciousness. When Oscar Grant was murdered by an Oakland transit cop that was videotaped, the main

slogan raised during a youth rebellion there raised, "From Oakland to Gaza, defend the right to rebel."

There was a time not too long ago, when you risked life and limb if you dared to publicly mention even the existence of Palestine or the Palestinian people because of the unimaginable demonization emanating from the U.S. ruling class and their totally biased media; however, that all began to change with the first Intifada or uprising of the Palestinians in the late 1980s. And since that time, their inspiring resistance against Israel and their Pentagon backers began the process of tearing down the political reaction. Of course, there are still major forces attempting to keep Palestine out of the anti-war movement so it is still work in progress but the political climate has certainly changed.

If critical world opinion regarding the resistance in Palestine is changing in a forward direction especially inside the U.S., can it also begin to change in a fundamental way for the heroic resistance of Zimbabwe against imperialism? We say absolutely yes. It certainly won't happen overnight but it is inevitable. One idea to help deepen this solidarity in a broader way is to connect Zimbabwe's right to self-determination and sovereignty with Palestine. I think that it is winning combination. Some of the similarities of these two struggles are very striking besides the fact that Britain initially colonized both countries. Both countries have a rich history of resistance to the super-exploitation, plunder and theft of their resources especially the sovereign right to control their land and destiny.

And this resistance to imperialist attacks, whether it's in the form of the Hamas leadership in Gaza or the ZANU-PF lead by President Robert Mugabe in Zimbabwe, has led to an unprecedented level of political demonization against these leaders and the social collective punishment of the masses that democratically elected them. President Mugabe was a leader of the anti-colonial guerrilla movement that led to a humiliating military defeat for British colonialism, a defeat that has never been forgotten or forgiven by the imperialists. Moreover, the fact that President Mugabe is demanding that the most arable lands be returned to the landless African war veterans and other indigenous people that were stolen over the centuries by racist white farmers, has stirred a much deeper ire against him amongst the imperialists. The last thing that the imperialists want is for Zimbabwe to become a symbol of anti-imperialist fight back for hundreds of millions of landless Africans on the continent as Gaza and Iraq have done for the people in that region.



Collective punishment of the masses in Gaza and in Zimbabwe has come in the form of economic sanctions. These sanctions are another form of imperialist warfare in hopes of inflicting so much pain and suffering on the masses in order to force a regime change to the liking of the imperialists. For 18 months since the election of Hamas in 2006, Israel with the blessing of the U.S. and other imperialists cut off food supplies, water, electricity and other vital services. Their aim was to starve and then bomb the Palestinians into submission but it didn't work.

In Zimbabwe, for several years the economic sanctions have denied the country any trade with the larger imperialist countries. This amounts to an economic blockade. The U.S., Britain and EU reneged on their pledge to lift the sanctions once a Government of National Unity was negotiated last September whereby the ruling ZANU-PF party lead by President Mugabe would share governmental power with two main opposition parties. In addition to these sanctions, the International Monetary Fund, which maintains a stranglehold on the economies throughout Africa, has put a freeze on any technical and economic "assistance" to Zimbabwe since 2006.

These devastating sanctions have plunged the country into massive poverty, high inflation, unemployment, malnutrition and lack of production. Just recently a cholera epidemic occurred in the Zimbabwe which claimed the lives of hundreds of people. The disease arises from the consumption of unclean drinking water but the imperialists are once again blaming President Mugabe for another crisis. His government has stated that the imposition of sanctions and the country's overall economic crisis has resulted in the lack of chlorine and other chemicals to purify the water systems. The minister of health and welfare in Zimbabwe states that hospitals are in dire need of drugs, food and medical equipment. The situation is very reminiscent of the deadly sanctions imposed on Iraq almost twenty years ago which resulted in over one million dying from lack of medical care, the majority of them children. And who was the blamed for these war crimes—Saddam Hussein. Unfortunately a number of African puppet leaders are falling in line with the imperialists in calling for the removal of President Mugabe. Some are raising the possibility of a military intervention of even African troops.

Sisters and brothers, not only must we continue to unite the struggles abroad like Palestine, Zimbabwe, Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia and elsewhere but we must connect these struggles with the deepening economic and political crisis at home. The movement must explain in popular language to the workers and oppressed in the U.S. that the Wall Street bosses and bankers that are stealing their homes, their apartments, their jobs, their education, their healthcare if they even have healthcare, weakening their unions that benefit

from the divide and conquer ideology of racism including police brutality to incarcerations to deportations and much more, are the same forces imposing endless economic and military wars and occupations abroad. Our enemy is the same here and worldwide—capitalism and imperialism, not the people of Zimbabwe, Palestine and elsewhere who are on the front line in the war for national liberation to get imperialism off their backs.

The most effective way to build international solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe is to weaken imperialism at home with the building of an independent, fight back movement to demand real change, which translates into a revolutionary transformation of society that will put human needs before capitalist greed.

So in conclusion, the IAC salutes the splendid example of the December 12<sup>th</sup> Movement, Friends of Zimbabwe, Africans Helping Africans and others in promoting international class solidarity which consistently supports and defends the right to self-determination of oppressed peoples everywhere. I can't express enough how much we value our working relationship with you all. And to the people of Zimbabwe, your heroic resistance is an inspiration to us all. And we pledge to you that we will do everything that we can to stop the economic sanctions and any other imperialist attacks including a military intervention against your country by uniting to fight imperialism at home.

So in the spirit of Kwame Nkrumah, Patrice Lumumba, Amilcar Cabral, Chris Hani and all the other great African freedom fighters, Hands Off Zimbabwe! Africa for the African people! Solidarity forever!

#### Biography of Monica Moorehead

Monica Moorehead has been an organizer with the International Action Center since its founding in 1992. Her primary work with the IAC is the Millions for Mumia anti-death penalty project. She was a leader of the U.S. Out of Southern Africa Network formed in 1985 which organized protests against corporations in collusion with apartheid. She worked with the African National Congress Women's League on anti-apartheid solidarity meetings in New York City. She was a delegate at the historic unbanned ANC conference held in Durban, South Africa in 1991. Moorehead is also a managing editor of Workers World newspaper and the editor of the book, "Marxism, Reparations and the Black Freedom Struggle".

