

**UFAHAMU**  
**JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN ACTIVIST ASSOCIATION**

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*UFAHAMU* accepts contributions from anyone interested in Africa and related subject areas. Contributions may include scholarly articles, political-economic analysis, commentaries, review articles, film and book reviews, poetry, and artwork. Manuscripts must be between 20-30 pages, clearly typed, double spaced, with footnotes on separate page. We request that articles be submitted on one 3.5 inch diskette if possible. Contributors should keep copies of their manuscripts. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit any manuscript to meet the objectives of the journal. Authors must submit two copies of their manuscripts and a brief biographical note, including position, academic affiliation and recent significant publications, etc. All correspondence — manuscripts, subscriptions, books for review, inquiries, etc. — should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief at the above address. We regret that once submitted, materials cannot be returned.

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**Fatima Ahmed Ibrahim**, a leading Sudanese political dissident, was the first Senior Fellow, Institute for the Study of Gender in Africa at the University of California, Los Angeles from September 1996 to June 1997. She was a founding member of the Sudanese Women's Union (SWU) in 1952, and founder and editor-in-chief of the *Women's Voice Magazine*. In 1965, she became the first Sudanese woman elected to parliament, where she introduced legislation to gain working women's rights. In addition to her considerable efforts within Sudan, she served as President of the Women's International Federation from 1991-1994, and currently serves on the Executive of the Arab Women's Union and the Pan-African Women's Federation. In recognition of its deep commitment and dedicated action over a long period of time to human rights, the SWU received a United Nations' Human Rights Prize in 1993. While living in London as a political refugee, Fatima Ahmed Ibrahim is currently President of the banned SWU.

**Jean Kidula** recently completed a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Los Angeles.

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**Onookome Okome** teaches cinema and theater in the Department of Theater Arts at the University of Calabar, Nigeria. He has published extensively on film and television in West Africa, including in *Ufahamu*. He is currently editor of *ASE: Journal of Contemporary Nigerian Life and Literature*.

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**Victoria Sams** is a Ph.D. student in Comparative Literature at the University of California, Los Angeles.

## EDITORIAL

The editors of *Ufahamu: Journal of the African Activist Association* are pleased to offer you this double issue of very exciting research and thought-provoking analysis. These nine articles and reviews represent what *Ufahamu* has historically done best, which is to say to combine the academic and the political, to set research by fresh new scholars side-by-side with established and well-versed academics and to privilege those voices not often heard in more mainstream periodicals. True to the goals of the founders of this journal, but fully attuned to contemporary political, cultural, and social questions in today's Africa, this issue of *Ufahamu* aims to provoke debate on the still too-often neglected and misunderstood continent.

We are particularly excited to be able to publish a new article by the Sudan's long influential political activist Fatima Ahmed Ibrahim. In "Sudanese Women's Union: Strategies for Emancipation and the Counter Movement," Ibrahim draws on her lifelong experience of politically mobilizing women and opposition to neo-imperialism to critically re-examine the history of the Sudanese Women's Union, an organization which she herself helped form in 1952, and to evaluate recent struggles to gain gender parity. Ibrahim wrote this article recently while on a Rockefeller Foundation funded post-doctoral fellowship at UCLA's Institute for the Study of Gender in Africa.

Bernadetta Killian's article "A Policy of 'Special Seats' for Women in Tanzania: Its Effectiveness," is another to have benefited from Institute for the Study of Gender in Africa. An earlier version of this article was presented at a conference convened by the institute. Killian, a Tanzanian graduate student in Political Science at UCLA, writes about Tanzania's process of ensuring political representation to women at the national level. Recognizing the shortcomings of parliamentary representation, Tanzania, Killian shows us, has attempted corrective procedures. U.S. readers of Killian's article should pay particular attention to her analysis in order to help counter the dismantling of affirmative action taking place across the country.

Several articles question the relationship between culture and politics. Aboneh Ashagrie takes on development and social workers in "Popular Theatre in Ethiopia." Onookome Okome examines the Nigerian media in "The Context of Film Production in Nigeria: The

Colonial Heritage." If you remember, this is the second of Okome's articles on film production that *Ufahamu* has published in the past year. Both Ashagrie and Okome remind us just how inseparable culture and politics are from global capitalism.

Jean Kidula, a very recent UCLA graduate, writes on music festivals in Kenya. Kidula uses the music festival as a case study to examine historical changes in cultural and social values in Kenya. Kidula takes not simply the music presented, but the entire apparatus of the festival, from organization to judging as her evidence in drawing out her conclusions.

Kolawole Aderemi Owolabi gives us "Regional Integration and the Imperative of Cultural Rehabilitation: A Philosopher's Response to the Issues of Dependency and Integration in West Africa." As should be evident from the title, the article brings a new disciplinary voice to questions most often addressed by development experts and politicians. Owolabi's article should be seen as an essential contribution to any debate about regional integration.

Hausa literature, in either Hausa or English, has only in the past few years begun to receive the critical attention that it has long deserved. Two scholars, Grace Eche Okereke and Ezenwa-Ohaeto, present new work on novelists Zaynab Alkali and Hauwa Ali. Okereke examines questions of women's autonomy in Alkali's famous novel *The Stillborn*. Ezenwa-Ohaeto examines similar questions in both Alkali's and Ali's various writings.

Finally come three book reviews of recent fiction, critical writing and a collection of interviews. Ezenwa-Ohaeto examines literary critic turned fiction writer Balogun Odun's recent collection of short stories, *Adjusted Lives*. Michael Mahoney reviews Carolyn Keyes Adenaike and Jan Vansina's *In Pursuit of History: Fieldwork in Africa*, a collection of essays Mahoney calls at once "a how-to guide and a challenge to historians of Africa." Lastly is Victoria Sams' reading of Francoise Pfaff's *Conversations with Maryse Condé*, a series of interviews with this very famous African diaspora writer from the Caribbean.

Without further distraction from these very fine articles, I say good-bye until next time.

Matthew J. Christensen