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UFAHAMU

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AFRICAN STUDIES CENTER
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U F A H A M U

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EDITORIAL NOTES

The African Activist Association is sponsoring an international conference on the state of liberation in Africa. This major conference will be held from May 14-18, 1979 at UCLA. The main theme of the conference will be *From Apartheid and Imperialism to the Total Liberation of Africa*.

Since the mid-1970's, there have been a number of conferences on the growing national liberation struggles in Africa at the various universities and community centers in the United States. The first of these conferences were organized as urgently needed support activities in solidarity with the struggles against Portuguese colonialism in Mozambique, Angola and Guinea-Bissau. Following the defeat of *imperialism* in those countries, the peoples' and friends of Africa began mobilising for the final liberation of Africa with a special focus on Zimbabwe, Namibia, South Africa in particular and remnants of *British* and *French* neo-colonialism in general.

Today the struggle for national liberation is not only directed against western political domination, but more importantly, against the complex financial structures of international *capitalism* which sustains such oppressive regimes as those in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zaire, Central African Republic and Morocco.

However, we must not forget that there is yet a great deal to be done to reach many more people with the message of the national liberation movements of Africa. Conferences alone are not sufficient. The information and understanding acquired from such gatherings has to be converted into *concrete* action; as for example against the multinationals and their institutional investors who continue to make *massive* profits from the exploitation of African labor and resources. Let our solidarity work deepen, become more coordinated, and successfully mobilize the people.

The Struggle Continues. Victory is Certain !!!

* * * *

Ufahamu, Volume IX Number 2 titled *Kenya Tunaenda Wapi* is being entirely devoted to an analysis of the political economy of KENYA. Contributions for this specific issue are still being accepted and we are especially calling for students to send us their manuscripts. The articles and the literature in general may focus on any aspect of Kenyan life and experience. The deadline for this issue is June 15, 1979.

CONTRIBUTORS

Chike C. Aniakor is an artist, poet and art historian. He has a Ph.D in Art History from Indiana University and has had other works published in *African Arts*, *Presence Africaine*, *Greenfield Review*, *Okike*, *Interlink* and others besides *Ufahamu*.

Rand Bishop has travelled in East Africa, the Near East and Europe and lived in Togo and Gabon. He teaches African literature at the State University of New York in Oswego, N.Y.

Dennis Brutus is a veteran of the notorious *Robben Island* prison in South Africa. He has fought against racism in general and in sports in particular. He is a Professor of English at Northwestern University.

Robert Cuddy is a graduate student in African Studies at UCLA. He has worked as a reporter and editor for several newspapers in California and Massachusetts. He served in Gabon in the Peace Corps, and has travelled extensively in Africa on his own.

Kandioura Drame is a visiting scholar from Senegal and a graduate student in African Studies at UCLA. He is currently also a member of the Editorial Board of *Ufahamu*.

Christopher A. Leu is an Associate Professor of Political Science, and a member of the African Studies Committee at the California State University, Northridge. He is presently engaged in a full-length study of the political economy of Namibia.

John Philips is a graduate student in African History at UCLA. He is also a member of the *Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.)* where during 1977 he served on its Executive Board.

Agrippah T. Mugomba is a former Director of Black Studies at University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). He teaches political science at UCSB and has also previously served on the faculties of Dalhousie University, Canada, University of Nairobi, Kenya and Makerere University, Uganda.

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THE RACISTS HAVE HANGED SOLOMON MAHLANGU

OBITUARY

The African Activist Association is sad to announce the death by hanging of a South African patriot, SOLOMON MAHLANGU for fighting *apartheid*. He was brutally hanged on Thursday, April 5th, this year in South Africa. Many world leaders, including those of the Soviet Union, Sweden, Britain and the U.S.A. had unsuccessfully attempted to stop the execution of Mahlangu by personal pleas to the apartheid regime. Campaigns by activists and solidarity organisations around the world were similarly ignored by the fascist regime in Pretoria. This action by the Vorster/Botha regime has advanced them a step further in their continuing and unparalleled brutality against the people of South Africa.

Solomon Mahlangu remains a symbol of the *revolutionary youth* of Africa. He joined *Umkhonto we Sizwe*, the armed wing of the *African National Congress of South Africa* to fight for a non-racial, democratic South Africa and was arrested and treated like a common criminal. He was physically abused, tortured and hanged to death for allegedly killing two white men. The people of the world had demanded that he be treated as a political prisoner of war under the relevant *Geneva Conventions*.

His death and those of thousands others will be avenged in the coming battles for the *liberation* of Johannesburg, and the rest of South Africa. Before his death, the *Anti-Apartheid News* of London reported that

Letters from all over the world have been sent to the mother of Solomon Mahlangu, Martha Mahlangu, expressing support for Solomon, who (is) under sentence of death.

The newspaper further reported that in Pretoria, Mahlangu's home town, the *Atteridgeville Students League* and the *Black Housewives League* collected signatures for a petition to the State President calling for clemency. Other organisations such as the *Writers' Association of South Africa* has launched similar petitions.

To the people of South Africa, we extend our solidarity in mourning. To Martha Mahlangu, and the rest of the family our deep sympathy and a *luta continua*.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES