

Obama Could Make Case for Slavery Reparations at U.N.

Perhaps the most radical candidate ever to stand at the precipice of acquiring his party's presidential nomination and the American presidency, it is now clear that Senator Barack Obama is a member of an international socialist movement which hopes to use the United Nations as a vehicle to shake down U.S. taxpayers for trillions of dollars in slavery reparations. One group, the African World Reparations and Repatriation Truth Commission,¹ is demanding \$777 trillion.



In 2001, Obama's Trinity United Church of Christ submitted a resolution² declaring that:

- "WHEREAS The institution of Slavery is internationally recognized as crime for which there is no statute of limitations, AND
- WHEREAS: Uncompensated labor was demanded from enslaved Africans and their descendants for more than two centuries on U.S. soil; AND
- WHEREAS: The principle that reparations is the appropriate remedy whenever government unjustly abrogates the rights of a domestic group or foreign people whose rights such government is obligated to protect or uphold has been internationally recognized..."

"The United Nations has emerged as an extraordinary stage for the reparations movement," declares Martha Biondi, Associate Professor of African American Studies and History at Northwestern University. She said the 2001 United Nations World Conference Against Racism was the result of "a decade of advocacy and organizing at the U.N. Human Rights Commission" and work by the so-called December 12th

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Movement.³ The conference issued a “Declaration and Program of Action,” which held that “slavery and the slave trade” constituted a “crime against humanity” and that “Africans and people of African descent, Asians and people of Asian descent and indigenous peoples were victims of these acts and continue to be victims of their consequences.”

Biondi said that the reparations movement “offers an innovative and compelling way to move beyond inadequate and besieged civil rights discourses, to revive black-led global anticapitalist and anti-imperialist projects, and to radically intervene in the discourse of globalization.”

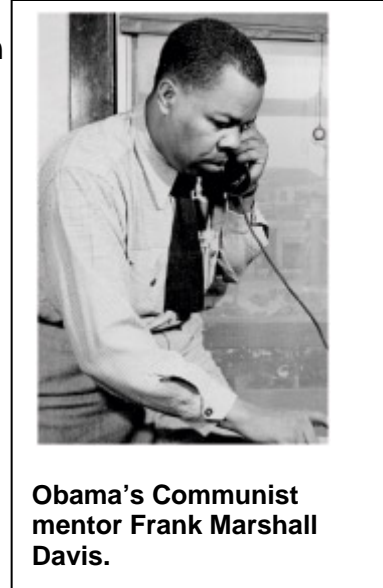
Biondi’s remarks are important. They indicate that what is behind the reparations movement is a Marxist view of history holding that oppressive Western civilization has exploited the people and natural resources of the world. As a result, special “rights” and even financial compensation must be awarded to these “victims.”

According to this view, international institutions such as the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank must be restructured and provided with new financial resources (i.e. global taxes) to supervise and manage the redistribution of the world’s wealth. The United States, being the leading capitalist state, has to pay the largest price.

But the U.N.’s racism conference, held in Durban, South Africa, was considered so extreme that the U.S. delegation, led by then-Secretary of State Colin Powell, walked out. A follow-up, known as Durban II, is planned for 2009.

However, Human Rights Watch endorsed the call for slavery reparations.⁴

Dr. Conrad W. Worrill, past national co-chair for the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA) and “Minister of the Interior” of the Provisional Government / Republic of New Afrika (RNA), was a delegate to the United Nations World Conference Against Racism. The RNA seeks the creation of a black nation in the U.S. in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina.



“Our strong African in America delegation, the Durban 400, lobbied for a major resolution on reparations in concert with the African Heads of State,” he says. “Under the leadership of the December 12th Movement and the National Black United Front, the Durban 400 successfully influenced the final conference resolution...”⁵

He adds, “We were successful in gathering 157,000 signatures from African people in America who agreed that the United States Government committed acts of genocide against us. We traveled to the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland in May of 1997 and officially filed our genocide petitions, clearly pointing out that the vestiges of slavery, as it relates to the Prison Industrial Complex validates the contemporary demands for reparations.” The petition was a “Declaration of Genocide by the United States Government Against the Black Population in the United States.”

The “Durban 400” was the name for the so-called African American NGO contingent to the World Conference Against Racism and was organized by the December 12th Movement and National Black United Front.

The campaign is a new version of an old communist tactic. Indeed, Worrill was photographed in the *Final Call*, the Nation of Islam newspaper of Louis Farrakhan, holding a copy of the document, “We Charge Genocide,” which was presented to the U.N. in 1951 by the Civil Rights Congress, a communist created and controlled organization. The document alleged that the U.S. Government was systematically discriminating against and killing black people.

Gala: Celebrating 20 Years of N’COBRA!

Guest Speaker: The Reverend Dr. Jeremiah Wright, Jr.

Please join N’COBRA on Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. at 3801 Market Street, Philadelphia as we recognize some of our most committed organizers and supporters. Our special keynote speaker will be the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago. We will celebrate Twenty Years of N’COBRA leadership and commitment to the Reparations Movement with Message Music provided by The Sound of Philadelphia, sponsored by **Kenny Gamble**, co-founder of *Philadelphia International*.

Friday, June 22

9:00 – 10:30 Post-Traumatic Slavery Syndrome

Panelists: Dr. Faruk Iman, Elaine Alvarez, Umar Johnson

Panel description: The effects of the Holocaust of African Enslavement, lynching, segregation and racism are still evident in our tortured psyches, broken families and devastated communities. This workshop examines the long-term impact of enslavement and its vestiges on present day Africans in America and offers possible remedies.

9:00 – 10:30 Political Prisoners

Panelists: Pamela Afrika. Dr. Imari Obadele. Linn Washington. Theresa Shoats

One of Barack Obama’s mentors, Frank Marshall Davis, was a member of the Communist Party USA⁶ and filled a young Obama, before he went off to college, with anti-American thoughts and ideas.

In her paper, *Formulating Reparations Litigation Through the Eyes of The Movement*, Professor Adjoa A. Aiyetoro, a legal consultant to the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations, offered a detailed argument in favor of using the courts to obtain the

financial reparations.⁷ She represented the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) at the World Conference Against Racism and served as a leader of the African and African Descendant Caucus⁸ at the event.

Aiyetoro was involved in a filing before the U.S. Supreme Court arguing that affirmative action for blacks was a legitimate form of reparations.⁹

The American Bar Association published an article, *The Legal Basis of the Claim for Slavery Reparations*, which maintained that the demand for reparations "is well founded in international law."¹⁰ As a precedent, the author, a British lawyer named Anthony Gifford, cited the U.N. Security Council for passing a resolution "binding in international law" and "requiring Iraq to pay reparations for its invasion of Kuwait."

The Obama Connection

Barack Obama's pastor and mentor, the Reverend Dr. Jeremiah Wright, was the keynote speaker at the 2007 annual conference of the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America. Wright's talk, "A Call for Justice and Repair," followed a statement in which he declared that "The Biblical principle of true repentance is that the offended party is given compensation to take up for that which has been stolen from them, the losses that have been inflicted upon them and their families."

But Wright isn't the only controversial member of Obama's church. Dr. Iva Carruthers, who describes herself as an active member of the church, is an outspoken advocate of reparations for blacks and was a participant in N'COBRA's 2004 conference.

Carruthers was identified, along with Wright, as a member of Obama's African American Religious Leadership Committee. Wright has since been dropped from the group. But Carruthers is sometimes referred to as a spokesman for Wright and works with him closely.

Indeed, Carruthers may be even more controversial, especially on the issue of reparations. She wrote *The Church and Reparations- An African American Perspective*, which was reportedly "distributed by her denomination" at the World Conference Against Racism.

Not only are members of his church involved in the reparations movement, Obama is said to have been politically close to former Chicago Alderman Dorothy Jean Wright Tillman, who led an effort by the Chicago City Council to demand reparations for slavery. "Chicago has become the de facto center of the slavery reparations movement," noted a journalist for the far-left paper *In These Times*.



The Obamas' 2006 income tax return shows that they gave \$22,500 to Trinity United Church of Christ, which they attended with such figures as Wright and Carruthers.

Despite going to the same church, however, Carruthers said that she has no idea as to where Obama stands on the controversy. "I don't have any insight at all," she said, before saying that she had to leave for another engagement.

Carruthers is the General Secretary of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference, which includes Wright on its board and describes itself as a social justice organization. The web site of the group includes a statement that, "Dr. Wright represents the best among us, one of the best in this tribe of prophetic preachers. He has made his church a place where one could express the centuries-old pain of being Black in America, while finding strength for a brighter day. An attack on this man of the God is an attack on all those of the cloth who believe in the social Gospel of liberation."

Both Wright and Carruthers were involved in the Illinois Transatlantic Slave Trade Commission, established by the Illinois State Legislature in 2005. Its purpose was to examine the "past and present effects on African-Americans" of the slave trade and it issued a report in 2007. Wright was an "associate" of the commission while Carruthers was the "senior research consultant."



Its findings included that Christopher Columbus was part of the Catholic Church's "century of blood" in the establishment of the slave trade system, and that that civil war U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, acknowledged to be "the most famous son of Illinois," didn't morally object to slavery but only wanted to "restore the Union to white consensus."

In 2003, Carruthers spoke on behalf of Obama's Trinity United Church of Christ at a "summit on reparations" opened by Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam. Another group represented at the Farrakhan summit was the Republic of New Afrika. Farrakhan followed with an "international address" entitled, "Reparations: What does America and Europe Owe? What does Allah (God) promise?" Farrakhan himself spoke at an N'COBRA event.

In 2007, Carruthers endorsed a document urging that "Financial and human resources be identified and made available, in trust and otherwise, with appropriate church, community, and academic entities to effect institutional development and remedies from the Transatlantic slave trade system and colonialism at the local, national and global

levels." The document said that reparations should be "offered for the healing of peoples who were once enslaved."

Like Obama, Carruthers and Wright have been deeply involved in African affairs. They traveled to the "motherland," as they call it, where Wright was photographed in Ghana in "full ceremonial regalia" as a "development chief" and Carruthers was elevated to the position of "queen mother." Obama's wearing of African garb became a national controversy.

N.C.O.B.R.A.
National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America
DINNER/LECTURE SERIES

P.T.S.D.
Post Traumatic
Slavery Disorder

But the more important issue, from a public policy perspective, is how he would handle taxpayer dollars.

While Carruthers said she did not know where Obama stood on the issue of reparations, the Chicago Tribune reported that he was asked in 2004 about the matter and "spoke about how slavery had left a stain on the country that has yet to be eradicated." Nevertheless, he said that he opposed "just signing checks over to African-Americans."

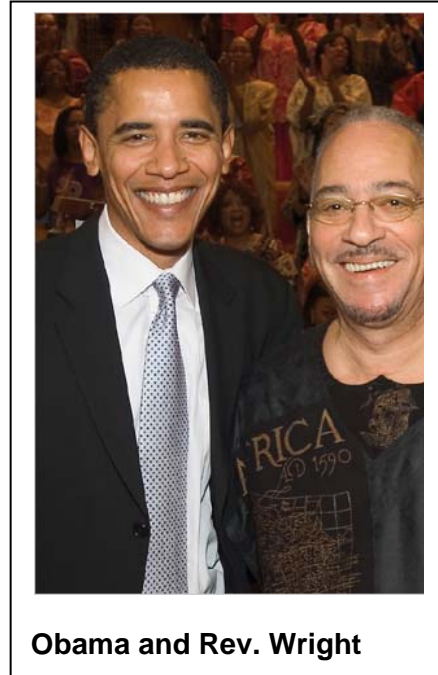
During the presidential campaign, the issue came up during a Democratic presidential debate and only Dennis Kucinich said he favored reparations. Obama changed the subject, saying he favored more spending on schools.

Carruthers said that reparations have to include much more than financial payments. She may have in mind not only an apology from the federal government but some form of spiritual or psychological help for black victims of the slave trade.

In this regard, the N'COBRA conference that featured Wright also included a panel

discussion of “Post-Traumatic Slavery Syndrome.” In a variation of this theme, the Philadelphia branch of N’COBRA had advertised a sold-out lecture on the subject of “Post-Traumatic Slavery Disorder (PTSD),” described as one of the Psycho-Racial Spiritual Diseases of Americanized Africans (PRSDAA). The speaker, a psychologist, said that black-on-black violence could even be attributed to undiagnosed PRSDAAs.

While Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are now engaged in a fight for the Democratic presidential nomination, it was the Clinton Administration that helped to make reparations into a national issue. President Clinton had proposed a \$10 million federal research program to study the problem of racism in America. It was described by the Associated Press as “a way to measure the impact of racial bias in everyday life” and was seen as potential backing for legislation proposed by Rep. John Conyers to establish a national commission to study reparations.

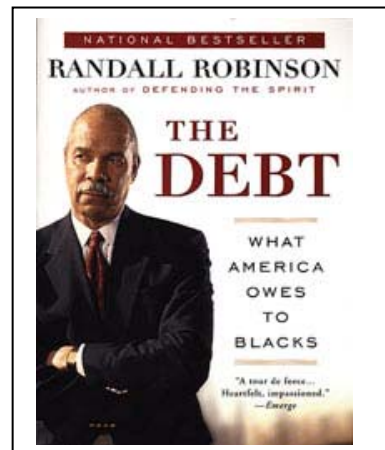


Obama and Rev. Wright

Conyers, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, has endorsed Obama for president.

Conyers’ bill to create a “Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans” was first introduced in 1989. He praised N’COBRA in a statement he issued in 1999 and sponsored a subsequent event, “Capitalizing on Our Strength – Empowering the Reparations Movement,” featuring a representative of N’COBRA.

The issue became so big that the CBS Evening News, then hosted by Dan Rather, did a story about the controversy, highlighting the fact that the Chicago City Council had become the fourth major city to pass a resolution calling for reparations.



Randall Robinson, the director of the group known as Trans Africa, wrote a book, *The Debt*, on the subject, and hosted a conference on reparations featuring such luminaries as actor Danny Glover.

One thing is certain: Carruthers is hoping for an Obama win. Federal Election Commission records show that she gave his Illinois Senate campaign \$500 and his presidential campaign \$2300.

MARCH 10, 1999

PERSPECTIVES

U.S. GOV'T CHARGED WITH BLACK MASS MURDER

BY DR. CONRAD WORRILL
—Guest Columnist—


In a press conference in Chicago, Illinois, on Friday, October 25, 1996, the National Black United Front (NBUF), of which I am the national chairman, announced our campaign to charge the United States Government with genocide.

This campaign was sparked and initiated, in large part, by the September 3, 1996 issue of *The Final Call* newspaper that revealed the *San Jose Mercury News* series outlining alleged CIA involvement in cocaine distribution to the Crips and Bloods in Los Angeles, in which the profits were used to finance the CIA-backed contra army in Nicaragua.

The focus of the campaign has been to circulate petitions throughout the African World Community and to document the numerous human rights violations on the part of the U.S. government that we have been

the community at large, especially victims of specific incidents, situations, etc., 4) communicating the ongoing progress of the campaign to the public through the media; 5) continuing to develop in-kind, financial and material resources for the ongoing campaign. In Phase II of the campaign our slogan was sign a petition and send a dollar. This slogan continues in Phase III.

We must be reminded as we conclude this campaign of what genocide means in terms of the United Nations definition. Article II of the United Nations Convention on the prevention and Punishment Of The Crime of Genocide adopted on December 9, 1948 explained that "genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part"



¹ <http://www.awrrtc.org/index.php> The BBC reported that the group would be contacting the International Court of Justice, the United Nations, and the Organization of African Unity for assistance.

² <http://www.millionsforreparations.com/theologicalresolution.html>

³ The December 12th Movement is said to be a non governmental organization (NGO), with consultative status in the United Nations Economic and Social Council, which has participated in the Commission on Human Rights since 1989.

⁴ <http://hrw.org/english/docs/2001/07/19/global285.htm>

⁵ <http://www.nbufront.org/html/ProjectsIssues/ReparationsProject/ContinuingOrganizeOnGround.html>

⁶ <http://www.usasurvival.org/ck2.22.08.html>

⁷ <http://academic.udayton.edu/race/02rights/repara24.htm>

⁸ A member of the William H. Bowen law school faculty at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, her biography states that she "began her legal career as a staff attorney with the United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Special Litigation Section where she litigated cases involving the rights of the institutionalized and developed an expertise in prisoner rights. She joined the ACLU National Prison Project in 1981 where she remained until 1992." Since 1992, she has served as the Executive Director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers and the Director of Administration for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc.

⁹ <http://www.ncobra.org/pdf/ARGUMENT.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.abanet.org/irr/hr/spring00humanrights/gifford.html>