Black Reparations Demand Pushed at World Court in Philadelphia November 15 - 16

"Now it is up to you all to get the Reparations. It is up to you to take the lead. I took it as far as I can go. I can't go any further. I've got to depend on you. I am with you 100 per cent."

— Queen Mother Moore
Fifth Session of World Court Broadens Demand For Reparations Now!

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — On November 15 and 16, African people from throughout the United States brought evidence and testimony of U.S. government crimes against black people before the Fifth Session of the World Tribunal on Reparations for Black People in the U.S.

Held on the campus of Temple University in Philadelphia, the Fifth Session of the World Tribunal was presented evidence and testimony of U.S. crimes against the domestically colonized black population in the U.S. Testimony was presented from Philadelphia; Indianapolis, Indiana; Pontiac, Michigan; Charlotte, North Carolina; New York City; Akron, Ohio; Birmingham, Alabama; Baltimore, Maryland; Atlanta, Georgia; Washington, D.C.; St. Petersburg and Jacksonville, Florida, and Camden, New Jersey.

This Fifth Session of the World Tribunal was the fourth consecutive one to be convened and sponsored by the African National Reparations Organization (ANRO). The First Tribunal held in Brooklyn, New York in 1982 was organized and convened by the African People’s Socialist Party.

Serving on the international panel of judges at the Fifth Session were: Chuminu Moombata of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania-LN Mission; Ousainou Mbuya from Gambia, West Africa; and Serge Makendji from the Workers and Peasants Party-Congo.

For the fifth consecutive year, Omali Yeshitela, Chairman of the APSP, served as the People’s Advocate.

Among the people to testify was Charlotte Hill of Philadelphia. Sister Charlotte told the Court of the May 16, 1983 bombing of the MOVE family which left at least 11 black people dead and an entire neighborhood 600 feet to the ground, and the subsequent cover-up by Mayor Wilson Goode’s neo-colonial administration.

Charlotte also told the Court how hospital authorities had stolen her baby’s body in 1983. Although her baby had been born healthy, 21 days after its birth hospital authorities told her her baby had died. But up till this day the hospital has refused to issue a death certificate or produce a body. Sister Charlotte is still trying to find out what happened to her baby.

Testimony was also brought forth concerning the case of Mumia Abu Jamal by Brother Jeffrey Pettaway who had come from New York on Mumia’s request. Mumia is on Death Row in Pennsylvania after having been railroaded on charges that he shot and killed a Philadelphia cop.

Another Death Penalty case was also brought to the Court by Brother Musa Mwaafrika from Indianapolis who testified on the case of 15-year-old Mike Cooper who is on Death Row in Indiana, and the abuse she has suffered while in prison, including being raped by prison guards.

Other important testimony was put forth by Sister Andito Siwatu from Baltimore, Maryland who testified on the colonial educational system and the terrible housing conditions in the black community there. The testimonies of Abdul Hakim from Pontiac, Michigan concerning police and white citizen violence against black people; Oseahon Gor...