

# REPARATIONS NOW!



Official Membership Quarterly Newsletter

## National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America N'COBRA

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A. LUKATA CHIKUYU, EDITOR

### 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Every time I talk to myself I say Keep It Simple Stupid. Please let me know if I have done so with this explanation of why blacks are demanding and deserve reparations.

From 1619 till 1865 Africans {black people} were imported to America for the express purpose of fueling the American economy with free labor. In the process of providing the fuel for this economy, Americans discovered residual benefits to having human beings as slaves. They discovered that it gave them a sense of power over these people, and as we know, power corrupts. In the case of Americans, they developed a sense of absolute power over Africans, which created absolute corruption in Americans.

This sense of power manifested itself into a sense of superiority that rich Americans propagandized into the

mind set of all Americans which justified the separate but unequal doctrine of the Black Codes, Jim Crow and institutional racial discrimination, that permeated American culture and society from 1865 until 2007 {and counting}. Consequently, most white Americans came to believe that Blacks are inherently inferior to them and too many Blacks found their place in America and stayed there, even when they were treated with absolute disregard for their humanity.

Fortunately for humanity, there were some blacks who stood tall against the dehumanization of African people, and found a few sympathetic white allies. One of these groups of Blacks called themselves the National Coalition Of Blacks for Reparations in America {N'COBRA}. For the past 20 years,

N'COBRA has been fighting to erase the 246 years of psychological, spiritual, emotional and economical oppression, depression and dehumanization imbued in Blacks through the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade; and trying to clear up the confusion about racial superiority in whites. Additionally, N'COBRA has added the monumental task of trying to guide black people through the self healing process necessary after the 106 years {and counting} of post-slavery traumatic stress syndrome caused by Black Codes, JimCrow and institutional racism i.e., the mentality of white supremacy.

October 25-27, 2007 was N'COBRA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration in Washington, DC. N'COBRA and its allies commemorated

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#### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Reparations Work Done & To Be Done**
- **Divest For Reparations**
- **Elder Perspective**
- **Photos of Reparations Heroes & Sheroes**
- **Announcements**

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## 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

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20 years of educating, mobilizing and organizing Black people to achieve complete reparations for the African Holocaust of Enslavement and its lingering vestiges. Human Rights Warriors refer to this battle as the fight for **Justice for the Victims (past and current), Opportunity for Future Generations and Repair/Healing for the Living.**

A major strategy in our battle for human dignity and internal healing is the legal claim for reparations that N'COBRA and other reparations groups make against America, American corporations and personal estates of former slave holders. Simply stated, black people are demanding restitution from all benefactors of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and those complicit in this crime against humanity,

for the inhumane treatment of human beings and the continued vestiges of that "peculiar institution" called the Enslavement of Africans and the peculiar phenomenon it begat, called white supremacy.

Throughout this issue of Reparations Now!, you will read about the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration and other tactics being employed to win the battle for reparations for the descendants of enslaved Africans. An extremely important strategy is for you to join an organization that is fighting for human rights of Black people in America and throughout the African Diaspora. Or a second option would be for you to turn your current "Black organization" into a human rights organization. But do not just be a cardholder, be a warrior in the struggle for our human rights. Be Active, even **Proactive**, by working on at least one of the commissions/concepts for Reparations/Repair: a. Economic Development in our community; b. Education/Re-education of our children; c. Human Resources/Health Initiatives; d. Information & Media; e. Legal Strategies; f. Legislative Strategies; g. Membership & Organizational Development; h. Youth/Warrior Development.

Get Involved in the battle. Visit [www.ncobra.org](http://www.ncobra.org) or contact the regional representative in your area.

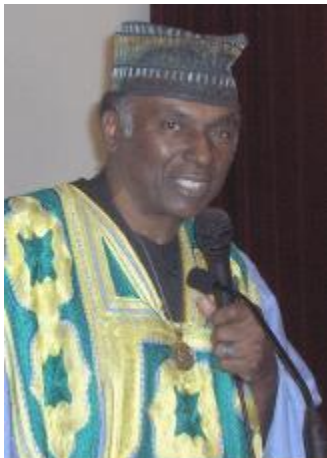


**"BE ACTIVE, EVEN PROACTIVE, BY WORKING ON AT LEAST ONE OF THE COMMISSIONS/ CONCEPTS FOR REPARATIONS/ COMMUNITY REPAIR"**





# N°COBRA STARS SHINED BRIGHTLY FRIDAY NIGHT



**Tomorrow's Stars will shine even brighter!**

Join the Reparations Movement & become a Star. Visit [www.ncobra.org](http://www.ncobra.org)



# LIVING HISTORY

## OUR STORY TOLD - OUR BRIGHT FUTURE FORECASTED



### JOIN THE REPARATIONS MOVEMENT - JOIN A WORK GROUP

**Economic Development** in our community ([oravouche@aol.com](mailto:oravouche@aol.com)) ; **Education/Re-education** of our children ([mjywanza@yahoo.com](mailto:mjywanza@yahoo.com)) ; **Human Resources/Health Initiatives** ([abisa7@yahoo.com](mailto:abisa7@yahoo.com)); **Information & Media** ([wautella@aol.com](mailto:wautella@aol.com)); **Legal Strategies** ([imarione@bellsouth.net](mailto:imarione@bellsouth.net)); **Legislative Strategies** ([kibibi42@aol.com](mailto:kibibi42@aol.com)); **Membership & Organizational Development** ([azena@intergate.com](mailto:azena@intergate.com)); and **Youth/Warrior Development** ([menelyk@aswanart.com](mailto:menelyk@aswanart.com))



# THE SATURDAY CIRCLE OF SHARED KNOWLEDGE



# The N'COBRA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration / Board Meeting / Retreat held in Washington DC. From Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> 2007

## **It Was All Of That And A Bag Of Chips**

by James Rodgers, III

First let me say that we owe much gratitude to the Washington DC chapter for all their expert planning and hard work, in hosting three of the most memorable days in the history of the Coalition. With a low budget, a few chapter members and volunteers, they managed to demonstrate the heartfelt commitment of the Coalition to keep the resilient spirit of our ancestors demand for reparations moving toward its fruition. Those who attended all or part of the activities of the three-day commemoration agree that although the rain may have reduced the numbers of participants, nevertheless it did not dampen the enthusiasm of the participants, nor the quality of the overall experience.

On Thursday, October 25, 2007 around mid-afternoon our quarterly Board meeting began. The meeting was held at the prestigious Sankofa Video and Bookstore on Georgia Ave. across from Howard University. The meeting went exceptionally smooth and was highlighted with the attendance of newly elected officers, including: yours truly, James Rodgers III as a National Co Chair, Joe Epps and JoAnn Watson as At-large Board members, and Diana M. Kimble and Asinia Lukata Chikuyu as the Southwest and Southeast

Regional Representatives, respectively.

The second day of the commemoration, October 26, began early Friday morning as 16-20 individuals came together from many different parts of America. Once again we met up at the Sankofa Bookstore to strategize and make signs for the scheduled protest march against Wachovia Bank. Wachovia Bank was confirmed as a target for a divestment campaign, initiated by the Philadelphia Chapter in 2005, and at our annual general membership meeting in 2006. After dining on some healthy cuisine, served up at the in store deli, making eye-catching signs, and getting our marching orders, the group descended on the Wachovia Bank on Georgia Ave, around 12:00 pm. Members of the Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation (CURE) joined in on the protest. In spite of the intermittent rains, N'COBRA and CURE lead a highly spirited protest march for a full hour and a half. With a force reminiscent of a civil rights era demonstration, the group commanded the attention of everyone traveling down Georgia Ave. Designated members of the group passed out flyers explaining the reason for the protest, and why African Americans and supporters should join

N'COBRA and divest from Wachovia Bank. Immediately after the protest march the group met back at the bookstore, where we did a critical analysis of the march. In the process we created a list of 16 steps that should be taken during future protest marches to ensure that we get the most out of our efforts. In addition, some protesters pledged to do a protest march against Wachovia Bank in their perspective cities.

The Friday night rally at Plymouth Congregational Church of Christ served as the climax of the commemoration. The location was one that was familiar to N'COBRA members and supporters; it was the same location for the "America

Must Atoned" Rally in 2005. In fact N'COBRA has previously held two rallies at this church with over 1000 in attendance.

The rally opened with an African spiritual ritual of libation and drumming. Such internationally recognized scholars as Dr. Leonard Jefferies from New York, Ambassador Dudley Thompson from Jamaica, Dr. Imari Obadele from Baton Rouge, and Chairman Omali Yeshitela from Florida, followed. Each of the evening's dynamic presenters, in their own familiar way, delivered their perspective of the big picture. Expressing why we must strive to unite and diligently work with Africans

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around the world to win reparations for the millions of Africans who died in the Holocaust of African Enslavement—keeping in mind that winning reparations for Africans would create a new world based on justice and equality for all people.

Nationally known and highly respected warriors such as Atty. Chokwe Lumumba, Atty. Nkechi Taifa, and City Councilwoman JoAnn Watson, etc in their own way supplied strong inspiration to keep everyone focused on contemporary injustices suffered daily by Black people all over America.

Lastly, we heard from former N'COBRA Co-Chairs including Queen Mother Dorothy Lewis, Baba Hannibal Afrik, Atty. Adjoa Aiyetoro, and Elder Kolonji Olusegun. Each of them treated us to the high points of the movement, during their terms in office; challenging us all to accept the responsibility to never cease discovering new and better ways of engaging our people and agitating the powers that be. Although the damp weather may have affected the expected turnout, it was an attentive audience of 300 attendants that braved the storm to see the impressive list of local, national, and international speakers. No doubt about it, the people who did attend this rally left with enough inspiration and information to keep them working in the movement for years to come.

The morning of the third day Saturday Oct 27, it was back to business, at a wonderful African centered school, Nation House. This time it was a Community Dialogue on Reparations. We engaged in a process of Sankofa, learning from the past in order to go forward. Led by our own brilliant instructor, facilitator, mediator, and negotiator, Omowale Saterwhite. We not only relived some of our best and most interesting experiences in the reparations movement, we shared lessons learned from our undertakings. All of this was given back to us in a format that can be used to assist us in designing and implementing new initiatives. And we gave special recognition to Ajamu Sankofa and others for contributions or work done above and beyond the call of duty.

Furthermore, we heard some inspirational and informative comments from brother Sam .E. Anderson, and Queen Mother Dorothy Lewis. To top things off, we received great news from Congressman John Conyers' top aide, Keenan Keller who informed us of the Congressman's plans to hold a congressional hearing on December 6,



2007 on HR 40, better known as “the reparations study bill.” Keller thoroughly answered a barrage of questions from the public and received additional suggestions to pass on to Congressman Conyers.

The Gala celebrating N'COBRA's 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary took place Saturday night on the Wharf at Pier 7. It was a fun filled evening of delicious food, fun, and revolutionary reggae music. Everyone in the house was rocking to the soulful sounds of the Proverbs band. And to help relieve the stress of the three days of work, there was plenty of laughter to go around, thanks to two very hilarious local comedians. In the words of pop singer Prince, “we were partying like it was 1999”.

Now we have the information; inspiration; we've looked backward and forward; we've demonstrated that we can excite and engage our people; we've heard from the legends, we have stood the test of time for twenty years; we know we must keep it spiritual; we are united, we've got the momentum; and now as said by yours truly at the end of the community rally on Friday night, “no matter what they say about N'COBRA, the one thing we did right was the day we started to fight, keep your eyes on the prize and hold on.”

**DIVEST FOR  
REPARATIONS from  
Wachovia**



## Proud to Celebrate 20 Years of N'COBRA's Being On The Battlefield

by Kibibi Tyehimba

First let us start by acknowledging that 265 years of slavery and 135 years of Jim Crow cannot be tackled in a few years. It took 12 years to get the MLK birthday adopted, 19 years for the Antiapartheid movement to bring about the release of Nelson Mandela, and eventually to the governing of Azania being placed back in the hands of the Indigenous people; decades to bring about Brown vs. Board of Education, etc. etc. etc. With that being said:

1. It is a major accomplishment first of all for the Coalition to have remained in existence for 20 years,
2. During that 20 years the discussion of the issue of reparations has moved beyond the "so-called "fringe" groups to various media, universities; various congressional hearings and other forums;
3. 29 cities have adopted resolutions supporting reparations and the passage of HR 40, three States have passed similar legislation; 8 cities have adopted Slavery Disclosure Ordinances; 5 states have adopted 'statements of profound regret; organizations have adopted resolutions ranging from major church organizations such as the Methodists, The Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, the National Baptist Convention, to the ACLU, The National Bar Association, Trade Unions, Sororities, the NAACP, Blacks in Government (BIG) just to name a few.
4. Two divestment initiatives are underway, the Divest from Wachovia campaign, and the BIG effort to encourage a change from Aetna Insurance Co. to some other healthcare effort.
5. The 2001 World Conference Against Racism adopted language stating that the transatlantic slave trade was a crime against humanity and should always have been so.
6. UNESCO has initiated study and preservation of sites along the route of the transatlantic slavery routes.
7. Internationally, a number of countries are also demanding reparations from their former colonizers and those that are continuing to exploit them.
8. Major publications have been written on the subject of Reparations, and articles are continually being printed in law reviews across the country addressing the statute of limitation and other arguments that our opponents raise to dismiss our claim.
9. Lawsuits have been filed against corporations and individuals that have participated in and profited from the enslavement of African people.
10. The issue of reparations is being clearly linked to organizing around the criminal neglect of Katrina

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# Protest March against Wachovia Bank Washington DC. October 26, 2007

by James Rodgers III - N'COBRA National Co-Chair

On Friday October 26, 2007 as a part of its 20th anniversary commemoration N'COBRA members from Washington DC, and from across the nation, lead a highly spirited protest march against the branch of Wachovia Bank on Georgia Avenue in the nation's capitol. On a misty morning, which turned into a downpour by the afternoon, N'COBRA members from as far away as San Antonio, Texas gathered at the Sankofa bookstore on Georgia Avenue. They each ate a healthy meal served up from the in-store grill. While at the same time, they made signs to be carried in the protest march. After receiving their marching orders from N'COBRA's male Co Chair James Rodgers III, the group accompanied by a member of CURE-Caucasians United for Reparations and Emancipation – converged in front of the Bank around 12:30pm. It was on a Friday, lunchtime for some, and payday for many; the streets were heavy with vehicle traffic, and the sidewalks were full of pedestrians, a perfect scenario for a protest against a bank.

The group marched to and fro in front of the Bank shouting chants like “no justice no peace” lead by Detroit's City Councilwoman JoAnn Watson and Atlanta GA community activist Njere Alaganee. All the while N'COBRA's male Co-Chair James Rodgers III was

on the bullhorn shouting to the people the reasons why we are calling for them to divest from Wachovia Bank. Bro Rodgers also issued a challenge to passersby to walk into the bank and try to get a loan to start a business, or to get a home mortgage. A team of enthusiastic members, including Dr. Imari Obadele, a founding member of N'COBRA, and Treasurer Kamau Jywanza, were handing out flyers and leaflets. The crowd was very supportive of our actions. People standing on the corners and at the bus stops waited to hear our message. People passing by in cars let down their windows, on a rainy day, to hear what we were saying and to take copies of our literature. The march ended around 1:30pm as scheduled, in the middle of heavy rain. The highly charged protesters met back at the Sankofa Bookstore where they strategized about ways to

**“Brother Minister Ari S. Merretazon is ready and willing to visit your chapter and/or community to conduct a special workshop on mobilizing the public to divest from Wachovia.”**

Visit  
[ncobraphidelphia.org/DivestmentGuide](http://ncobraphidelphia.org/DivestmentGuide) for details.

continue the direct action campaign against Wachovia in their respective cities.

Wachovia Bank Corporation has been selected as the subject of a divestment campaign, initiated by the Philadelphia Chapter of N'COBRA, because its predecessor, the Bank of North America, directly and indirectly funded the American Revolution, on the backs and lives of enslaved Africans. Wachovia was one of many corporations compelled to disclose their ties to slavery by ordinances passed by both Chicago and Philadelphia city councils.

On June 1, 2005, as a result of Wachovia Bank's disclosure report submitted to the Chicago City Council, CEO Kenneth Thomas made a public apology on behalf of Wachovia Bank for its participation in and profiting from slavery. However, they failed to submit a full report detailing the full extent of their involvement, and profits derived from the commerce of buying and selling enslaved Africans. In addition, Wachovia flatly refused to comply with a provision in the Philadelphia ordinance that calls for corporations to submit a statement of financial reparations along with a disclosure report.

In June of 2006 the membership of N'COBRA voted

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## Summary of the People Assembly Dialogue on Reparations, October 28, 2007

- Work toward building a global movement that connects reparations work throughout the diaspora.
- Implement strategies to educate the masses about reparations and the harms committed against African peoples.
- Bring a vision to our people that will educate and inspire the masses to actively work for reparations.
- Find ways for reparations groups to work with each other and respect the work that others are doing.
- Recognize that African people are in a state of war and be guided by this understanding in whatever we do.
- Give more visibility to the plight of political prisoners in all of our reparations work.
- Be a good follower and support our leaders doing what we are told to do.
- Develop a strategic plan and follow-through on what we have committed to do.
- Love one another and respect each other in the work that we do.
- Don't allow brothers to take over and keep sisters from having key leadership roles.
- Be committed to the work, be persistent in what we do, gain experience and trust that things will come together and work out right.
- Recognize that our struggle is bigger than any one person and broader than any one way.
- Help community people understand that all of our problems can be seen as part of the overall reparations struggle.
- Connect reparations to the day-to-day struggles of our people.
- Don't just say what we are going to do, do it!
- Keep the six down payments front and center in our reparations work.
- Help people understand that the reparations struggle is like a big umbrella that has room for everyone.
- Remember that we are a family and to work together in this spirit.
- Work to build N'COBRA's chapter base and expand its membership.
- Recognize that everything we do fits into the reparations movement – whether we are doing cultural work or political work.
- Don't give up the torch...keep holding the torch and pass the light to the next generation.
- Turn to our ancestors for spiritual guidance, make spiritual pilgrimages into communities, continue to take the spiritual shrine to places where reparations work is being done and establish a Spiritual Commission in N'COBRA.
- Challenge all Black teachers to include relevant information about the history and struggle of our people in their lesson plans.
- Recognize that transformation work is an integral part of the reparations struggle ...we have to learn how to work together in harmony and quit pointing fingers at each other.



- Recognize that reparations work is healing work and that in the course of working for reparations we heal ourselves and strengthen our working relationships.
- Identify creative ways to inform our people about reparations and how they can join and support this work...we have to talk about reparations wherever we go.
- Develop a plan of action to reclaim our brothers and sisters who are no longer working with N'COBRA.
- Learn how to enjoy reparations work.
- Give first priority to addressing the needs of our children.
- Establish N'COBRA chapters in Black churches, on Black campuses and in Black communities.
- Learn how to enjoy reparations work.
- Get chapters to intentionally partner with local community organizations working to solve Black problems.
- Send a unified message to our people in the name of N'COBRA.
- Work in a coordinated way to make reparations an issue in the upcoming presidential campaign.
- Focus on the systematic destruction of the Black family and Black land loss in our reparations work.
- Develop an economic business model to finance and sustain the reparations struggle.
- Understand that the reparations movement is divinely ordered and under the spiritual guidance of our ancestors.
- Redefine how we celebrate holidays and make reparations an integral part of our holiday celebrations (like Juneteenth).
- Identify new and creative ways to reach youth and bring them into the reparations movement.
- Develop language to describe reparations in very concrete ways rather than as an abstract idea.
- Mobilize grassroots support for the reparations movement by emerging ourselves in the day-to-day struggles of our people focusing on five key areas: education, health, criminal punishment, wealth and poverty, and nationhood and self-determination.
- Create a culture within N'COBRA to have ongoing political discussions about reparations.
- Understand the difference between knowing ourselves and reinventing ourselves...when we know ourselves then we will understand our political responsibility.
- Recognize that when Black people gain political power, we will be able to influence governmental policy and "demand a freeze" on certain expenditures until our debt is paid.
- Recognize that there are too many deaths in our community and that we have to work together to solve this problem.
- Be committed to working together and building networks to advance the reparations cause.
- Continue to do the things that have worked in the reparations movement.
- Organize pilgrimages to teach youth about our people's history rather than having them just read it.
- Be intentional about documenting our living history and sharing this information with our people.
- Develop strategies to protect the wealth that we create through the reparations work that we do.

(Continued from page 8) **Proud to Celebrate 20 Years of N'COBRA Being On the Battlefield**

victims and survivors, the Jena 6, incidences involving the display of nooses, countless other examples of injustice within the criminal justice system; the health deficit of African descendant families and communities, all of which can be linked to the era of enslavement.

11. There is a heightened sense of awareness that has energized organizing efforts related to the discovery and protection of African Burial Grounds; establishment of Slavery and slavery related museums and museum exhibits; and development of school curricula.

12. Commissions and major research efforts have revealed and will no doubt continue to reveal the true history of this country, i.e., the Tulsa, OK Massacre; the 1898 Coup de tat at Wilmington, NC; 1873 Colfax Massacre, Colfax, Louisiana, etc.

If truth is power then we stand taller because we have not abandoned our quest to heal, repair, and restore (reparations) ourselves. Indeed a lot has been accomplished. Though victory is a ways away and it is often hard to see the forest for the trees, I believe we are closer than we think. We need only to stay the course; and take lessons from our history. Look to the past as we move toward the future. **The Power To Win Reparations Is In Our Hands. If we conceive it we can achieve it!** Join us as we step ancient to the future.



(Continued from page 9) **March Against Wachovia**



at its general membership meeting to take the divestment campaign nationally. Members agreed to publicly close deposit accounts, and transfer any investment holdings they may have with Wachovia Bank to a Black owned bank. While none of the participants in the Washington DC protest had accounts with Wachovia Bank the march was highly

successful nevertheless. For more information about N'COBRA and the Wachovia Divestment campaign please visit the Wachovia Divestment campaign at:

[www.ncobraphiladelphia.org](http://www.ncobraphiladelphia.org) or [www.ncobra.org](http://www.ncobra.org)



**N'COBRA  
PARTY  
WITH A  
PURPOSE  
in DC.**





## The Maturation of N'COBRA: 20<sup>th</sup> Year Assessment

by Baba Hannibal Afrik, Past National Co-Chair

The Board of Directors sponsored a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration in Washington, DC, October 26-27, 2007. This was a major celebration to focus on victories in the Reparations Movement, locally, nationally and internationally.

Specifically, we gathered together in our founding city to discuss two decades of educating, mobilizing and organizing our people to achieve complete Reparations for the Afrikan Holocaust of Enslavement and the vestiges of racial terrorism, segregation and subjugation continuing today!

Participants came from across the country and internationally to re-affirm our collective struggle for *“Justice for the Victims, Opportunities for Future Generations and Repair/Healing for the Living.”*

Congressman John Conyers (D-MI) issued a strong endorsement of N'COBRA's in his statement:

*“Despite the struggles and obstacles, N'COBRA's 20 year history is proof that our grassroots movement has brought this nation closer to a necessary dialogue and response to slavery. I am proud to report that 29 cities and three states have adapted resolutions supporting the passage of HR40. This issue is now front and center on the TV, and radio programs, in the halls of Ivy League institutions, inside corporate boardrooms and during Presidential debates.”*

A full range of activities included the Wachovia Bank Demonstration and Protest: “Divest For Reparations”, evening Reparations Rally & Forum: National Reparations People's Assembly and 2<sup>nd</sup> National Reparations Congress was culminated in our Anniversary Party and Fund-raising for a purpose.

This was certainly a historic weekend for Reparations, Assessment and Celebrating the Reparations Movement. N'COBRA will definitely grow in order to organize our families and communities to endure greater sacrifices in order to properly honor our revered Ancestors and uplift the current and future generations.

**REPARATIONS NOW!**



**N'COBRA  
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in DC.**



## **National Regional Representatives**

**Northeast Region** - Brother Ari at ncobraphildelphia.comcast.net

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**Southwest Region** - Sister Diana at dianame11@netzero.net

**Midwest Region** - Sister Fatimah at f.smith57@yahoo.com

**West Region** - Sister Johnita at azena@intergate.com

## **Regions Reports - Repair Work being done**

### **Northeast**

The Philadelphia Chapter of N'COBRA has officially kicked off the National Divest from Wachovia Campaign, which calls for all African people, and all sympatric reparations supporters, to withdraw their money from all Wachovia Banks. This action is justified based on the bank's history as a trader in the enslavement of African people, and their unwillingness to repent for their transgressions.

All reparations supporters are urged to visit the Divestment Guide ([www.ncobraphiladelphia.org](http://www.ncobraphiladelphia.org)) to learn the full reason(s) why to divest and where to invest your dollars. Additionally, Brother Minister Ari S. Merretazon is ready and willing to visit your chapter and/or community to conduct a special workshop on mobilizing the public to divest from Wachovia. Again, visit the Philly Chapter at their website to arrange for this dynamic edu-taining presentation to come to your community.

The Philly Chapter is one of three that is prepared to conduct the super engaging Reparations 101: Understanding the Demand of African Americans for Reparations in America Seminar. Presenters are standing by to bring this mind-opening, life changing, proactive seminar to your community. Contact Brother Merretezon to make arrangements for your community to grow in the reparations movement.

The Washington DC Chapter is actively engaging the government to own-up to its moral responsibility to address and remedy the shameful history of human rights violations that haunt this country, emanating from the Trans-Atlantic Slave trade and its vestiges. The latest engagement is the Legacy of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Congressional Hearing, which is a kin to the HR40 hearing N'COBRA has been waiting for.

As N'COBRA builds its political influence on The Hill, it is so very important that every N'COBRA member and serious sympathizer offer intelligent advocacy messages to their congressional representative in response to these hearings. So, we urge you to view the online hearing and download the testimonies from <http://judiciary.house.gov/oversight.aspx?ID=400>. Afterwards, formulate your thoughts into an advocacy message in support of HR40 to your state representatives. For sample advocacy letters, visit [www.ncobra.org](http://www.ncobra.org).

### **Southeast**

The South Florida N'COBRA Collaborative will be hosting the 2008 N'COBRA National Conference June 26-29, 2008. The actual conference site will be announced later this month. But, the National Conference promises to be filled with exciting edu-taining workshops, plenary sessions and spiritual healing sessions. Look for Conference registration and a conference at-a-glance guide within the month.



(Continued from page 14) **Regional Reports**

Major General K. Ali Rashid (rashids@bellsouth.net), Elder Baba Kwame Afoh (kwameafoh@yahoo.com), Baba Mawusi Hazard (brothermawusi@yahoo.com), Sister Elsie Hamler (ekhamlercra@aol.com), Sister Jewel Parman (jewel110diamond@yahoo.com) and Brother A. Lukata (jackson\_ncobra@yahoo.com) are all ready to assist you in making preparations to attend the 2008 National N'COBRA Conference.

The Atlanta Chapter is also ready to conduct the super engaging Reparations 101: Understanding the Demand of African Americans for Reparations in America Seminar. In the Atlanta area, contact Mawuli Davis at mdavis@mawulidavis.com or call 404.391.1083 to raise the consciousness of your community to the reparations movement.

The Jackson-MS Chapter of N'COBRA has scheduled the 2008 Spiritual Pilgrimages to the Mississippi Delta. The 2008 Spiritual Pilgrimages will caravan on Saturday, April 19, 2008 and Saturday, September 20, 2008. As always, the only cost associated with caravanning with us is transportation and meals at your own expense. But the experience of visiting the Medgar Evers Home/Museum and hearing the historical account of his life and assassination from the curator, Sister Mattie Watson, in and of it self, is priceless. Combine that history with the soulful connection made with Queen Mother Fannie Lou Hamer in Ruleville, MS and the spiritual connection made with Mamie Till-Mobley and her son, Emmett Till, in Money, MS makes the pilgrimage invaluable to every African who makes the Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Mississippi Delta.

It is through these kinds of spiritual connections that our children, and adults, connect with our struggle for human rights and repair for the damage done to African people through human rights violations before, during and after the enslavement of our people. Just as importantly, it is through these pilgrimages that we come to understand the Truth of Our history, which is the mechanism that will make us mentally and spiritually free - then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free: John 8:32

To arrange your passage on the Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Mississippi Delta in 2008 contact Brother Lukata ( or 601.957.2969), Baba Hannibal (601.535.7551) or Imhotep Alkebu-lan (601.353.0450).

The Jackson-MS Chapter of N'COBRA is also ready to conduct the super engaging Reparations 101: Understanding the Demand of African Americans for Reparations in America Seminar. Additionally, the Jackson-MS Chapter of N'COBRA has presentations on Reparations 121, Living the Nguzo Saba: An African-centered Growth Experience and Leadership & Sovereignty all designed for the spiritual and cultural growth of the African community. Arrangements for bringing these interactive highly engaging workshops to your community can be made by contacting the Jackson-MS Chapter of N'COBRA at Jackson\_ncobra@yahoo.com or calling Brother Lukata at 601.957.2969 or Baba Hannibal Afrik at 601.535.7551.

Other reparations work being done in the Jackson area includes the **Schoolhouse to Jailhouse Train Derailment Initiative**, which exposes the disparities and inequities of the criminal (in)justice system towards African people through seminars and jailhouse visits. The major objective of this initiative is to decriminalize the minds of our children by deglamorizing the thuglife and gangster existence that is pulling our children into the criminal (in)justice system, in the first place. But a very important intermediate objective of this initiative is to decriminalize Afrikan children in our own minds, so that we can give them the love and guidance that our children need from the community elders.

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Connected to the decriminalization of our children is the **Stop Killing Our Brotha & Sista Campaign**, that the Jackson-MS Chapter is incorporating into every initiative it initiates. The Southeast Region has bought into this campaign, started by Kuumba Promos of Jackson, and plans to bring it to the National Board for possible adaptation. The STOP KILLING Campaign is simply a call for internal healing in the African community by “leaders” in the community. This initiative will challenge **every** “Black Leader” to speak out adamantly and repeatedly against black-on-black violence, until the message sinks into the minds of our wanna-be gangsta/thuglife children. The Stop Killing Campaign is a proactive approach to the healing we need in our communities across this country and it especially targets our youth with words of wisdom from our community elders.

**The No Reconciliation Without Reparations (NRWR)** Campaign calls for racial reconciliation groups in Mississippi to include reparations in their discussions for bringing about harmonious co-habitation between the races. With America’s recent “fabricated” interest in providing seriously delayed “criminal justice” to the families of the cold cases of the civil rights era, it is paramount that African people not miss this opportunity to learn the true history of terrorism in America and **ensure restitution** for the families of the victims of those human rights violations. We must demand compensation to the families that were robbed of their loved ones, which in most cases was “the family bread-winner.”

Finally, connected to the NRWR campaign, the Jackson-MS Chapter of N’COBRA is actively seeking to persuade the state of Mississippi to invest its proposed \$25 million of civil rights museum money into a African American (Black) Heritage Trail (AAHT) with satellite centers along the trail to tell the true story of the regions throughout Mississippi. The AAHT would have numerous advantages, including local tourism for the various regions of Mississippi, state-wide tourism, regional employment opportunities, greater accuracy of the history of Black suffering, endurance and achievements despite segregation, Black Codes, and Jim Crow. To learn of some of the white-washing of the legacy of Mississippi, please call toll free 1.866.733.6477 to order your free copy of the current African American Heritage Guide from the Mississippi Department of Tourism. Afterwards, make plans to caravan with us either on April 19<sup>th</sup> or September 20<sup>th</sup> to the Mississippi Delta to see and feel the true history of Mississippi and contemporary disenfranchisement of Africans in Mississippi.

Unfortunately, even most of our own Black elected representatives are going to need coaching and encouragement before they will speak truth to power with regards to this money issue. So we will need members of N’COBRA to email, fax, phone and snail mail Mississippi officials, especially the Mississippi Black Caucus, to consider the advantages of an African American Heritage Trail over a single civil rights museum. Please contact Brother Lukata (jackson\_ncobra@yahoo.com) if you are ready to stand up to the powers that “have been” and create a new truth-centered history lesson/tourism vehicle for Mississippi.

Katrina Survivors in Jackson are still fighting with the Red Cross of America to have funds designated for the “rebuilding of their lives” made available to them. The N’COBRA National Katrina Relief Commission, Mississippians For Reparations and the Jackson Chapter continue to aid the survivors with food, school supplies, advocacy guidance and high-principled support in demanding that the resources donated to the Red Cross for them be made available to them. Please contact your local Red Cross and demand resource accountability for funds earmarked for Katrina Survivors, especially in light of the \$500,000 salary paid to its sexually harassing CEO.

## **Southwest**

Katrina Survivors and Jena (Six), Louisiana still dominates the reparations discussions in the Southwest

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region. Katrina Survivors are still fighting for their “right to return” and/or seeking peace of mind in new communities. Negative stereotypes, culture shock and environmental harassment are just a few of the blockades hampering the social adjustments the survivors are trying to make to the life changing effects of Katrina and Rita.

It seems that everyone recognizes that the recovery process for Katrina Survivors is a marathon, except George W and the Red Cross. It is that arrogant state of mind that is our alarm clock, waking us up, once again to “discover America.” Like Tavis Smiley implied, we are re-discovering the heart of America as compared to the words it would have us believe are the soul of America, “... One nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all ...except those things (people) with melanin in their skin.” And this re-discovery is nothing new to African people, it is simply another wake-up call for us.

Thanks to Sister Diana Kimble, Southwest Region Rep, N'COBRA has been well represented in the leadership planning in the search for justice for the Jena Six. The Jena Six case has been the showcase prototype for the arrogant, inequitable and despicable attitude of the American criminal injustice system towards African people. This God-complex is typically hidden and/or obscured from the public and had not shown its ugly face publicly since Rodney King.

Sister Kimble has help keep it in the public light and has worked diligently to bring increased consciousness to the Africans in Jena to the need for proactive engagement. Calling for a BlackOut of Wal-mart during the week of the March On Jena is one of the ways she has shown the African of Jena to be proactive. Doing interviews on regional and national talk shows has help her keep us all updated on the struggle and resolution progress in Jena, LA.

### **Mid-West**

In light of member illnesses, the Chicago Chapter has had to forego its plans to host the 2008 National Conference. As we pray for the speedy recovery of several key chapter members, we hope that plans will proceed to bring the National Conference to Chicago with the assistance of a national conference committee and local chapter members in 2009.

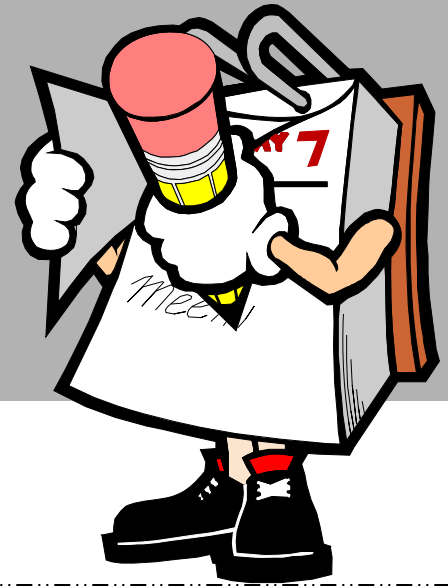
In the meantime, it appears that the Chicago Chapter is having great success with its reparations awareness initiatives and media exposure. Sister Barbara Baker continues to mobilize the youth of Chicago to join the reparations movement.

### **National Commissions**

The Human Resources & Health Commission continues to support the restorative efforts of the internally displaced persons of Hurricanes Katrina; promote the economic development and recruitment plan 10-10-50 and support and mobilize activists demanding justice for the Jena 6, Neeta Black, Megan Williams and Free Troy Davis.



# Mark Your Calendar!



**& make plans to attend**

The 6th Annual Memorial Commemoration for the Colfax Massacre Victims, Sunday, April 13, 2008 at 2pm at Grant Parish Courthouse Grounds (200 Main Street Colfax, LA 71417) contact Sister Diana Kimble at 318-627-2759 or 214-708.1122 or by email at [dianamae11@netzero.net](mailto:dianamae11@netzero.net) or Odinga Kambui at [odinga@juno.com](mailto:odinga@juno.com).



Be on stand-by for the February - House Sub-committee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Hearing on "The Legacy of the Trans Atlantic Slave Trade". Monitor [www.ncobra.org](http://www.ncobra.org) for scheduling details as they come down from the House Sub-Committee.



*"The Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Mississippi Delta"*

**Saturday, April 19, 2008**

**Saturday, September 20, 2008**

**Contact Brotha A. Lukata 601.957.2969**

**N'COBRA**  
National Coalition Of Blacks for Reparations in America  
**NATIONAL**  
**CONFERENCE**

**JUNE 27-29, 2008**

**SOUTH FLORIDA**

**details at [www.ncobra.org](http://www.ncobra.org)**