



SACP

SOUTH AFRICAN COMMUNIST PARTY

EASTERN CAPE

PEC BULLETIN



14th edition

Socialism is the future, Build it now!!!!

Background:

The SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin is a medium of the SACP for propagating its views with the working class in an unmediated fashion.

While it is important to constantly engage and contest ideas within the bourgeoisie commercial media but SACP is alive to the reality that any commercial media is first and foremost inclined to reflect views of its masters (monopoly capital).

It also contains regular features such as letters to the editor, commentary and a variety of other exciting features on working class struggles, the economy, etc.

Guidelines for Submission of Articles

Style and Length:

The length for feature articles is 1200-1800 words.

Letters to the editor must not exceed 300 words and opinion pieces must not exceed 600 words.

Articles must be written in plain and simple English. Articles may contain words in other South African languages, with the English meaning bracketed.

Articles must be relevant to membership of our party and the working class in general, exciting and solicit debate and discussions.

Articles about recent events or contemporary issues in South Africa and the world will be given preference for publication in the SACP Eastern Cape PEC bulletin.

All SACP District Spokespersons, YCLSA Spokesperson and other Spokespersons of the MDM fraternal organisations are encouraged to submit articles about the recent activities; as they might not be covered in the mainstream media.

Due Date:

The SACP Eastern Cape PEC Bulletin is published monthly (12 issues per annum). The due date for the submission of articles is the 20th of each month.

Late submissions will not be considered for an edition of such month but for future editions.

Originality:

The SACP EC PEC Bulletin publishes original articles. We also publish articles which have appeared elsewhere in whole or in part.

Should you feel that republishing an article would be beneficial to SACP EC PEC Bulletin readership and that the article will reach a broader readership through our medium than the medium that first published it, then you need to bring this to the attention of the Editor.

All sources cited in the articles must be referenced.

Themes:

Different editions/ issues of the SACP PEC Bulletin will have specific themes (Joe Slovo Month, Chris Hani Month, Youth Month, Red October, SACP anniversaries, COSATU Anniversaries, ANC anniversary, etc.) therefore some articles must be tailored to suit the specific theme. Each issue/edition of the SACP EC PEC bulletin will indicate the theme of the next edition, so articles should be submitted as such.

Processing of Articles:

All articles shall be subjected to scrutiny by the SACP EC PEC bulletin editorial team.

The SACP EC Bulletin is particularly interested in fostering a culture of reading and writing amongst the leadership and membership of our party.

We will therefore give special consideration to the articles written by the general members of our party.

Articles will go through a review process, after which we will inform the contributor whether the article will be published or not.

The review process largely depends on the adherence to deadlines provided by the Editor and the content of the article as submitted.

Editorial Team:

Xolile Nqatha
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Next Edition: Kindly forward your contributions to simdodi@gmail.com before Wednesday, 20 April 2016.

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In the month of March 2016, the South African Communist Party (SACP) in the Eastern Cape had many activities and campaigns. It has been a month marked by high levels of party activism in the districts and at the provincial level.

We actively participated in the Israel Apartheid Week South Africa (IAWSA) as part of our commitment to internationalism. We have had picket in the East London led by our Skenjana Roji District. We have had a successful picket led by the SACP Provincial Executive Committee (PEC) at Woolworths, Greenacres Mall, Port Elizabeth. The picketers were addressed by all alliance organs and the Boycott Disinvestment Sanction SA (BDSSA) movement. Our political school, the Govan Mbeki Communist University (GMCU) has a successful lecture addressed by the SACP, ANC, ANCYL & BDSSA

We did so in pledging solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine, and raising awareness on the plight of the Palestinians. The struggles and inhumane conditions of the Palestinians is well known though out the world, but it is of paramount importance to raise awareness on the situation they confronted with.

The deaths of Palestinian civilians every time Israel launches a war, the hundreds of Palestinians in administrative detention held without charge or trial, the incarceration of minors, the destruction of homes, the severe restriction on movements, the unequal access to water and housing, the construction of a massive wall blockading and dividing Palestinian towns and cities; all of this is so well known - confirmed in reports by the United Nations and Non-Governmental Organisations, reports by journalists, academic writings and even organisations within Israel in addition to other sources.

It therefore comes across as surprising why Israel is permitted to continue violating the rights of Palestinians with impunity and in gross violation of basic human rights as enshrined in the United Nations Universal Charter for Human Rights. The situation is very similar to that of apartheid South Africa - and we are not just referring to the sufferings of Palestinian and us Black South Africans as being similar. We are talking about the way in which Apartheid South Africa was almost immune from the Western world criticism and how today too Israel is almost immune. So we should all be alive to the concrete reality that the Apartheid Israel is no different to the Apartheid South Africa which was declared a crime against humanity by the United Nations. It is through international solidarity that we can bring the Apartheid Israel to its knees and free the people of Palestine.



Remembering Chris Hani; restore and defend the values of our movement.

The 2016, marks the 23th anniversary of the cowardly assassination of our former General Secretary, ANC NEC Member and the Chief of Staff of the people's army, Umkhonto Wesizwe Chris Martin Thembisile Hani. As we remember this great leader of our people, our movement and our revolution is at the eye of the storm with the National Democratic Revolution (NDR) being derailed.

On the other hand we remember him as we are on the eve of his anniversary the Gauteng High Court ordered the release of Janusz Walus, the murderer of Chris Hani and urged his family to "move on." This decision is as cold as the murder itself and once more exposing an untransformed judiciary that remain racist and not victim centred.

In the true spirit of Chris Hani, we are using the anniversary of his assassination to support the decision of the Minister of Justice to apply for the review of the decision to release Walus and also support the Minister's commitment to introduce measures to realise a victim centred justice system in our country. This is very critical to ensure access and restore value of black life in our country.

Over the last few weeks our movement and our country has been exposed on what the SACP has been raising as a concern for the past 7 years, that is the proximity of business to the leadership of the movement and dangers of corporate capture. As we celebrate comrade Chris Hani we are proud that our party has been in the fore front in pointing at the dangers of this phenomenon.

It was Chris Hani and his comrades who authored a memorandum pointing out at negative tendencies that were impacting negatively to the movement and the moral of its cadres. The ANC NEC has agreed to embark in a process towards the regulation of leadership business interest and the relationship between business interests and the leadership of our movement. It further agree that all comrades who have information and were approached by the Gupta family or any one must come forward. This is very important as the reports are eroding the confidence our people have to our movement as any reports, fact or perception that our movement is not in control of the country but other interests.

May you have a revolutionary read!

Siyabonga Mdodi – SACP Provincial Spokesperson



"BIZZARE JANUSZ WALUS PAROLING REVEALS MUCH MORE THAN JUST AN ERROR IN APPLICATION OF LAW"

"I did it for the CP and to stop communists and radicals from gaining power in this country," these are words of Janusz Walus at an occasion of his failed bid during Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

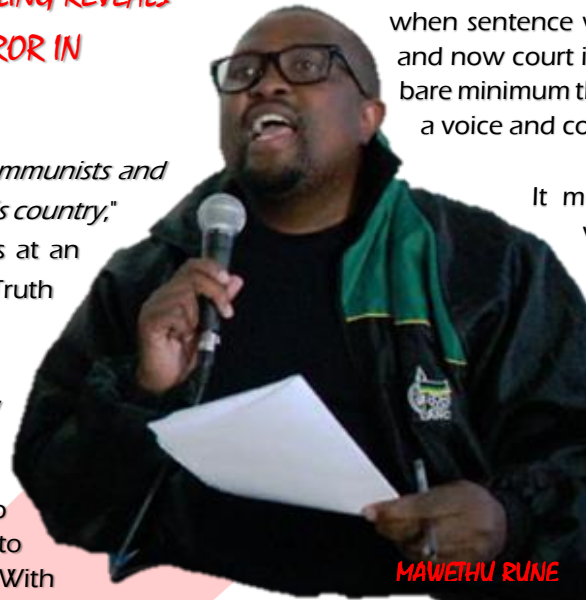
Although his plot dramatically failed but its political ramifications were calamitous if it was to succeed in that as Walus and Co admitted in that they anticipated to provoke a violent racial back-lash. With volatile situation inside the country at the time and second most popular leader in Chris Hani only to Mandela being viciously murdered it was not far-fetched to instigate massive revenge killings on whites, escalating into a racial civil war and what obtains to date aborted. This introductory remark is made to underscore as how tragic killing of Chris Hani was and within the context of then South Africa and therefore such murderers and their paroling must be viewed in that context.

To amplify how important Chris Hani was loyal to construction project of new democratic South Africa, is best found in his words when he said *"I've never wanted to spare myself because I feel there are people who are no longer around and died for this struggle. What right do I have to hold back, to rest, to preserve my health, to have time with my family, when there are other people who are no longer alive - when they sacrificed what is precious: namely life itself"*.

On 10th March 2016, Gauteng High Court "Justice" Noline Van Nieuwenhuizen ordered that Janusz Walus, the assassin of Chris Hani, be freed on parole and given bail conditions by the Minister.

Walus having cold murdered Chris Hani SACP General Secretary at the time on Easter Sunday April 10 1993. He was initially sentenced to death but this was converted to life in prison after the abolition of capital punishment.

While one cannot speak on behalf of Hani family but when sentence was converted from death penalty and now court intending not to honor even that a bare minimum they could do is to afford Hani family a voice and consideration but no!



It must be more concerning for any victims of heinous crimes on what exactly in South African legal jurisprudence is meant by life sentence as its possibly does not mean what it says. Justice must never be select domain of the learned colleagues in exclusion of the victims and communities which are offended and perpetrators living among them.

As law currently stands Minister of Justice and Correctional Services is authorized to make a decision on parole in terms of Correctional Services Act, the legislation which was in existence at the time when Mr. Walus was sentenced. This meant that the Minister applied his powers in terms of section 65(6) of the Correctional Services Act 8 of 1959.

"Justice must never be select domain of the learned colleagues in exclusion of the victims and communities which are offended and perpetrators living among them"

Which suggest thereof that the decision to put an offender on parole or not resides with an executive arm of state. And Minister already

took his decision when he declined Mr Walus a parole in 2015. When the Minister took into account judgment remarks directed to Walus in that *"they [Walus and Clive Derby-Lewis] simply arrogated themselves the right to destroy the life of the person because of their own political perceptions and for that they must pay. This assassination was premeditated. Deceased was defenseless and unprotected when he was shot. The killing was cold-blooded"*. Nature and brutality of the crime thereof obliged proper consideration and consultation with offended parties.

While it is recognised that the court may review the decision of the Minister if it was applied unreasonable or in an irrational manner which in this occurrence was not arbitrated against the Minister, but further an administrative decision cannot be reviewed by dealing with it as if it was an appeal as it materialised in this judgment. Therefore even on application of technical legal argument the order is wanting and must be appealed.



But further what is of serious concern here is not mere wrong application of law or failure to distinguish between appeals and reviews. But is growing concern that courts are appearing to be usurping functions and powers of the other arms of state, as witnessed with tensions with parliament and recently executive and that is untenable for our young democracy.

The doctrine of separation of powers among the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary is founded as tripartite of democracy with each independent but flattering the other. We have come to be accustomed to insistent noise every moment executive is suspected to encroach judiciary function. The legislature is praised at instances wherein it disapproves of this or that legislation. Little or no courtesy has been given to those instances wherein the judiciary actually interferes with the executive and pronounce on budget allocation or what should be priority of government wherein elected government have taken an executive decision on the matter. This situation is equally untenable! In this instance it appears that judiciary for all intents and purpose is encroaching and usurping functions clearly allocated to another arm of state, this must be nipped in the bud.

On another intervention one argued, which its best to paraphrase here in that it would be a spin to

anticipate that it is inborn for courts to be neutral or fair arbitrators that uphold justice regardless of class power dynamics and property power relations in society and pretend as if justices are not product of the very same society and therefore molded and influenced by the very same society. For their location and evolution must be understood within conceptual framework of base and superstructure. The base of society is the way people relate to one another in the production of their lives and their means of life, in other words, the productive relations.

Classes in themselves are an aspect of production relations, therefore it follows that people do not relate on just any basis, but relate to one another through their mutual relation to property. Which then in turn defines the society. The superstructure reflects, protects,

organizes and strengthens the base. They are a superstructure because they can only be understood, in the final in terms of a society's economic base.

To bring this closer to home, the force removals of African majority from productive lands, the concentration of masses of Africans in Bantustan's, their super exploitation and segregation even apartheid which was crime against humanity was legislated and courts presided to hand down harshest sentence to those who dared question this crime against humanity. The point we seek to make is that courts have been reflection not to dispense justice but reflection of power relations and class relations within context of material property relations in society, designed and espousing to protect the interest of the ruling class.

Strategy

and tactics as adopted in 1969 ANC Morogoro Conference makes this observation *"South Africa was conquered by force and is today ruled by force. At moments when White autocracy feels itself threatened, it does not hesitate to use the gun. When the gun is not in use legal and administrative terror, fear, social and economic pressures, complacency and confusion*



generated by propaganda and "education", are the devices brought into play in an attempt to harness the people's opposition. Behind these devices hovers force. The specter is falsely raised of a threat to the White men's language and culture to "justify" a policy of cultural discrimination and domination, by economic bribes and legal artifices".

On philosophy & class struggle –Dialego point out *"In so far as economic realities come into conflict with pet schemes of this or that apartheid ideologue, it is the ideas and not the realities which suffer! It is the basis which ultimately determines the superstructure".*

One argues therefore that courts are a component of super structure, established and used to legitimize the segregation, oppression and crime against humanity



then it follows that their transformation cannot be complete without overhaul of production patterns and system. That is why it should not be shocking when Justice arrogate to herself serious injustice in that Mam Hanu must forgive and move on. This is a reflection of what from position of privilege, totally detached from living, experience and suffering of the majority of people of South Africa as espoused by response of Mam Hanu in that "it's very sad for South Africa. It's a very sad day. I am not upset, but I am highly irritated that this white woman can tell me how to feel. She comes with a white superiority complex to tell me I should forgive and I should move on. It is not her husband that was murdered."

Oblivion position of privilege lot is characterized by Harry Bond when he says "Privilege is not something I take and which therefore have the option of not taking. It is something that society gives me, and unless I change the institutions which give it to me, they will continue to give it, and I will continue to have it".

To an extent that prejudice against African majority is institutionalized in South Africa psyche including judicial benches is explained better by Prof JNJ 'Klippiess' Kritzinger when he remarks as white person on occasion of celebrating Human Rights 'But even if we were not open perpetrators of racism, all of us whites benefited from the system of white privilege established in colonial times, which deliberately and systemically excluded black people. Most of us went to good schools and good hospitals, we lived in smart houses, with running water, electricity and water-borne sewage – while millions of black South Africans did not, and in many cases still do not. We need to own up to this glaring inequality and injustice, because it gave us privileges and advantages that our black compatriots did not have – and for decades could not have".

He further nails it by saying "The real problem with racism is that we white people arrogantly assume that we always know better, that our ways of thinking are more advanced, that our cultures are superior, that our languages are more sophisticated. And our false innocence and ignorance feed this arrogance, so that we can glibly tell black people to "get over it" or "move on" or "stop taking us back to the past". On this Human

Rights Day, we are called to renounce our white arrogance and to affirm our shared human dignity, because as Archbishop Tutu kept on reminding us, our humanity is indivisible: I cannot be free unless you are free; I cannot be human unless you are human; we are human together – or we are not human"

It is therefore prudent that as we uphold the independence of judiciary, in our daily struggles we must equally be vigilant in safeguarding our democracy.....



Therefore while it is true that state is a class contested terrain which is not in stagnation but forever responsive to balance of forces at a particular trajectory, it is also true that material property relations greatly influence on how people relate. Therefore as progressive

forces wrestle among other sectors for hegemony of working class aspiration within the state, it is imperative that such participation must never be driven as to perfect the state apparatus in its prevailing circumstance but in the immediate it must seek to transform it in something new that in its form and content respond to interest of majority. The sustainable transformation of state apparatus is when the material property relations alter from hands of few to enjoyment of the majority, with alternate of production patterns departing from dictates of capitalism.

It is therefore prudent that as we uphold the independence of judiciary, in our daily struggles we must equally be vigilant in safeguarding our democracy. Importantly in that project is that judiciary must be equally earn and sustain its

credibility as a dispute arbiter, we must never fold arms when aspiration of the societal majority are subverted by abusing court processes. The separation of powers and right of society to critic or expresses opinion must be defended. We have to constantly persuade the court to clear from being political players that makes determination on party political differences.

In the final analysis the total lasting transformation of courts/judiciary to reflect the organization of majority it's only when material property relations are enjoyed by people as a whole.

Mawethu Rune, SACP PWC Member.



NO LOGIC BACKING RELEASE OF JANUSZ WALUS

Chris Martin Thembisile Hani was a relentless fighter against all forms exploitation. He fought for social justice, democracy and freedom. There is no doubt to those who knew the late General Secretary of the South African Communist Party (SACP), Former MK chief of Staff and ANC NEC member,

Comrade Chris Hani was a man of peace, hence was struggling for socialism and communism ultimately a society where no man will exploit another man. Therefore, his devotion to the South African class and national revolution despite him being a graduate at his time defines his deep commitment to fighting against any system which within it possesses an element of exploitation and violence.

The 10th of April 1994, too many South Africans remains as vivid as yesterday without any shred of oblivion. To those who were younger then remember April the 10th day and its subsequent events leading to the day of the funeral. There are those who have only read and listened to clips about comrade Chris Hani, his ideas remains as relevant as today given the fact the poverty, unemployment and inequality persist. Certainly these challenges are the outcomes of capitalist system and presented by its economic volatility linked to the imperialist markets which are hell-bent on oppressing the developing countries, in particular, those who refuse to be puppets of the West.

Well, one thing we as the current generation we have learned during the death of our revolutionary is that the struggle continues. Hence, we always remind ourselves that Comrade Chris Hani never became popular because he wanted to be populist, but his activism in fighting against the oppression of the South African people earned him great admiration from the masses.

The conviction and sentence imposed to both Clive Derby-Lewis and Janusz Walus, at least, brought some



MASONWABE SOKOMI

relief and belief that his death was never in vein. However, the South African constitution allows those who are imprisoned to seek parole, hence, we have seen in the past few years the killers of Chris Hani applying for parole. Contrary to what both the judge who presided over their sentencing said and which was emphasised by the truth commission that the reason behind the refusal of amnesty was on the basis they never show remorse nor revealed truth.

Therefore, consistent with the above clear reasons and justification one would expect whoever is presiding over their parole application such a judiciary officer should have applied his or her mind on those two judgements. Thus, to many of us, we remain with the question without questioning the independence of the judiciary. It defies our logic that the release of the two heinous murderers and be brought back to our society is at whose interest?

Their stubbornness to disclose what happened and who compiled the hit list for them? What will stop them now not to continue with what they left unfinished as they were not near to the completion their hitlists?

Despite reasons which were given during the parole of Derby-Lewis based on the state of his health of which there was an attempt to conflate his test results of his health with the other patient. Similarly to Janusz, the Minister rejected his application but Judge Selby Baqwa overturned the decision of the Minister and Derby-Lewis was released up to now he never revealed the truth.

Therefore, the latest judgement delivered in North Gauteng high court which has given our democratically elected government 14 days to release Janus Walus, similarly has in fact re-opened wounds. Perhaps it's only in South Africa where a convicted killer can be released without disclosing the truth which means Chris Hani death was in vain. The continued liberal interpretation of our constitution which is detached from the reality will slowly create many contradictions and tensions. When we agreed that our democracy will be a constitutional democracy we knew

The 10th of April 1994, too many South Africans remains as vivid as yesterday without any shred of oblivion.



its meaning and we envisaged the three arms of the state working in unison where the separation of powers will be respected.

It is, for this reason, the Minister of Justice and Correctional services should appeal the decision of the Gauteng high court which set aside his decision to reject Janus Walus application of a parole. Equally, both Hani family and the SACP have declared to leave no stone unturned. When Judge Nicoline Janse Van Nieuwenhuizen overstepped her Authority by trying to impose forgiveness to the Hani family and forgetting Hani belong to the society not only his family. In fact, some of us want that Derby-Lewis too to return to jail and join Janusz Walus until they reveal all the events, reasons and circumstances which led to Chris Hani assassination.

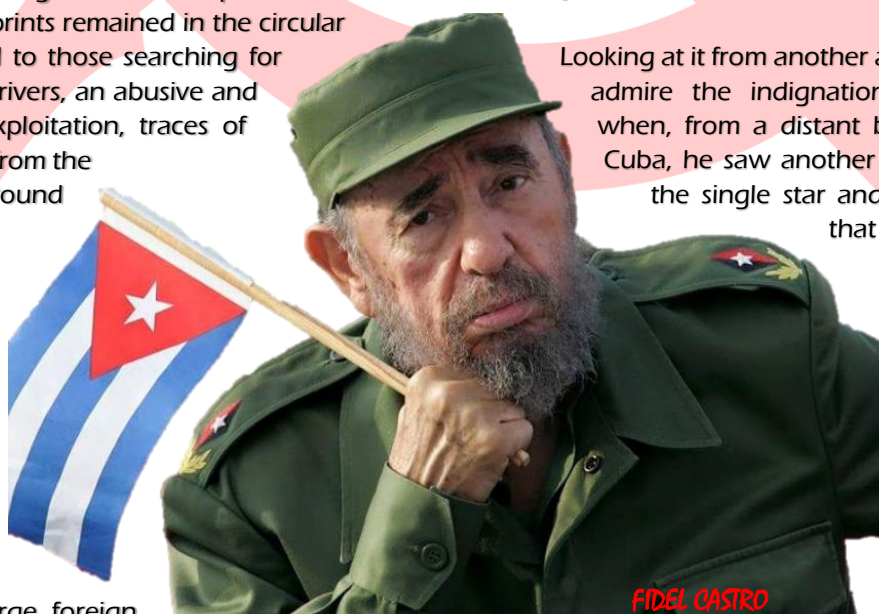
Applying for parole without disclosing the full truth is tantamount to undermining our democracy and an abuse of our constitution. It can only be the truth that can warrant forgiveness, as long as they have not disclosed the truth they deserve to rot in jail.

Masonwabe Sokoyi – SACP Western Cape Provincial Spokesperson

"BROTHER OBAMA: WE DON'T NEED THE EMPIRE TO GIVE US ANYTHING. OUR EFFORTS WILL BE LEGAL AND PEACEFUL, BECAUSE OUR COMMITMENT IS TO PEACE AND FRATERNITY AMONG ALL HUMAN BEINGS WHO LIVE ON THIS PLANET." – FIDEL CASTRO

The kings of Spain brought us the conquistadores and masters, whose footprints remained in the circular land grants assigned to those searching for gold in the sands of rivers, an abusive and shameful form of exploitation, traces of which can be noted from the air in many places around the country.

Tourism today, in large part, consists of viewing the delights of our landscapes and tasting exquisite delicacies from our seas, and is always shared with the private capital of large foreign



corporations, whose earnings, if they don't reach billions of dollars, are not worthy of any attention whatsoever.

Since I find myself obliged to mention the issue, I must add - principally for the youth - that few people are aware of the importance of such a condition, in this singular moment of human history. I would not say that time has been lost, but I do not hesitate to affirm that we are not adequately informed, not you, nor us, of the knowledge and conscience that we must have to confront the realities which challenge us. The first to be taken into consideration is that our lives are but a fraction of a historical second, which must also be devoted in part to the vital necessities of every human being. One of the characteristics of this condition is the tendency to overvalue its role, in contrast, on the other hand, with the extraordinary number of persons who embody the loftiest dreams.

Nevertheless, no one is good or bad entirely on their own. None of us is designed for the role we must assume in a revolutionary society, although Cubans had the privilege of José Martí's example. I even ask myself if he needed to die or not in Dos Ríos, when he said, "For me, it's time," and charged the Spanish forces entrenched in a solid line of firepower. He did not want to return to the United States, and there was no one who could make him. Someone ripped some pages from his diary. Who bears this treacherous responsibility, undoubtedly the work of an unscrupulous conspirator? Differences between the leaders were well known, but never indiscipline. "Whoever attempts to appropriate Cuba will reap only the dust of its soil drenched in blood, if he does not perish in the struggle," stated the glorious Black leader Antonio Maceo. Máximo Gómez is likewise recognized as the most disciplined and discreet military chief in our history.

Looking at it from another angle, how can we not admire the indignation of Bonifacio Byrne when, from a distant boat returning him to Cuba, he saw another flag alongside that of the single star and declared, "My flag is that which has never been mercenary..."

immediately adding one of the most beautiful phrases I have ever heard, "If it is torn to shreds, it will be my flag one day... our dead raising their arms will still be able to defend it!" Nor will I



forget the blistering words of Camilo Cienfuegos that night, when, just some tens of meters away, bazookas and machine guns of U.S. origin in the hands of counterrevolutionaries were pointed toward that terrace on which we stood.

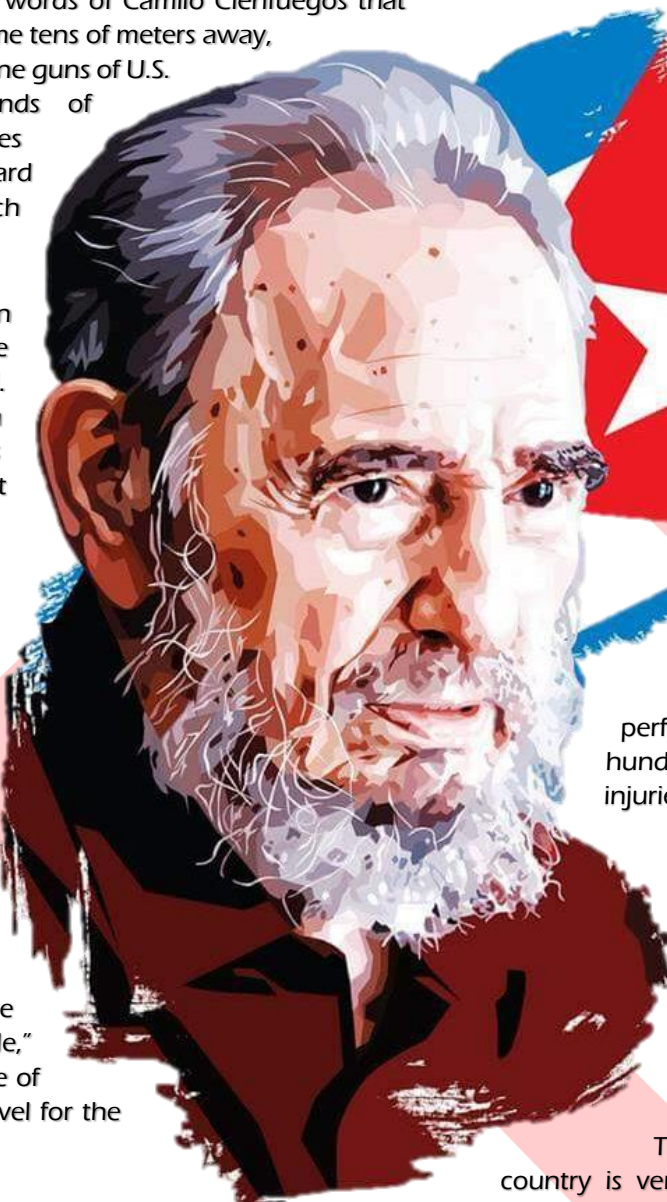
Obama was born in August of 1961, as he himself explained. More than half a century has transpired since that time.

Let us see, however, how our illustrious guest thinks today:

"I have come here to bury the last remnant of the Cold War in the Americas. I have come here to extend the hand of friendship to the Cuban people," followed by a deluge of concepts entirely novel for the majority of us:

"We both live in a new world, colonized by Europeans," the U.S. President continued, "Cuba, like the United States, was built in part by slaves brought here from Africa. Like the United States, the Cuban people can trace their heritage to both slaves and slave-owners."

The native populations don't exist at all in Obama's mind. Nor does he say that the Revolution swept away racial discrimination, or that pensions and salaries for all Cubans were decreed by it before Mr. Barack Obama was 10 years old. The hateful, racist bourgeois custom of hiring strongmen to expel Black citizens from recreational centers was swept away by the Cuban Revolution - that which would go down in history for the battle against apartheid that liberated Angola, putting an end to the presence of nuclear weapons on a continent of more than a billion inhabitants. This was not the objective of our solidarity, but rather to help the peoples



of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau and others under the fascist colonial domination of Portugal.

In 1961, just one year and three months after the triumph of the Revolution, a mercenary force with armored artillery and infantry, backed by aircraft, trained and

accompanied by U.S. warships and aircraft carriers, attacked our country by surprise. Nothing can justify that perfidious attack which cost our country hundreds of losses, including deaths and injuries

As for the pro-yankee assault brigade, no evidence exists anywhere that it was possible to evacuate a single mercenary. Yankee combat planes were presented before the United Nations as the equipment of a Cuban uprising.

The military experience and power of this country is very well known. In Africa, they likewise believed that revolutionary Cuba would be easily taken out of the fight. The invasion via southern Angola by racist South African motorized brigades got close to Luanda, the capital in the eastern part of the country. There a struggle began which went on for no less than 15 years. I wouldn't even talk about this, if I didn't have the elemental duty to respond to Obama's speech in Havana's Alicia Alonso Grand Theatre.

Nor will I attempt to give details, only emphasize that an honourable chapter in the struggle for human liberation was written there. In a certain way, I hoped Obama's behaviour would be correct. His humble origin and natural intelligence were evident. Mandela was imprisoned for life and had become a giant in the struggle for human dignity. One day, a copy of a book narrating part of Mandela's life reached my hands, and - surprise! - the prologue was by Barack Obama. I rapidly skimmed the pages. The miniscule size of Mandela's handwriting

The native populations don't exist at all in Obama's mind



noting facts was incredible. Knowing men such as him was worthwhile.

Regarding the episode in South Africa I must

point out another experience. I was really interested in learning more about how the South Africans had acquired nuclear weapons. I only had very precise information that there were no more than 10 or 12 bombs. A reliable source was the professor and researcher Piero Gleijeses, who had written the

text *Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington, and Africa, 1959-1976*, an excellent piece. I knew he was the most reliable source on what had happened and I told him so; he responded that he had not spoken more about the matter as in the text he had responded to questions from compañero Jorge Risquet, who had been Cuban ambassador and collaborator in Angola, a very good friend of his. I located Risquet; already undertaking other important tasks he was finishing a course which would last several weeks longer. That task coincided with a fairly recent visit by Piero to our country; I had warned him that Risquet was getting on and his health was not great. A few days later what I had feared occurred. Risquet deteriorated and died. When Piero arrived there was nothing to do except make promises, but I had already received information related to the weapons and the assistance that racist South Africa had received from Reagan and Israel.

I do not know what Obama would have to say about this story now. I am unaware as to what he did or did not know, although it is very unlikely that he knew absolutely nothing. My modest suggestion is that he gives it thought and does not attempt now to elaborate theories on Cuban policy.

There is an important issue:

Obama made a speech in which he uses the most sweetened words to express: "It is time, now, to forget the past, leave the past behind, let us look to the future together, a future of hope. And it won't be easy, there will be challenges and we must give it time; but my stay here gives me more hope in what we can do together as friends, as family, as neighbours, together."

I suppose all of us were at risk of a heart attack upon hearing these words from the President of the United States. After a ruthless blockade that has lasted almost 60 years, and what about those who have died in the mercenary attacks on Cuban ships and ports, an airliner full of passengers blown up in midair, mercenary invasions, multiple acts of violence and coercion?

Nobody should be under the illusion that the people of this dignified and selfless country will renounce the glory, the rights, or the spiritual wealth they have gained with the development of education, science and culture.

I also warn that we are capable of producing the food and material riches we need with the efforts and intelligence of our people. We do not need the empire to give us anything. Our efforts will be legal and peaceful, as this is our commitment to peace and fraternity among all human beings who live on this planet.

Cde Fidel Castro is the historic leader and Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban revolution. This piece was first published by the Granma, official voice of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee, 28 March 2016



RAUL CASTRO & FIDEL CASTRO

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