



# Reparations Now!

N'COBRA Quarterly Membership Newsletter - Spring 2007

## A LETTER TO QUEEN ELIZABETH II

### *THE DEMAND FOR REPARATIONS FOR THE HOLOCAUST OF ENSLAVEMENT OF AFRICAN PEOPLES*

MADAM,

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) writes to you on the occasion of your May 7, 2007 visit to Washington, DC, the Capitol of the United States, to applaud your statement of apology, while in Jamestown, Virginia, USA, for England's role in the enslavement of African peoples. However, in light of the magnitude of the crimes against humanity heaped upon African peo-

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## JACKSON-MS CHAPTER UPDATE

Jackson-MS NCOBRA convened the first 2007 Spiritual Pilgrimage to the Mississippi Delta on Saturday, April 28, 2007. The Spiritual Pilgrimage was born out of the Emmett Till Justice Campaign, which sought social and economic justice for the Till Family in light of the possible re-opening of the 52 year old murder case of young Emmett. The Spiritual Pilgrimages to the Mississippi Delta is just one mechanism we use to tell that truth. At the same time, we are able to give a deep meaning of Mississippi Black History to the caravaners on the Spiritual Pilgrimages. Reparations advocates willing to support the search for the truth of Mississippi history can support by ordering your free African American Heritage Guide from the State Bureau of touring at 1-866-733-6477. Additionally, you can experience the Spiritual Pilgrimages on DVD. DVD recordings of SP #1 - May 6, 2006; SP #2 - September 9, 2006 is available for only \$10.00 each or \$ 18.00 for the twin set. SP#3, April 28, 2007, to be made available on May 4, 2007. The DVDs make an excellent zawadi [gift] for teaching history. To order contact jack-

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## N'COBRA DEMANDS REPARATIONS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

### **Demands Reparations from George W. Bush & Queen Elizabeth II**

On the morning of May 7, 2007, in Washington, DC, the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA), through its DC Metropolitan Chapter, demonstrated to the US and the Queen of England, just what we think of any impending politically correct, sanitized statement of profound regret for England's role in the enslavement of African peoples. In 2001, the United Nations World Conference Against Racism (UN-WCAR) confirmed that the "African Slave Trade" and slavery was a "**crime against humanity**", as determined over a century before by the Vermont State Legislature (1849) and the National Republican Convention (1860). While others emphasize the civility of those on both sides of the Atlantic who helped to end this crime against humanity which included the savagery of kidnapping and transporting Africans across the ocean, N'COBRA and other Reparations Activists and supporters will gather at the south lawn of the White House to demand, not only from the Queen of England but from the US government **1) a full National apology** for the atrocities committed during the Holocaust of American Enslavement of African Peoples; **2)**

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(Continued from page 1) **Jackson MS Chapter Update**

son\_ncobra@yahoo.com or call 601.957.2969.

At the recent 1st Quarter Reparations Mini-Convention, held at Tougaloo College, the Jackson-MS NCOBRA Chapter persuaded participants to commit to taking action to repair the damages we've suffered by:

1. Promoting Afrikan American Tours throughout Mississippi and tourism from an Afrikan perspective; supporting the initiative of the Jackson N'COBRA/Mississippians For Reparations

2. Beginning an "advocacy campaign" to demand that black elected officials openly support the promotion of the Black History Tours statewide by writing, calling, faxing, and emailing the black elected officials to introduce legislation that spreads the proposed \$ 25million African American Civil Rights Museum funding across the state to expose all of the atrocities perpetrated during the Civil Rights period, and prior.

2a. Encouraging Afrikans statewide to order the Mississippi African American Heritage Guide from the State Department of Tourism. The toll free number to order the guide is 1-866-927-6378.

3. Beginning an "advocacy campaign" to demand that black elected officials openly support inclusion of Black History in the public schools statewide. Begin writing, calling, faxing, and emailing the black elected officials asking them to introduce legislation that requires an African-centered curriculum in public schools, especially the ones with a predominate Afrikan student body.

3a. Creating after school and weekend Afrikan history programs. Identifying factual, creditable, tested African-centered curriculums that can be used in demanding that African-centered history be taught to Afrikan children.

4. Networking in the Afrikan faith community to have them rejoin the struggle for "equality of opportunity" to pursuit the "rights of liberty, justice and the pursuit of happiness."

5. Developing mechanisms to create the type of change needed in the Afrikan community i.e., Afrikan studies programs in the community, mentoring

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(Continued from page 1) **Letter To The Queen**

ples during the era of enslavement, an apology that is not accompanied by efforts to correct or improve the damages caused, and eradicate the root causes of the crimes, is insufficient and insincere. Accordingly, N'COBRA calls for the following:

1. A full apology for England's participation in establishing, and maintaining international economic and social systems that produced the African Holocaust of Enslavement in America and other British territories.

2. A thorough assessment of the damages inflicted upon African peoples and the affects on present day African descendant life;

3. Payment of full Reparations.



*Nana Yaa Asantewaa Ohema (Queen Mother Dorothy Benton-Lewis) personally deliver to the British Embassy N'COBRA Demand Letter To The Queen*

Our aforementioned demands are consistent with the outcries for Reparations by African descendants presently taking place within England's shores, and in countries previously colonized by England. British, American, and African descendant scholars, past and present, have thoroughly documented the injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865; and the wealth that both England and the U.S. amassed which can be directly connected to this era of enslavement. Therefore, in light of the close diplomatic, economic, and political ties between England and the United States, N'COBRA encourages the two countries to not only admit and apologize for slavery, but also to take the necessary steps to repair the damages, and eliminate present day versions of the systems and institutions that allowed slavery to take place in the past. N'COBRA demands Reparations.

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## **N'COBRA NEWS BRIEF**

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### **Southeast Regional Report**

By Njeri Alghanee, Regional Representative

The Southeast Region continues to push for a unified plan of action. We will attempt to pull together a regional conference by May 19, 2007, Atlanta, Georgia or by phone. A representative from each state chapter is requested to give input to strengthen the national goals of NCOBRA. Study group representatives can also participate to encourage future development of chapters in their areas. Southeast NCOBRA members are encouraged to attend the June conference to provide an opportunity for maximum regional participation to move the Reparations agenda forward.

#### **Highlights of work in the Southeast Region:**

Representatives from North Carolina (Durham/Raleigh/Charlotte) traveled throughout the route of the internally displaced persons of the Katrina Hurricane Crisis to show solidarity and support. More than twenty cities were covered from North Carolina to New Orleans. Atlanta hosted more than 60 people at Georgia State University Law School.

Clark/ Atlanta University (CAU) Chapter began a book drive and funding support for the W.E.B. DuBois Library in Accra, Ghana. CAU still provides the Reparations 101 workshop for new members and supporters.

Atlanta Chapter hosted the National Black Law Students Conference. The Reparations Resolutions Committee panel included Ari Merretazon, Jumoke Ifetayo, and Mawuli Davis.

South Florida Chapter is still working with the local people on affordable housing. On April 25, the Umoja Village Shantytown was completely burned down. The late-night fire at a Liberty City shantytown left the camp in ruins, displacing 44 homeless people. Those who tried to stay were arrested. Umoja Village was organized by a collective of Black activists in Miami-Dade, including the South Florida Chapter of NCOBRA and the PGRNA because of the connection to reparations and self-determination

### **Mid-west Regional Report**

By Fatimah Smith, Regional Representative

The Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Chapter has elected a new N'COBRA Male Co-chair and four new committee heads. The local chapter eventually hopes to coordinate initiatives and projects with national level commissioners. The Midwest Regional Meeting was held here in Cincinnati on April 7th, 2007.

Resolutions adopted:

Resolution 1. In Support of Bob Brown, other activists, and relevant attorneys to promote mandatory corporate slavery disclosure.

Resolution #2 In support of Ari Merretazon, other activists, and relevant attorneys to successfully implement the Wachovia Divestment Campaign.

Resolution #3 In support of constructive policies and programs to meet the needs of ex-felons.

Resolution #4 In support of the William Mayo Defense fund.

Resolution #5 To condemn the scheduled Nazi Presence in Over-The-Rhine or any other Cincinnati community.

*The following information was omitted in the last newsletter. In honor of the work being done to rebuild the region, the following information is provided:*

Cincinnati--Sister Marjorie Mosley, the newly elected, Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky N'COBRA Chapter, Co-chair spent the entire Thanksgiving holiday week assisting Hurricane Katrina victims in New Orleans. The Cincinnati Hurricane Katrina Committee sent the all African American team of five women and one man to assist under-insured African American homeowners. The team gutted houses, tore out insulation from the walls of damaged homes, cleared debris, etc.

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## N'COBRA NEWS BRIEF

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*(Continued from page 3) Mid West Region Report*

The La Amistad First Recovery Community Fellowship Church is a new organizational member of N'COBRA. The church's pastor, Bishop Stephen Scott, is also a founding leader of the Cincinnati Boycott Council. The Boycott Council was organized to combat police brutality, racism, and economic injustice against the African American community. Also, N'COBRA Education Commission Member, Dr. Kimya Moyo, announced that the Sankofa school will be conducting a community film series in partnership with the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky N'COBRA Chapter. The film series is designed to raise the consciousness of the Black community and scheduled for February 2007.

Indianapolis--The Indianapolis N'COBRA Chapter is hosting a Kwanza Celebration in cooperation with the Indianapolis Kwanza Committee. Queen Mother Mashariki Jywanza is extending an invitation to all. This important event is being held on the Day of Umoja (December, 26, 2006) from 3pm until 9pm at Martin University (the site of our this year's N'COBRA Annual Convention).

### **Northeast Region Report**

On Monday, March 19th, the Philadelphia City Council conducted committee hearings on Ordinance No.060052 which revokes the depository status of Wachovia Bank. During this Direct Action lead by the Philadelphia Chapter, testimony was given to demand the City revoke Wachovia's depository status and submit a financial reparations plan for its enabling its predecessors to profit from the institution of slavery, and because it is out of compliance with the Slavery Disclosure Ordinance.

Philadelphia NCOBRA is actively involved in the planning of the 18th annual Reparations Conference which will take place in Philadelphia on June 21-24, 2007. All are urged to attend and be energized by the tremendous work going on in Philadelphia and the region.

### **SOUTHWEST REGION REPORT:**

On Saturday April 14, 2007 the NCOBRA Southwest Region held its annual conference in San Antonio, Texas at the Claude W. Black community center, with the theme "Education: To Win Reparations and Create a New African Reality." Presentations ex-

ceeded expectations; making this year's conference a great success. Development of strategies and implementation of plans of action are bearing fruit. Fundraising is imperative

The push for city and state slavery disclosure ordinances, state apologies for slavery, the push to get HR 40 passed in the US Congress, and the Divestment from Wachovia Bank campaign, lead by the Northeast Region were emphasized. Co Chair Al-Shariff, and Regional Rep. Rodgers lead chapter development and strategic workshops. Baton Rouge Chapter's Co Chair Constance Randolph addressed the importance of parents being responsible for education, culturalization, and care of all our children. Former NCOBRA National Co Chair Baba Hannibal spoke of the value of the African centered educational institutions and the need for teaching African students nation building skills and self determination concepts. Former San Antonio chapter Co Chair Oscar Vicks was instrumental in enabling Texas State Representative Ruth Jones McClendon's attendance, and encouraging her to champion the resolution that she plans to submit to the state legislature this month, giving recognition to NCOBRA for the work it has done and continues to do in the movement to win reparations for Africans in America. Dr. Imari Obadele, founding member of NCOBRA, and the Republic of New Africa spoke about forming a coalition of African organizations to quantify a monetary figure for the African descendant Reparations demand. Ezra Aharone, author of "Pawned Sovereignty," explained that seeking reparations requires a sovereign mindset to lead Africans in America to governing all aspects of our social and political state of affairs. The NCOBRA Membership and Organizational Development Co Chair, Johnita Scott Obadele made a strong request for non-members to join. Membership cards were distributed on the spot.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES COMMISSION**

By Njeri Alghanee

The Human Resources Commission continues to focus on supporting the Katrina Crisis internally displaced persons. Efforts to coordinate a Peoples Tribunal were completed as hundreds

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*(Continued from page 4) Human Resource Commission*

gathered at Clark/Atlanta University on April 14, 2007. Weekly meetings were held in the historic M.L.King Jr. District.

On January 14, 2007, hundreds came together to the first quarterly community assembly entitled "Health First", building towards a national health initiative. Co-sponsored by the African Community Centers for Unity and Self-Determination. A health think tank grew out of this gathering of health practitioners, physicians, advocates, and grassroots organizations. Efforts to exchange information with or assist in developing wellness think tanks in NCOBRA chapter cities will be launched.

*(Continued from page 2) Jackson MS Chapter Update*

programs, collaborative initiatives that promote unity in the community, reparations activities and principles in all program and projects to education our people on the need for self-repair.

6. Promoting healthy living in our communities, i.e., managing our dietary issues, pharmaceutical, mental health issues. The next mini-convention in June will focus on bringing "Afrikan Leadership" to the table to confront contemporary "counter-intelligent" activities in Mississippi.

**N'COBRA 18TH NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Temple University, Philadelphia, PA**

**June 21-24, 2007**

**More info:**

**[www.ncobraphiladelphia.org](http://www.ncobraphiladelphia.org)**

**Reparations Now!**

*The official information letter for members of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America*

**N'COBRA**  
PO Box 90604  
Washington, DC 20090  
202.291.8400

**[www.NCOBRA.org](http://www.NCOBRA.org)**

*Prepared by  
the Information & Media Commission*

*(Continued from page 1) Demand Reparations at White House*

**passage of HR. 40 to begin, in earnest, a thorough assessment of the damages and affects of the Holocaust of Enslavement on present day African American life; and 3) payment of full Reparations.**

We use these days of pomp and circumstance to bring attention to the failure of both nations, then and now, to eliminate the systems and institutions that made slavery possible in the first place, and which still foster dual realities in every area of life (including punishment, health care, education and wealth); and the myths of white superiority and African and African descendants' inferiority.

We thank Apostle Thomas L. Rodgers, Sr. and Brother Clark, of "Vision for Restoration and Reunification" for traveling seven hours with a membership team from Charlotte, NC to demands reparations with N'COBRA.



*Nana Yaa Asantewaa Ohema (Queen Mother Dorothy Benton-Lewis) reads the Letter To The Queen of Reparations Demands in front of White House crowd*

# N'COBRA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW

Please become a member or renew your membership and send a donation today

## National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America

### N 'COBRA

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### PURPOSE

We believe that the descendants of Africans, who were captured, taken from our homeland (Africa), enslaved, colonized and held captive for hundreds of years in the Americas and throughout the diaspora, believe that we should be compensated for the injustices, cruelties, brutalities, inhumanities and exploitations of racism, white supremacy, economic discrimination and oppression imposed upon our people past and present.

### DEFINITION

**REPARATIONS:** Payment for a debt owed; the act of repairing a wrong or injury; to atone for wrongdoings; to make amends; to make one whole again; the payment of damages to repair a nation; compensation in money, land, or materials for damages. In the Ancient African, Kemetic sense, Reparations means to rise up. Repair and restore the ruined and damaged, develop the underdeveloped, and create a just society.

### INVITATION

Please help continue the organizing and expansion efforts of N'COBRA in building our National & International Movements for Reparations. Reparations are obtainable in our lifetime. A committed people with a righteous cause is a force that cannot be denied.

Mail to the National Office N'COBRA,  
P.O. Box 90604, Washington, DC 20090-0604  
Tel: 202. 291. 8400 \* Fax: 202. 291. 4600 \* Website: <http://www.ncobra.org>

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### N'COBRA National Annual Membership Application

Select appropriate categories. Make check/money order payable to NCOBRA.

Please select dues amount best for your budget : One year \_\_\_ \$15 \_\_\_ \$20 \_\_\_ \$25

Multiple Years Membership: # of Years \_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_ or \_\_\_ \$500 Life Membership  
*Additional fees may be assessed at the local chapter level*

I would like to support (with a donation) the Commissions (check one or more and enter \$ amount):  
\_\_\_ Economic Development; \_\_\_ Education; \_\_\_ Human Resources; \_\_\_ Information & Media;  
\_\_\_ International; \_\_\_ Legal; \_\_\_ Legislative; \_\_\_ Youth

Membership Dues: \$ \_\_\_ Donation for Commission \$ \_\_\_ General Donation \$ \_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY TO ENSURE RECEIPT OF MAILINGS

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Work ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ FAX ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

New Member Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Collected by (N'COBRA Member Name): \_\_\_\_\_