

# REPARATIONS NOW!

Official Membership Quarterly Newsletter –June 2005



National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America

## N'COBRA

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Dear N'COBRA Members:

Welcome to another edition of REPARATIONS NOW!

You will find herein reports from several commissions, regional representatives and actions of the Board of Directors. These reports summarize the work during the past quarter. We want you to be well informed about the work of the Coalition. We believe that the more informed you are, the more involved you will become and greater progress will be made. We look forward to seeing all of you in Atlanta for our national conference, June 23-26, 2005. Go to the website for details.

There have been a number of exciting milestones in the Reparations Movement that I'm sure you'll agree are moving us closer toward our ultimate goal of Reparations. However, victory is only possible with your help.

### *Reparations News*

- January, 2005 - J.P Morgan Chase Bank awards a \$5 Million Scholarship fund for Louisiana African descendants, following admission of their predecessors' complicity in, and profiting from the enslavement of African peoples.
- March 9, 2005 - The Reparations Coordinating Committee, upon which N'COBRA representatives serve, submitted to the Supreme Court, the Reparations class action lawsuit on behalf of the Tulsa Race Riot victims and descendants.
- April 6, 2005 - N'COBRA co-hosted, along with members of the Congressional Black Caucus, a Congressional Briefing on Reparations and the need to pass H.R. 40,

which will establish a commission to study the era of enslavement, its affects on present day African American life, and determine appropriate remedies.

- March 19, 2005 - N'COBRA launches "America Must Atone: Reparations Now" grassroots organizing initiative, at the NDABA V Reparations Conference hosted by the N'COBRA Atlanta, GA Chapter, to ensure Reparations is a primary focus during the October 2005, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Million Man March in Washington, DC.
- April 16, 2005 - The District of Columbia officially celebrated Emancipation Day, signed into law on January 5, 2005 to formally and legally recognize and preserve the cultural history and heritage of the end to slavery in the nation's capitol.
- May 10, 2005 - A Congressional Hearing will address the Tulsa Oklahoma Race Riot Reparations Case that is presently before the Supreme Court.
- June 23-26, 2005 - N'COBRA will host its 16<sup>th</sup> annual National Reparations Conference in Atlanta, GA.
- June 24, 2005 - N'COBRA Organizations Leadership Roundtable will be held in Atlanta, GA
- October 14, 2005 – N'COBRA 2<sup>nd</sup> National Reparations Rally and Forum: *Coalition Building and Operational Unity* in Washington, DC
- October 16, 2005 – Day Of Atonement, Nationwide Reparations Sunday calling for America to Atone for the Holocaust of Enslavement and Its Vestiges

- September 23, 2005 - A Year of Black Presence (AYBP) mobilizes activists to the CBC Legislative week events to demonstrate the broad base of support for the passage of HR40, and to lobby for CBC led nationwide hearings on this important issue.

**N'COBRA DEMANDS  
AMERICA MUST ATONE  
REPARATIONS NOW!  
MILLIONS MORE MOVEMENT  
Washington, DC - Oct 14-16, 2005**

**REPARATIONS NOW! LAWN SIGN  
CAMPAIGN**

From now until October 16th, N'COBRA will mobilize and organize our members and reparations supporters to attend the 10th Anniversary Million Man March (now called the Millions More Movement) to be launched in Washington, DC. Again, the March is called by the Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam, and a coalition of organizations who have a vision of unity and progress among our people.

We in N'COBRA and the reparations movement say that atonement requires an apology, accountability, and reparations. To ensure that Reparations is a part of the Millions More Movement (MMM), and takes its proper place on the Nation's agenda, we will make Washington, DC, a Reparations City. To do that, we need your time, money, and space on your lawn, business, church, or vacant lot. With your help, these signs will dot the federal city and surrounding areas for the several months leading up to the 10th Anniversary of the Million Man March. Indeed, the signs will be of

the quality and durability to last long after October 14-16, when the commemoration has ended.

The signs will be a visible reminder that Atonement is inclusive of Reparations. While the MMM has broad aims, it is the job of N'COBRA and reparations supporters to keep the reparations issue alive and on every agenda. We keep it alive by speaking about it at every opportunity, and connecting it to every issue.

No one will be able to enter or leave the city without thinking, talking about, or knowing that here, people care. Black Reparations is alive and well.

**INFORMATION & MEDIA COMMISSION**

The Publishing Team:

- Published and mailed 1500 copies of **REPARATIONS NOW!** Newsletter March 2005 edition.
- Produced and distributed **N'COBRA Demands: AMERICA MUST ATONE, Reparations Now!** handbills and brochures at US Supreme Court for the filing of the Petition for Tulsa Reparations and at NDABA V in Atlanta.
- Assisted with publishing and distribution of **A YEAR OF BLACK PRESENCE COALITION 2005 AGENDA.**

The IT/Internet Team:

- Major updates to N'COBRA website have been made ([www.NCOBRA.org](http://www.NCOBRA.org)). Updates can now be made more quickly, increasing the usefulness of the site at a lower cost. Plans are underway to provide the ability to receive donations and memberships on line. Other changes that you can expect at the website are: audio and sound bytes and special pages for N'COBRA Organizational Members and the "America Must Atone, Reparations Now! campaign.
- N'COBRA listserv 'Reparations\_For\_Africans' increased membership by 9% to a total of 608 members.

**AMERICA  
MUST ATONE:  
BLACK REPARATIONS  
NOW!**

**MILLIONS MORE MOVEMENT**

**OCTOBER 14-16, 2005**

**202.291.8400**

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

## LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

- Organized a Congressional Briefing, April 6, 2005 at the Rayburn HOB, in Washington DC. The briefing was part of the AYBP plan of action for 2005. The event was co-hosted by Congressmen John Conyers and Mel Watt. The intent was to brief members of Congress and their staffs about the history of legislative, legal, corporate, and grassroots initiatives in support of Reparations and the need to pass H.R. 40. This initiative was supported by Philadelphia, New York and DC N'COBRA members, who also lobbied, visiting the offices of the 18 CBC members not signed as co-sponsors, and visiting the offices of some supporting members as well. The total number of co-sponsors in the 109th Congress to date is 30. One highlight of the briefing was that Congressmen Mike Honda of California, Chair of the Asian Pacific Caucus, was present for the entire briefing. He also made brief remarks expressing solidarity with our cause.
- Kibibi Tyehimba testified at Maryland committee hearing for Maryland HJR 6, seeks state support for the passage of H.R. 40. Sister Tyehimba also served on a Reparations panel during TransAfrica Forum Conference on April 9, 2005. The Legislative Commission is preparing follow-up letters to CBC members not signed on as sponsors of HR 40. Congressional Briefing testimonies will be posted on both the N'COBRA and Congressman Conyers' websites.

Chapters are strongly urged to organize and mobilize their communities to adopt city and state resolutions, and to visit their Congressional Representatives at their home state offices to co-sponsor H.R. 40 if they have not already done so. We should now be lobbying Progressive, Hispanic, and Democratic Caucus Representatives for their support.

## LEGAL STRATEGIES COMMISSION

- February 19, 2005. Participated in a Black History Reparations Panel to educate the masses on the Tulsa opinion

and Corporation Reparations cases as well as stress the importance of H.R. 40 held at Union Baptist Church, Washington, DC.

- April 6, 2005. Provided Congressional Remarks in support of HR40.
- April 9, 2005. Served on a Reparations panel sponsored by TransAfrica Forum, held at University of College Park, Maryland.

## N'COBRA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS (NIA) COMMISSION

Plans are well underway to host an International reparation workshop, with other reparations organizations at the national conference in June.

## EDUCATION COMMISSION

The Education Commission, plans to utilize the conference as an opportunity to brainstorm with N'COBRA members on what our education agenda should look like. Our goal is to have as much feedback as possible to: (1)Formulate N'COBRA's National Education Agenda, (2) Recruit and maintain Commission members to do the work, and (3)Excite chapter members to adopt and carry out our education agenda and plans.

## SOUTHWEST REGION REPORT

- The regional representative updated the SW Region Five Year Strategic Plan for the purpose of clarity and to conform to convention. Copies of the plan have been distributed to SW Region members in Dallas, Houston, Memphis, Tulsa, New Orleans and Baton Rouge. One of the expected outcomes from the plan is for each chapter to create it's own five-year strategic plan or annual work plan.
- **Dallas Chapter** - Chapter members attended the N'COBRA National Reparations Awareness Day Community Teach-In in Tulsa, OK. The chapter also hosted the SW Regional Conference. Members attended the New Afrikan Nation Day conference in Jackson, MS.
- **New Orleans Chapter** - Members represented N'COBRA at the city's MLK Jr. celebration. Also met with other chapters in the state to discuss J.P.

Morgan Chase's token reparations offer of a \$5 million scholarship fund. The chapter organized a Reparations Awareness Day event at Southern University in New Orleans, and in the process has established an ongoing relationship with students at the university. The chapter also co-hosted a successful talent show at a local high school.

- **Baton Rouge Chapter** - Hosted annual Reparations Awareness Day event. Met with other chapters in the state to discuss the JP Morgan Chase \$5 million scholarship fund. The chapter sent a letter to the JP Morgan Chase president requesting that it do more for its role in slavery. Some chapter members attended NDABA V in Atlanta. The collegiate chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority at Southeastern Louisiana State University, Hammond, LA sponsored a forum on reparations. Their soror and former N'COBRA Co-chair, Johnita Scott was the guest speaker.

#### **NORTHEAST REGION REPORT**

- **Washington, New York, Philadelphia Chapters** - Participated in congressional briefings in Washington, DC on April 6th. They are working to organize a tri-caucus meeting of CBC, Progressive Caucus and Asian American Caucus.  
**Baltimore Chapter** - Members are a part of the organizing group for the Million Man March Reunion. An Education Report was presented at NDABA V.
- **Sullivan Correctional Chapter** - submitted a proposal to Drammeh Foundation to purchase research material for a project that studies the use of the penal system to continue slavery.
- **Angola, NYC Chapter** - Co-sponsored citywide town hall meeting on public housing with Congressmen Major Owens.
- **Philadelphia Chapter** - sponsored "Slavery Disclosure" Bill in February that was passed by the city council.

#### **BLACK FRIDAYS REPORT**

The leaders of BLACK FRIDAYS is working to revitalize this national initiative within the context of N'COBRA's national campaign: America Must Atone: Reparations Now. Black Fridays will figure prominently in N'COBRA's effort in the 10th Anniversary of the Million Man March.

#### **NATIONAL REPARATIONS AWARENESS DAY (NRAD) NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT**

- The First National Reparations Awareness Day (NRAD) was held in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It highlighted the 1921 destruction of the Greenwood District in Tulsa, popularly known as "Black Wall Street." The NRAD consisted of two days of events which included: a luncheon hosted by the Center for Racial Justice for the survivors and N'COBRA, a rally held in front of City Hall and a teach-in at the Rudisill Regional Library

#### **N'COBRA PRISON CHAPTER LAUNCHES RESEARCH PROJECT**

The Drammeh Institute, Inc. has awarded the Al Gundi, Bukari, Green, and Myers chapter of N'COBRA located in the Sullivan Correctional Facility, NYC, the broad range of library books that it requested that will permit the prison chapter to facilitate its research on prisons, and their historical use in the continued enslavement of African people in the United States. The prison chapter believes that "it is our responsibility with the help of other prisoners around the country to assist on the drafting the reparations position on prisons, and that the 13th Amendment is one of the primary vehicles for the continued enslavement and oppression of Black people." The Drammeh Institute, Inc., an organizational member of N'COBRA, is a member of Pan-African Strategic and Policy Research Group (Pan-AFSTRAG) and the United Nations Association's Council of Organizations.