

Eighth Session of the World Tribunal Condemns and Exposes U.S. Counterinsurgency Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On November 11th and 12th the African National Reparations Organization (ANRO), a mass organization of the African People's Socialist Party, successfully conducted the Eighth Session of the World Tribunal on Reparations for African People at the University of District Columbia.

The Eighth Session of the World Tribunal was a continuation of the Seventh Session which was held in St. Petersburg, Florida. Like the Seventh Session it provided testimony and documentation which exposed the U.S. attack on the national democratic rights of our colonized people as a continuation of a counterinsurgency that was initiated during the Black Revolution of the Sixties.

Testimony about the counterinsurgency and its implications for the national democratic rights of our people was divided into two areas. One area of testimony was from experts on particular questions and the second was from various peoples and groups from throughout the U.S.-based African domestic colony.

One of those providing expert testimony was Ward Churchill. His testimony was on the murderous activities of the U.S. secret political police, especially the FBI, in the attack on the Black Panther Party and the American Indian Movement. Similar testimony came from Ajamu Mwafrika, a leader of ANRO and the APSP.

Expert testimony also came from

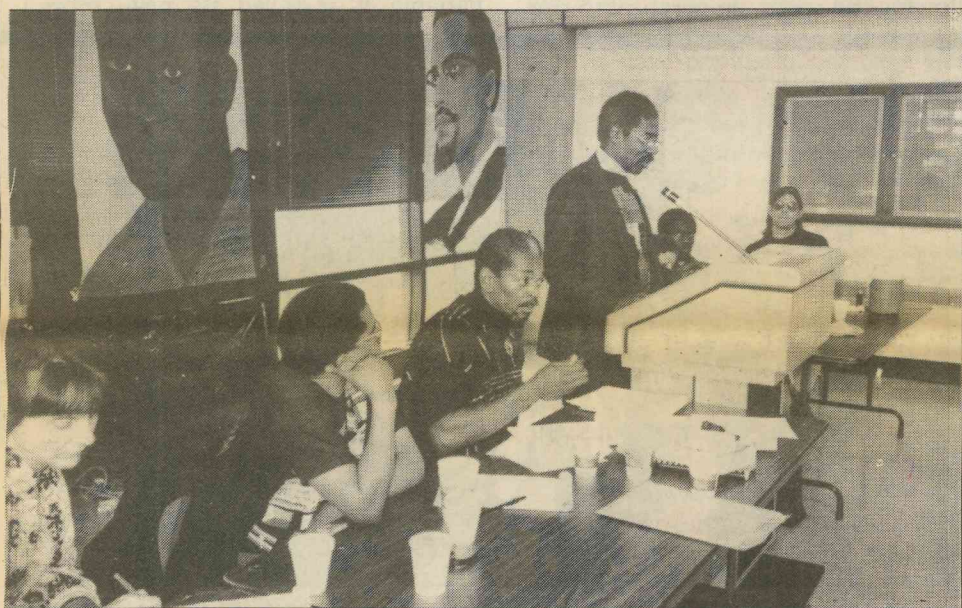
The African People's Socialist Party has serious ideological and political differences with the RNA and NCOBRA.

These differences are reflected in our approach to reparations work in every way and was reflected in Godwin's presentation, a part of which was designed to explain why NCOBRA's reparations work liquidated the relationship of reparations to revolution. The explanation given was that this was for fear of alienating black people, who are assumed to be generally susceptible to U.S. colonial education and media.

The work of ANRO, as explained by the People's Advocate following Godwin's presentation, assumes in contrast that the majority of Africans



Left, Ajamu Mwafrika, National Coordinator of ANRO; Right, Ousainou Mbenga, one of the jurists.



From left, Penny Hess, APSC; Tembu Masamini of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania; Omali Yeshitela, People's Advocate; testimony by

The counterinsurgency of the Sixties was a means of crushing our just struggle for national liberation and repossession of the material wealth Africans have created for the U.S. and North Americans (white people) since our capture and enslavement.

As in each of the seven previous tribunals, African People's Socialist Party Chairman Omali Yeshitela performed the function of People's Advocate. His role was to present the witnesses and their testimony along with the evidence and documentation to the sitting panel of international jurists.

The panel of jurists for the Eighth Session of the World Tribunal included Nevía Torres, an activist within the Puerto Rican National Liberation Movement; Ward Churchill of the Colorado American Indian Movement (AIM) and author of the book *Agents of Repression*; Penny Hess, Chairwoman of the APSP-led African People's Solidarity Committee (APSC); Osainu Mbenga, an activist from West Africa and editor of the Gambian-oriented journal *Jali Baa*; Tembu Masamini of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania, representative of the genuine aspirations of our oppressed people within the South African settler colony; and Ace Mgxashe, representing the Organization of South African Liberation Education (OSALE).

Mshindi Shabazz, Chairman of the recently reconvened APSP-led African National Prison Organization (ANPO). Shabazz' testimony focused on how the U.S. prison system, a tool of colonial terror against our people since the so-called Emancipation Proclamation, has become even more brutal since the intensification of the counterinsurgency under the guise of a war on drugs.

Lorenzo Kamboa Ervin, the National Coordinator of ANPO, also contributed to the testimony concerning prison, elaborating on his several years as a political prisoner within the federal prison system after being kidnapped from East Germany by the CIA. This followed his escape from the U.S. to avoid political persecution because of his activities as a member of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and the Black Panther Party.

Other testimony came from throughout the U.S. and included militants from Wichita, Kansas, St. Petersburg and Clearwater, Florida, and students who had been violently attacked in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

A measure of the significance of the World Tribunal was also revealed by the participation and testimony of Vincent Godwin, an activist with the Republic of New Afrika and the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA).



Vincent Godwin of NCOBRA; Ousainou Mbenga; and Ward Churchill of AIM, far right. On right, vendors outside of the 8th Tribunal.

who ANRO's work is based on, do not fear revolution. ANRO believes that with political education most Africans would actually welcome revolution as the only way out of our wretched conditions of economic exploitation and vicious colonial servitude to white power.

For the last eight years ANRO has worked to build a reparations movement among African people and has successfully taken the question out of the narrow bourgeois confines of the courtroom and the various legislative offices by making the primary focus of all reparations work the masses of African working people who must be organized in their own fighting organizations.

As a result of that work throughout the U.S. more and more political groups and personalities have begun to raise the demand for reparations, or compensation for the theft of labor and liberty of African people.

Unlike most groups who have come to demand reparations, ANRO raises the demand as one which is subordinate to the revolutionary interests of our people to take back our resources from the U.S. economy and our liberation from the U.S. colonial state. ANRO recognizes that the wealth of U.S. imperialism is directly and immediately derived from the impoverishment of African people which was only possible because our

capacity for self-government or self-determination was overthrown.

Immediately following the Eighth Session of the World Tribunal on Reparations for African People in the U.S., a conference was held by the ANRO National Coordinating Committee which decided among other things to hold the Ninth Session of the World Tribunal on the West Coast for the first time.

In November of 1990 the Ninth Session of the World Tribunal on Reparations for African People in the U.S. will be held in Oakland, California.

For more information contact: ANRO, P.O. Box 67376, Baltimore, Md. 21215 or ANRO, 7911 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, Ca. 94605.

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