

opinions

BLACKS ON BLACK

First of all, I like to point out that if we are going to achieve any understanding and unity amongst ourselves, we need to put aside arguments that are highly emotional in nature. We all have, as Jasen pointed out "different levels of consciousness". Therefore, what is in order here is a sense of rationalism. This is the only way that we will be able to come up with common ground.

Now, let me begin by stating that we will all suffer from the same level of exploitation, whether you call it racism or capitalism. We in Africa suffer the most from the latter one. you see, we can be called backwards, tribals, cannibals and so on, but what causes us the most physical pain is the exploitation through economical dependency. Africa is in a state of starvation, because we are handicapped economically. The IMF and The World Bank are the tools of our oppression. The Western powers have established through those organizations a deadly cycle that guar-

antees our never ending state of suffering. What most people do not understand is that a genocide act is being carried out in front the T.V. cameras of the world. Therefore, Africans in the continent are suffering from the same racist actions without even being physically close to the white imperialist. The Irony is that Bob Marley once told us that "Every time they can reach us thru political strategy." Well, my brothers and sisters, Structural Adjustment is the political strategy that they are reaching us through and we must fight it.

Having presented of what I consider an important concern to all African in regard to the racist practises of the imperial world. Let me turn to the racist practises in North America. Having lived in Canada and the United States for the last 10 years. I must say that I have never experienced this level of physical, emotional, economical and political abuses in my life. Institutional racism effected me the day I landed at JFK

Airport in 1983. I lived in Houston Texas, where I saw racism in a more blunt and direct fashion than in any place in North America. In 1985, Blacks in Houston were so oppressed to the extent that I thought The 1960's Civil right Movement had somehow missed to have any effect in Texas. For example in Houston, there are many universities, where only one is black dominated; which is called Texas Southern University (TSU). While, Rise University and University of Houston are the bigger, more funded and have highly modern facilities; they only accept Blacks who are either athletes or from affluent backgrounds. For example, Alajuwan and Derexier both played Basketball for U. of Houston. On the other hand, TSU where I went for a year, was all Black and financially bankrupt school. Most of the classes were overcrowded and old in structure.

My point here is that these black students suffered greatly in my point of view from propagandist hardship than racist propaganda. The reason being that they already had civil right laws that guaranteed them protection from racist remarks and violence and so on, but what they did not have was economic laws that

guaranteed them a share of the pie from the wealth of the richest country in the world.

This also is the fact in Canada, Black people are economical handicapped; through under-employment, lack of access to education, the political process and so on. So my friends, we are all in the same boats, economically we are depend to the white world. In Africa, this is done through aids and loans, and, in North America, it is done through welfare. What we need to change is not what the white world think of us or what they tell others of us, I think that most of us know who we are and those who don't know, we will be glad to offer a history lesson. However, what white world must change is their economic policies toward us. In North America, we need no more welfare, but jobs; that is equal access to the wealth of the nation. In Africa, on the other hand, what we need is not hand outs but fair trade policies. Most of the African countries are Economically dependent on raw materials, unfortunately they are deliberately priced so low that the

African nations will always be dependent to aids and loans of the IMF and The World Bank.

In conclusion, having tried to point out our common pain that I believe is the cause of our severing, I hope that we find a common ground that will enable us to solve our problems. I'm here to prepare myself for the task of fighting those Imperialist institutions like the IMF and The World Bank and I hope that my brothers and sisters in North America will fight for their share of the wealth in their nations. On this note, I urge you in the words of Robert Nasta Marley:

"Don't bury your thoughts
Put your vision to reality."

Thank You.

Shirwac Sheikh-Mohamca

P.S. I dedicate these words to the Black United Students, whose valuable meeting (Monday, Feb 15/93) have driving me to write this article. We are in the same war. United we stand, divided we fall.

Participate in the process of peace

Mr Block's attempt to justify Israeli policy and to "demonize" HAMAS is downright shameful.

First of all, Mr Block refers to the 1988 Charter of HAMAS only to reinvent it! He claims that the following quote comes from this Charter: "The Moslems are under obligation...to fight Jews and kill them wherever they can find them". This sentence simply does not exist in the Charter! Rather, HAMAS's objectives are stated clearly, namely to free Palestine, all of Palestine, by

fully resisting Zionism and by sustaining the Intifada; to not participate in an unfair "peace process" where Palestinians are not allowed to choose their representatives; and to acknowledge the political, economic and social rights of all legal Jewish residents of Palestine and to establish friendly relations with them within the Islamic State. Surely, this is a far cry from the "murderous and genocidal document" which Mr Block invents.

Further, Mr Block commends Is-

rael for the "temporary expulsion orders against about 400 operatives". The nature of this "temporary expulsion" has been documented by the Israeli human rights group B'tselem which notes that Israel has never provided a complete accounting of the 415 or the reasons for deporting them! The Manchester Guardian has documented that only 22 of the 415 are even members of HAMAS and only two of them are in leadership

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