

## INTERNATIONAL POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT

### CHICAGO 2016

Traditionally, African Americans fought for inclusion to gain political leverage in order to survive, and to be recognized by the “Anglo-American” system as legitimate “Americans.” But “In the United States of America, the path to poverty, mis-education, and societal discriminations are preconditioned by birthrights.”<sup>i</sup> **“What we have seen happen to the African Americans is the most notorious of human rights crimes: the destruction of birthrights.”**

**Our “abrogated birthright” requires a remedy which restores us to a position that would have been if not for the human rights violations.** The basic remedy for human rights harms is restitution, rehabilitation, compensation and a guarantee of non-repetition. *Restorative justice theory* offers a conceptual framework of a human rights remedy that is used to reconcile crimes against humanity and the injuries for the victims and communities... Rights and privileges in an apartheid society of between the Anglo-American and the African Americans are highly regulated by a hostile majority...**We are confronted with what remedies are available to offset apartheid laws of the United States Congress that categorize the African Americans and assign them to an ‘inferior’ citizenship status” that deprives them of “their fundamental ‘God Given ‘rights, natural rights, customary law rights and their human rights of self-identity.” This is the challenge of Restorative Justice in the United States.** <sup>ii</sup>

The crime of mis-categorization started with the civil war Congress and the Supreme Courts interpretations of the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendment decisions which regulated the African Americans into a *simple minority*, with no native collective birthrights as a ‘people’. During this time African Americans remained a colonized people through Jim Crow laws, apartheid institutions and second class citizenship status.

In 1960, in response to independence movements worldwide, the United Nations re-convened at the request of these emerging nations and made a Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Adopted by General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

**In 1960 the United States was supposed to disseminate information to the African American on their rights and privileges as a colonized people and to allow them to make choices concerning their status.**<sup>iii</sup> The United Nations were very concerned about racial discrimination, *See Session XV 1636.*, and the economic condition of these peoples. **The United States of America of 1960 was clearly an apartheid state, with racial violence and economic exclusion, however the U.S.A. did not list the African Americans as a colonial people. This is a violation of Art. 73 of the aforesaid, Charter of the United Nations since African Americans were a created people birthed out of colonialization.** <sup>iv</sup>

**Art. 73 of the Charter of the United Nation mandates that countries that have captured or colonized people to list them and allow them the right to ‘Self-determination’. The right to “birthright self-determination” is a THRESHOLD human right issue that must be resolved in order to proceed to discuss which ‘rights’ and ‘privileges’ are available.**

*Self-determination is a positive right and a restorative, reparative remedy because, over time, it wipes away the effect of the illegal status and allows the African American people the ability to attain the*

*status necessary to attain cultural, political and economic healing, privileges and native rights. Logically and legally, peaceful, democratic, self-determination is the most comprehensive and appropriate solution to the harms caused by slavery and apartheid.*

Presently, the imposition of this apartheid racial status has caused America to be the most virulently violent and racist countries in the world. The fact that these racial classifications have become legislation by the State constitutes State sponsored ‘crimes against humanity’<sup>v</sup>. Legislation that says that the Africans in America are Negro, if they possessed *1 drop of African blood*, or more than ¼th, 1/8th, or 1/16th African blood are illegal, apartheid, classifications by Congress and its courts that still support the customary notion of a white supremacist ideology called ‘racial purity. **This inane notion of racial purity has directly, indirectly and continually causes racial killings, economic and political harms** in violation of the International Covenant on the Elimination of Racism and Racial Discrimination, the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, Adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 November 1973 and other crimes against humanity.

Consequently, an “**Indigenous Status Plebiscite**” is the most logical and procedurally fit restorative remedy to resolve these apartheid aberrations of ‘who we are’, because it is only the African Natives who can determine ‘who they are’. In any case, consent to a status, or objections to that status, are political questions, rather than a simple judicial question that can be submitted to a court of the American government. Consent by the African American people can be obtained by a vote called a ‘Plebiscite’. **A plebiscite vote is necessary because the majority Whites in the United State through their White Judges have reduced the African American to an ‘unrecognized indigenous person’, a “individual minority”, with no birthrights.**

*Social dominance theory* tells us that societies are organized around the notion of dominant and subordinate groups with the dominant groups possessing a disproportionate amount of wealth, power, status, and so forth. The dominant group will naturally seek to maintain its dominance through instrumental and psychological means (Sidan-ius, 1993, Sidanius and Pratto, 1999, Sidanius, Singh, Hetts, and Federico, 2000).<sup>vi</sup> **Category segregation by the dominant white group in the United States is a systematic and purposed form of apartheid practiced by a dominant white society that intends to maintain a racial and economic dominance over the African Native Indigenous People.**

“There are 43 million African Americans in the United States, 13.7 percent of the total population, and the second largest racial minority in the country. The median age is 32, and 47 percent are under 35 years of age.” “The African Americans have a buying power of 1.2 Trillion dollars a year. This is calculated without their expanded land and cultural rights. Notwithstanding, this still places the African American people as the **12th wealthiest world economies.**”<sup>vii</sup>

A successful plebiscite will establish a juridical and [legal] national identity that will allow African Americans the enormous ability to reverse the effects of slavery, and be a productive, healthy economic and social unit of the United States.

We as people on a path to self- determination will act as representatives of a nation, even though we are presently, UNRECOGNIZED. We have a right to be labeled INDEPENDENT...We have the Right to our IDENTITY and we will not give that up.

We see ourselves as a people with roots and links to our African homeland. We are an African people linked to all other African people within the African World Community. Our politics must reflect this reality and the reality that it has been American policy to destroy our understanding of these ties and any unity people of African descent have tried to inculcate amongst themselves. So we are clear U.S. domestic and foreign policy has never been in the best interest of people of African descent. We must fight for the interest of African People wherever they may be- in America, in Africa, the Caribbean, South America, Australia, India, etc.

Our politics must reflect an African Centered perspective which places African- Americans, Africa and Africans as a First Priority in international, as well as, domestic concerns.

### Current U.S. Policy – Africa

The White House strategy toward sub-Saharan Africa, released in June 2012, has four objectives:

- **Strengthening democratic institutions;**
- **Spurring economic growth, trade, and investment;**
- **Advancing peace and security; (AFRICOM) and**
- **Promoting opportunity and development.**

The Obama administration’s greater emphasis on trade and investment differed from the Bush administration’s focus on humanitarian assistance.

**The Obama administration has launched three major initiatives:**

- a. **Power Africa:** A \$7 billion program to develop Africa’s energy sector by providing technical assistance, financing, and investment support.
- b. **Trade Africa:** A program to bolster intra-regional and global trade. The U.S. works to expand trade agreements, reduce barriers, and increase competitiveness among many of Africa’s leading economies.
- c. **The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI):** Hailed as President Obama’s flagship initiative in Africa, YALI builds the leadership skills of young Africans through exchanges in the U.S. The program seeks to nurture leaders who can propel economic growth and strengthen democratic institutions.<sup>1</sup>

### Public Policy Recommendations - Africa

1. Advocate for the creation of black Policy institutions that reflect and represent the best interest of the Global African community.
2. Advocate for and support legislation which recognizes African Americans as a sovereign people
3. Create /support Legislation which addresses the growth and development of sub –Saharan Africa

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<sup>1</sup> Freedom House

4. Create /support legislation which addresses and ends sex slavery of African people
5. Create /Support legislation that restricts American foreign policy intervention in the democratic process of African Countries
6. Denouncing U.S. policy which sabotages democratically elected progressive leaders.
7. Supporting the Africanization of “democracy”, including the creation of Constitutions and internal systems that reflect the best interest of the people, their history, heritage etc.
8. Spur economic growth, trade and investment by creating/ supporting and restructuring all legislation and policy that impacts these areas:
  - **Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, (AGOA)** which provides duty-free status for certain African imports
  - Create/ support the **African Growth and Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI)**. Run by USAID, it creates “regional hubs for global competitiveness” and primarily focuses on support of programs that improve the environment for business, i.e. finance, infrastructure, and regulatory compliance, environment, and improve the knowledge and capacity of enterprises.<sup>viii</sup>
  - Create /support legislative agenda for **Power Africa**, which provides technical assistance, financing and investment support for Africa’s energy sector, by developing an infrastructure in the African American community that can benefit from these opportunities.
  - Create/support legislative agenda for **Trade Africa**, a program to bolster intra-regional and global trade.
9. **Advocate for peace and security** through a continued reassessment of American Foreign Policy and its impact on black and brown people of the world
10. **Review, educate, advocate and participate in a two way “The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI),”** which attracts the best young African minds to a program that shapes the next generation of African and African American leaders through partnering with private sector, host country governments, international and regional bodies, and civil society organizations.

## Public Policy Recommendations

### War on Drugs

1. Review, create, support legislation that addresses the devastating impact on those countries targeted by U.S. Foreign policy to “stem the tide of drugs in the United States.”
2. Advocate for a complete review of “the war on drugs” and its implications for the African American communities and the private prison pipeline.

### North American Free Trade Agreement, NAFTA

1. Implemented January 1, 1994, continues to impact the manufacturing sector in the U.S.
2. Advocate for the development of a cohesive strategic response to NAFTA and its long term ramifications
3. Mobilize businesses to lobby CONGRESS and The Executive Branch for overhaul of NAFTA

### **Trans –Pacific Partnership (TPP)**

1. Advocate review TPP and make recommendations to The Black Caucus.
2. Educate community on the content and proposed impact of TPP.
3. Mobilize businesses to lobby congress and the Executive Branch for transparency and accountability with TPP.

### **Community Strategy**

1. Sponsor open forums to discuss international trade and foreign policies that impact the black community.
2. Educate, organize and mobilize community to understand and support positions related to the best interest of the Black Community.
3. There should be social, cultural, and educational exchange and joint ventures, such as scholars from Africa, the United States and the Caribbean taking sabbatical leave to teach in each other's countries.
4. The greatest obstacle to understanding... may be removed by visiting each other's countries, producing television shows and documentaries about each country, creating an annual forum for African people in the US and chartering low –fare trips to Africa and the Caribbean.<sup>ix</sup>

### **What the Community Can Do**

#### *Sovereignty*

1. The creation of an outreach campaign that makes Black people aware of what is needed to create true self –determination for the Black community in America, and to address the apartheid systems which continue to destroy our people and communities across America.

#### *Building a relationship with the African Union*

2. All African descended people should read and have a working knowledge of the AU's **Agenda 2063. The Africa we want.**
3. Creation of questions to the African Union which solicits what assistance they are in need of as it relates to US foreign policy. To include policies which are detrimental to the AU and need to be changed? Policies that is not written but needed?

### **African American/African Union Relationship**

1. Support the African Unions call for the African Diaspora to unite and organize ourselves into a unified body.
2. Advocate for **AU's Diaspora Ambassador** in Washington DC. to visit each city where large African populations live and begin to build a working relationship with the people.
3. Create an **Pan African Council** in each state where all African, African-American, Caribbean and Afro-Latino people's live and where organizations can meet, to get to know each other and collaborate on projects that tie into the AU's Agenda 2063 goals.

### **Lobbying**

1. Advocate for the creation of a Lobbying arm to address foreign policy issues favorable to Africa, the African Union, the Caribbean and Latin America and or leverage laws and policies already in place to meet the same goals.
2. Secure lobbying representation and support for African American business's participation in the African Growth and Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI), run by USAID which is primarily focused on providing support that improve the business environment, i.e. access to finance, meet regulatory requirement, increase production capacity."
4. Lobby ECOWAS for an African - African Indigenous Bank so that we can exchange goods and services between our people, since we have infrastructure, technology, and financing capability.

### **What individuals Can Do**

1. Support African American sovereignty movement.
2. Learn more about your history and ancestors. Incorporate your history into your daily living experiences by creating spaces that acknowledge our ancestors and history. Pass on this knowledge to family members.
3. All African descended people should read and have a working knowledge of the African Union's *Agenda 2063. The Africa we want.*
4. Educate yourself on current and proposed policies related to black people and get involved

### **What Leaders and Elected Officials Can Do**

1. Support the African Union's *Agenda 2063, The Africa we want*, to create "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."<sup>x</sup>
2. A Plebiscite vote is needed in the US so that Blacks can vote to have Sovereign status.
3. Monitor issues that impact Global African communities and prevent legislation that has negative outcomes.
4. Speak up on behalf of our community highlighting issues that have an adverse impact for us.
5. Support US foreign policy which are win/win for all countries involved and leave a positive legacy for Black people globally.

6. Provide funding for the Policy Institutes that can help elected officials become more knowledgeable.