



# Reparations Now!

N'COBRA Quarterly Membership Newsletter - Winter 2006

## N'COBRA ANNUAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT

October 27-29, 2006 marked the 4<sup>th</sup> annual retreat for the N'COBRA Board of Directors. We are very grateful to Dr. David Horne of the Reparations United Front (RUF) for his overall support and hospitality, and the Los Angeles community Reparations activists and supporters for hosting us. Our sincere appreciation also goes out to Dean Sandra Parham, for allowing access to the California State University, Dominguez Hills University Library Conference facility during our stay. Also we thank former L.A. City Councilman, Robert Farrell for taking the time to welcome us, and voice his support for the important issue of Reparations. Lifetime N'COBRA Elder Thabiti Hashim was also on the case lending logistical support during the entire weekend. He continues to inspire us with his energy despite being in his eighties.

With the help of Facilitator Extraordinaire, Brother Omowale Satterwhite, the Board, which now includes 6 new  
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## N'COBRA APPLAUDS DEADRIA FARMER-PAELLMANN

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) applauds the efforts of the plaintiffs, Deadria Farmer-Paellmann, Timothy Hurdle and others, who appealed the district court's dismissal of the *African-American Slave Descendants Litigation*. Judge Posner's opinion for the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals continues the line of cases that deny African descendants the right to go forward in lawsuits based on the courts' determination that they don't have standing or the statute of limitations has run. The opinion of the Seventh Circuit, therefore, once again impresses upon us the importance of demanding reparations for the continuing consequences of slavery that our people experience today that are linked to the enslavement of our ancestors.

The opinion also demonstrates the importance of legislative efforts in which the people active in the movement are engaged. These legislative efforts may assist us in raising unique claims such as consumer fraud, the claim that was sent back to the district court for further action. Of utmost importance is the need to continue lob-  
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## "TAKE BACK THE LAND"

### Shantytown Project in Miami Exposes Lack of Housing for the Poor

The National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N'COBRA) applauds the Miami Chapter of N'COBRA for its efforts to increase awareness and highlight examples of the continuing vestiges of the American era of enslavement of African peoples. Under the leadership of General Kuratibisha Rashid, Miami N'COBRA's participation in the "Take Back the Land" housing initiative, involves building and occupying a Shanty Town in the middle of Liberty Square. This bold act brings attention to the gross disparity and unbalanced allocation of resources evidenced by the city's continuous support for corporate skyscrapers, while far too many African descendants and other peoples of color go without adequate and affordable housing. The issue of affordable housing is clearly linked to the "Wealth and Poverty" injury area defined by the N'COBRA Legal Strategies Commission. Affordable housing must be one of the material forms of reparations in order to equitably address the many forms of injury caused by chattel slavery and its continuing vestiges.

Since the Shantytowns inception on October 23, 2006, The Miami City Council has adopted emergency legislation to circumvent the landmark 1996 Pottinger settlement, in which the City

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Questions or Comments? Email us at: [InformationMedia@aol.com](mailto:InformationMedia@aol.com) or call 202.291.8400

(Continued from page 1) **LEADERSHIP RETREAT**

Board members elected during the June 2006 conference, was able to assess the Coalition's strengths/challenges and the current state of the Reparations movement; update the 5 Year plan; and develop plans of action for implementation at all levels of the Coalition. The results of our efforts will be distributed to Chapter, Regional, and Commission leaders in the very near future. Board member outreach will be ongoing to improve communication, assist N'COBRA leaders with implementation, and encourage and monitor accountability. Strategies were developed to address:

- maintaining the energy, commitment, and desire necessary to keep the Coalition fresh and out front?
- identifying, developing, nurturing, and accepting direction from new and future Coalition leaders specifically, and the movement in general, with particular emphasis on the Youth
- upholding the reputation of the Coalition as an advocate for Reparations for the masses of African people; maintaining the integrity of the Coalition at all levels
- maximizing Chapter, Region, Commission effectiveness; using the work at these various levels to educate, organize, and mobilize support for Reparations.
- Organizational development and coalition building
- fundraising

We benefited from the over 40 years experience of Dr. Maulana Karenga, Chair of the Organization Us, founder of Kwanzaa, and Professor of African American Studies at California State University at Long Beach; who conducted an invaluable Organization Development and Operational Unity workshop for Board members, LA community organization representatives, and Political Science students from LA Southwest College. Immediately following this workshop, organization leaders were given an opportunity to present their plans of action for furthering the Reparations movement. The RUF plan presented during this session can be accessed at [WWW.REPARATIONSNOW.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://WWW.REPARATIONSNOW.BLOGSPOT.COM). We encourage you to review it and provide your input to Dr. David Horne. In addition, two very engaging community youth leaders, Brother Marcel Carter, and Sister Malaika M. Horne, shared their perspectives on what can be done to motivate and inspire more Black youth to assume leadership in general, and the Reparations movement specifically; the kinds of activities likely to be of interest and encourage their participation; and how the youth can be engaged to support national initiatives.

The entire weekend was not all work. It also included a very welcoming and informative session with LA Pan

Africanist organizations which included the Committee to Eliminate Media Offensive to African People (CEMOTAP); Committee For African American Reparations (CAAR); Global Panthers; Reparations United Front (RUF); Reparations Research & Advocacy Group; The Harvest Institute--L.A. Chapter; NAACP-L.A. Chapter--Political Action Committee; National Coalition for Reparations and Economic Wealth (N'CREW); and Mr. Peoples Helping People. Once again, we thank Dr. David Horne for organizing this event, and for further demonstrating his support by becoming a life-time N'COBRA member. Before the evening ended, there was a commitment to re-establish an N'COBRA chapter in the area. We stand ready to do all that we can to help them.

On our last day in the LA area, following the quarterly Board meeting at the headquarters of the Organization Us, there was a warm and inspiring Reparations focused Sunday Soul Session hosted by Dr. Maulana Karenga and the Organization Us, which included panelists Dr. Maulana Karenga, Chair of the Organization Us; Kibibi Tye-himba, Co-chair N'COBRA; Dr. Imari Obadele, N'COBRA Board Member-Emeritus and Ambassador, Provisional Government of the Republic of New Africa (PGRNA); and Wautella Ibn Yusuf, N'COBRA Board member and Chair of the Information and Media Commission.

By the end of our weekend, it was evident why California has the distinction of being one of only three states to adopt legislation addressing Reparations and is the state with the greatest number of municipalities supporting Reparations and/or the passage of HR40. Our hats off to the activists of Alameda County, Berkeley, Compton, Foster City, Inglewood, Los Angeles, Oakland, East Palo Alto, and San Francisco, California. We are certain that the work will continue to organize the entire state.

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(Continued from page 1) **APPLAUDS DEADRIA**

bying for the passage of disclosure laws such as the ordinances in Chicago, Philadelphia, Richmond, Detroit and Wayne County Michigan, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Berkley; and the insurance disclosure bill in California. Activists must make sure that these laws have teeth; that is that a component of such legislation provides a right of citizens to sue if the disclosure is not made. Although such bills would not result in reparations to all African descendants, they assist the movement for reparations through providing information that can be used in our education campaigns and litigation by providing a penalty for failure to disclose if a person can meet the requirements of the statute.

N'COBRA looks forward to working with people across the country to continue our march toward reparations, using all the strategies at our disposal: legislative enactments, litigation, and community education and direct action. Our work continues.

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## **N'COBRA NEWS BRIEF**

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### **Midwest Region**

The newly elected co-chair of the Cincinnati-- Northern Kentucky N'COBRA Chapter Sister Marjorie Mosely, spent her Thanksgiving holiday helping Hurricane Katrina victims. Sister Marjorie worked with the Cincinnati Hurricane Katrina Committee to help under-insured African American home owners prepare for the demolition or renovation of their homes and property. The team spent their entire holiday week gutting houses, tearing out wall insulation, and clearing debris, etc.

Cincinnati based, La Amistad First Recovery Community Fellowship is a new organizational member of N'COBRA. Bishop Scott, La Amistad's Pastor, has been a founding leader of the Cincinnati Boycott Council which was formed in 2001 in response to the murder of an African American youth by a White police officer and other incidents of police brutality. Also, N'COBRA Education Commission member, Dr. Kimya Moyo, announced that her Sankofa school will be working with the Cincinnati N'COBRA Chapter to conduct a community film series. The series is scheduled to begin February 2007 and will feature documentaries that are designed to raise the consciousness of the Black community.

Indianapolis--N'COBRA' is conducting a Kwanza Celebration in cooperation with the Indianapolis Kwanza Committee. All are invited to attend the Umoja Day event on December 26, 2007 from 3pm until 9 pm, at Martin University in Indianapolis, IN.

Chicago N'COBRA continues to raise community awareness by focusing on a year round observance of Reparations Awareness Day. Meetings are regularly held the 4th Sunday of the month at the Washington Park Field House. Guest speakers have included Chicago Congressman Danny Davis; Police Officer Pat Hill an activist & past columnist for Lakefront Outlook; Ms. Mary Mitchell who is an advocate for Reparations, and a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times; and Prof. Tim Black, an author & member of N'COBRA. Two guests who have shared their journey of tracing their family trees were Dr. Milton Grier, and Mrs. Alberta.

Please keep the following members on your prayer list for healing of their health issues:

Erlin Arpo, James Arpo and Mansong Kumbuly

**REMINDER: February 25, 2007, is Reparations Awareness Day. Start organizing today to raise awareness about our ongoing fight for Reparations and the righteousness of our cause.**

### **Membership and Organizational Development Commission**

We welcome two new Life Members. They are Dr. David Horne and Atty. Mawuli Davis. Both paid in full the \$500.00 fee for Lifetime membership during the October retreat in Los Angeles, California. Their contributions truly demonstrate their commitment to this important battle for Reparations.

### **Human Resources Commission**

On January 13 at 6:00PM, at the Afrikan Djeli; 840 Abernathy in Atlanta, GA.; a Community Assembly on Health, a past and present injury issue. The quarterly gathering of local and regional people is sponsored by the African Community Centers for Unity and Self Determination, and is led by Bro. Hekima Kanyama of the RNA-11, architect of the ACCUSD. Invited presenters are Dr. Jewell Crawford, Dr. Emikola Richardson and other health practitioners and activists. The Human Resources Commission continues its call for a National Health Commission that will examine the health injuries of African descendants past and present.

### **Legislative Commission**

The 110th Congress convenes in January 2007. Congressman John Conyers will chair the Judiciary Committee and Congressman Charles Rangel will chair the House Ways and Means Committee, both of which are critical to our reparations demand against the federal government. The Legislative Commission has provided Congressman Conyers lists of municipalities, and organizations that have adopted resolutions supporting passage of HR40 and/or Reparations in preparation for his re-introduction of the bill. Congressman Conyers normally introduces HR 40 at the beginning of each Congress during the first week of January. Start now contacting your Congressmen/women to encourage them to sign on as cosponsors, especially the CBC who are not all on board, then the Progressive, Hispanic, Asian, and Democratic caucus members. In light of the Democratic Party's true need for African American loyalty leading into '08 it might be possible to get some movement for the bill. But we must strengthen our efforts to educate, organize and mobilize for mass support. Leave no stone unturned to ensure that people in your spheres of influence are well informed so they will be sufficiently outraged and vocal if something shallow is offered by the Congress vice substantive Reparations discussion on the floor. Encourage supporters to write letters, send faxes, jam up the switchboards with calls, so to speak, and visit Repre-

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## N'COBRA NEWS BRIEF

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(Continued from page 3) *Transatlantic Slave Trade Commission* representatives' home State, and Capitol Hill offices, to demand support and passage of HR 40.

### **N'COBRA Board Member Reports from the Illinois Transatlantic Slave Trade Commission**

Sister Adjoa Barbara J. Baker, a Commissioner of the Illinois Transatlantic Slave Trade Commission (ITSTC), National Member At Large of N'COBRA, and Co Chair of Chicago Chapter of N'COBRA, is off full speed ahead with facilitating community involvement and actions that will lead to full recognition of the trauma of slavery and Reparations Now. The ITSTC was created following Illinois State legislature's passing of a resolution

in 2005; and was patterned after Congressman John Conyers, HR Bill 40. \$400,000 was allocated for the Commission's work. Meetings where the Commissioners, experts, researchers & students meet have included Dr. Leonard Jeffries on "**Looking At Slavery As A System**"; **Psychology Focus: "A Look At The Lingering Effects of the Slave Trade System"** by Dr. Kobi Kambon, Dr. Asa G. Hilliard; III, Dr. Wade Nobles; Dr. Samella B. Abdullah; and Dr. Havette Grey. **Curriculum Design** was addressed by Dr. Marimba Ani and Mr. Kevin Bullard. Proposed Commission Duties are: Research & writing; Review and commentary & Recommendations for Public Policy Considerations Programs, projects and continued research.

### **Northeast Regional Update**

- contact Brother Minister Ari S. Merretazon at merretazon@comcast.net or 267-307-0001 and Fax 215-885-3759

Planning for the next Regional Meeting and the three proposed agenda items:

- Maximizing the Effectiveness of N'COBRA Regions will be the framework for the meeting, amongst other items, the agenda will include:
- The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual N'COBRA Conference, June 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, Philadelphia, PA.
- The National Divest from Wachovia Campaign, and The response to the recently released Brown University Report: Slavery and Justice

Suggestions and recommendations are welcome from the Co-chairs of the Northeast chapters. Please send your input to me in your reply.

### **Save the Date! 2007 National N'COBRA Conference**

The Philadelphia Chapter will proudly host the 18<sup>th</sup> National Conference, June 21-24, 2007 at Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. The theme is "A Call for Justice and Repair!" will commemorate N'COBRA's 20 years of Commitment and Leadership in the Reparations Movement. Other highlights include significant emphasis on

strengthening our chapters and regions, and an exciting youth program led by our Youth Commission co-chairs working in conjunction with students and young activists and artists in the Philadelphia area.

Early registrants will save big! We have secured a limited number of low-cost on-campus rooms on a first come, first serve basis, so when you get the conference brochure make sure to register early! Claim a comfortable, affordable room within walking distance of conference activities AND save even more with your discounted early bird registration! We look forward to welcoming you to Philadelphia!

A Luta Continua (The Struggle Continues),  
The Philadelphia Chapter Conference Planning Committee

### **Southwest Region**

November 18<sup>th</sup>, the newly formed San Antonio, TX, Chapter of N'COBRA held a breakfast conference and planning meeting at the Black owned, *Tommy Moore Restaurant and Deli*, on Hackberry Street, to meet and greet the Organization and Membership Development Commission Co Chair Johnita Scott Obadele, and the Southwest Regional Representative James Rodgers III. In attendance were representatives from the NAACP, Sankofa Study Group, Nation Of Islam, San Antonio Study Group, the publisher of the African American Reflection Newspaper, and Students United for the Millions More Movement. The group discussed the present and future direction of the reparations movement, and offered new strategies on how to mobilize the masses. Planning is also underway for San Antonio, TX to host the Region's spring 2007 Conference, which will focus on the importance of using education to win reparations as addressed by Dr. John Henrik Clarke in "*Education For a New African Reality*".

### **Southeast Region**

A planning meeting is scheduled, December 14-15, 2006, for regional activists in support of the Katrina/ Gulf crisis. The meeting organizer is Theresa Al-Amin of North Carolina, who also coordinated a caravan to the Gulf Coast which traveled through Durham and Charlotte, NC; South Carolina, Georgia, and Louisiana. Weekly follow-up meetings are held to plan the local and international tribunal that will be held in Atlanta on February 3, 2007, leading towards the International Tribunal in New Orleans in August 2007. Confirmed

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## N'COBRA NEWS BRIEF

*(Continued from page 4) Southeast Region*

tribunal judges are Ed Brown, brother of Iman Jamil Al-Amin, Kathleen Cleaver, Connie Tucker, Sandra Robertson; and Mzee Leonard Tate, as Prosecutor. Meetings are held at BYPB Bookstore- 312 Auburn Ave in the historic MLK District Contact Bro. Addis Ababa for more information 770/256-1882.

Chokwe Lumumba and Malik Zulu Shabazz have teamed up to support families demanding justice for family members slain by New York and Georgia Police. Rallies and Town Hall meetings have included the New Order National Human Rights Organization, NAACP, National Action Network, and Rep. Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney. A town hall meeting was held at the Tupac Shakur Center in Stone Mountain, Ga.

Jackson N'COBRA on the Move -  
jackson\_n'cobra@yahoo.com 601.957.2969 or  
601.982.0861

The following are ongoing activities of Jackson N'COBRA:

1. Harambee For Reparations TV show, Fridays at 10:30pm on the Public Access Channel [Channel 18] discusses the legitimacy of Africans for Reparations from the US and all business entities that profited from the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and the vestiges.
2. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Twin Forums on Reparations, in collaboration with the Pierian Literary Society at Jackson State University. Over 850 students have participated in Reparations discussions.
3. The Mississippi Disaster Relief Coalition [MS-DRC] for Katrina survivors supports self-determination, self-reliance, and self-governance; ongoing disaster preparedness; Katrina disaster relief, recovery, and reconstruction.
4. The 2007 Spiritual Pilgrimages to the Mississippi Delta, April 28, 2007 & Sept 8, 2007; DVD copies of the first two Spiritual Pilgrimages available for \$10.00 @ or \$ 18.00 per set. Proceeds for the Reparations movement. Contact Brotha Lukata at [jackson\\_nocbra@yahoo.com](mailto:jackson_nocbra@yahoo.com) or 601.957.2969.
5. 2007 Black Community Month of Prayer to honor the rich and fruitful heritage of the Warriors of Our Past; ensure that the memory of our beloved ancestors is never discounted or marginalized as simply a "misfortune of history"; apply the "healing power" of faith, prayer, and fellowship to the deep wounds scarring our hearts and minds--Our Maafa [Holocaust]; to acknowledge life lessons of the Creator, and strength and fortitude to withstand and survive through the Holocaust of African Enslavement; to restore and preserve the dignity of our ancestors by teaching the truth

of the past. *"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* John8:32

6. The Emmett Till Justice Campaign to fight for justice on behalf of Mama Till-Mobley.
7. The *"No Reconciliation Without Reparations"* Campaign to challenge the "racial reconciliations" initiatives in Mississippi. Justice must be served for the crimes committed against African humanity.
8. The Jackson MS Black Grassroots Political Movement (BGPM) to mobilize for justice and true freedom through [political] self-determination.
9. Jackson N'COBRA Chapter-Student Committee is very active and has initiated G.L.O.R.Y. [God's Legion Of Righteous Youth], a youth development project, at Fresh Start Christian Church and has organized the "Akoben Club" as an official student organization on campus at Jackson State. Major accomplishment!!!

*(Continued from page 1) Take Back The Land*

of Miami agreed not to arrest homeless people, on some categories of public land, who are engaged in "life sustaining conduct," such as bathing, sleeping, eating and building "temporary structures" to protect themselves from the elements. The emergency ordinance opens the way for the city to raid Umoja Village, further endangering the homeless people inhabiting the village. Local clergy support the \*Umoja Village Shantytown\* and the "Take Back the Land" effort which brings attention to gentrification, the severe housing crisis, and public corruption that has resulted in the diversion of tens of millions of low income housing dollars into the pockets of wealthy politically connected developers. The religious community has been essential to the success of the shantytown, donating food, money, time and moral support for the project and its residents. Apparently the city's approach to poverty reduction is to round up the poor and keep them out of sight, instead of implementing substantive measures to get at the root causes of the poverty.

### **Reparations Now!**

*The official information letter for members of the*

**National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America**

**N'COBRA** [www.NCOBRA.org](http://www.NCOBRA.org)  
PO Box 90604  
Washington, DC 20090  
202.291.8400

*Prepared by  
the Information & Media Commission*

# 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): \_\_\_\_\_