

The Manifesto of the African Socialist International

*Passed at the 2000 Conference to
Build the African Socialist International, April 2000*

African people throughout the world are rising up. We have entered into the new millennium in motion, struggling to overturn the 500 year legacy of oppression and exploitation to which we have been subjected by a parasitic social system born at our expense.

We are fighting to reclaim our destiny as a single people whose forced dispersal in a world defined by artificial borders has served to undermine our common identity and dilute our collective strength.

We are everywhere! We are in Chicago, Illinois; in Florida, Texas, California and New York and throughout the United States in North America, as well as Toronto and Montreal in Canada. We are in Brasilia in Brazil, Caracas in Venezuela, Bluefields in Nicaragua, in Central and South America. We are in Trinidad, Haiti, Jamaica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Dominica, the Bahamas, Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic, Barbados and all the islands of the Caribbean.

We are in London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Nottingham in England. We are in Paris, Lille, Lyons, Marseilles and Nice in France. We are in Brussels, Belgium; Amsterdam, Holland; Berlin, Germany; Rome, Italy; as well as Spain, Portugal, Russia,

Turkey and all of Eastern Europe.

We reside in the hundreds of millions in our ancient Motherland, which was the birthplace of humankind more than 150,000 years ago and which served as the cradle of human civilization more than 10,000 years ago.

The life and historical experience of our people over the last 500 years constitute the primary force that has given shape to the modern world. It is a world where the vast majority of the people of the planet earth are living in starvation, misery, disease, ignorance and terror. At the same time, Europe and North America control the world's wealth at gunpoint and rest upon the prostrate, bloody and abscessed backs of the workers and peasants of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The world capitalist economy began with Europe's assault on Our Africa and the kidnapping, captivity, colonial enslavement and dispersal of African people throughout what is now known as the Americas.

This barbaric assault upon African people depopulated our Motherland of hundreds of millions of human beings. It destroyed our ancient civilization and it unleashed a European wave of mass murder that killed hundreds of millions of human beings through slave raiding wars.

It left a trail of human carnage over the Middle Passage of the Atlantic Ocean and condemned the captive African people of the Americas to death through torture, miserable toil and cultural annihilation.

This initial assault upon Africa, along with the genocidal extermination of the indigenous peoples of the Americas and the looting of Asia and the Middle East has lifted Europe out of millennia of

disease, poverty, fratricidal warfare and mass murder.

Europe's militarism and aggression was a part of a culture whose economic base was built upon warfare and conquest between competing European tribes and kingdoms. Before this, there was no concept of Europe or white people as a monolithic group. Europe's nation-states and continental unity were forged through its assault upon the world's peoples.

This unity was consolidated through the conquest, invasion, enslavement of the peoples of Asia and the carving up of the African Continent by European colonial powers in the 19th Century.

Today, one billion African people throughout the world are engaged in a desperate struggle for survival within a world whose economic foundations were built through the theft of our labor and resources.

African people comprise half of the world's population that live on less than two dollars a day. We are subjected to genocidal biological warfare through the use of AIDS, Ebola and other often curable diseases, some of which have been manufactured for our destruction.

Today our Motherland is undergoing a frenzy of rape and looting more intense and insidious than slavery. This takes the form of trade and so-called debt, which brings development to Europe, North America and increasingly Japan, while it commits mass murder against our people through artificial famine and the transformation of our homeland into an economic wasteland.

However, we continue to struggle and we will win!

The historical experience of African people throughout the world has forged our people into a revolutionary nation comprised primarily

of workers and poor peasants. We continue to form the critical army of labor for world imperialism in the mines of Congo, South Africa and Zambia; in the plantations and farms of Ghana, the Ivory Coast, the Caribbean; in the factories of Detroit, Manchester, Lyons and Brussels, as well as the hundreds of prison dungeons throughout the world, including those that hold one million African people captive in the United States of North America.

Included among this massive force of African workers are the hundreds of millions of unemployed African laborers who constitute a massive reserve of labor pool for imperialism. Hunger and starvation are used as weapons of economic warfare aimed at suppressing the value of African labor power. Moreover, this labor force is to work day and night and to migrate from country-to-country and continent-to-continent just to eat.

The laws that govern nature and the entire universe necessitate life and death and determine the rise of the new and the vanquishing of the old in an infinitely unfolding struggle between opposing forces. In the same way we know that the resurrection of Africa and African people is inevitable and it cannot be stopped.

The liberation of Africa will be brought about through the coming worldwide upheaval of African workers and poor peasants—a sleeping giant poised to seize our freedom, happiness and wealth from imperialist white power and deal it the death blow the world's people are awaiting Africa to strike.

While Our Africa has been formally freed from direct colonial rule and European domination, it suffers from an oppressive system that in fact maintains the domination of its former masters, often in partnership with a consortium of imperialist economic and financial

interests based in the United States, Europe and Japan.

During the 1950s and '60s, a mass revolutionary upsurge took the world by storm. This revolutionary motion was many times expressed in the mobilization of armed African worker and peasant resistance in Africa.

African people forever defeated the tyranny of direct white colonial rule and domination. However, our victory was incomplete, for our movements succeeded only in defeating the open imperialist rule known as "colonialism." The hidden indirect form of imperialist rule, called "neocolonialism" by Kwame Nkrumah, has reduced Africa and her people to a state of destitution and desperation not seen since the destruction and genocidal mass murder of the Slave Trade or the colonial wars of conquest unleashed by Europe during the late nineteenth century.

The agents of neocolonialism—the extension of enemy power into the ranks of our own nation throughout the world—take the form of the African primitive petty bourgeoisie. This tiny social class holds Africa in captivity in the service of imperialism and serves as a cover for continued white rule and domination. This class sees the fate of Africa and African people as forever under the subjugation of white power. It has secured its own position of prestige and prosperity as collaborators with imperialism, which continues to control Africa's resources and loot Africa's wealth.

The African primitive petty bourgeoisie, therefore, has no interest in Africa's liberation and unification or the emancipation of the hundreds of millions of African workers and peasants from famine and back-breaking toil.

The mighty awakening of African workers and poor peasants has

unleashed convulsions throughout the Continent through the toppling of Mobutu, the retreat of French imperialism, the upheaval and rebellions throughout Zimbabwe, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Kenya as well as in St. Petersburg, Florida. The rising up of African workers has Africa's neocolonial traitors and collaborators trembling in their boots. It is the workers and poor peasants who will overthrow the oppressive power the African petty bourgeoisie holds over Africa in partnership with imperialism.

This awakening will constitute an African Revolution that will consolidate our national consciousness, culture and identity through mass struggle on an international scale. It will constitute the final offensive against imperialism and white power which will have nowhere left to run as the oppressed hundreds of millions of African workers and poor peasants consciously pursue our historic mission of the total unification of the African Continent and African people throughout the world.

Never again will we allow our people to be slaves or to be divided by languages, ethnic grouping, false borders or false micro-nationalities.

This awakening African people stand at the vanguard of the struggle of the world's oppressed people to build a new world in which the currently endured humiliation, famine, terror and disease becomes a distant, faded memory. We believe that it is only fitting that the people who gave birth to world civilization, and who are the primary victims of the barbarism that has established hegemony throughout the world, take responsibility for leading the struggle for liberation of the majority of the planet from the tyranny and despotism of U.S.-led world imperialism.

Brothers and Sisters! "The hour of Africa's redemption," which the great Marcus Garvey so prophetically envisioned many years ago, is upon us! We must build the African Socialist International (ASI) and unite our dispersed, oppressed and one-billion-strong African nation under the slogan "Touch One! Touch All!" We must build the ASI under the leadership of the African workers aligned with the poor peasantry, for it is they who are the creators of social wealth and value. It is they who are the only social force capable of waging our liberation struggle to its victorious conclusion, African workers and peasants must assume the leadership of our society as a condition for our freedom!