

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 and poetry. Manuscripts must be between 20-30 pages, clearly typed, double spaced, with footnotes on separate page(s). 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.

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The Editorial Staff of UFAHAMU
together with
The African Activist Association
especially dedicate this issue
to the memory of

CHRIS HANI

*who fell to an assassin's bullet
on April 10, 1993*

1940

The Secretary of the
Federal Reserve Board

Washington, D. C.

Respectfully,
Your obedient servant

Very truly yours,

W. A. Rorer

W. A. Rorer
Member of the Board of Directors
Federal Reserve Bank
of Richmond
Richmond, Virginia

W. A. RORER

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Marvis Hughes is a poet who has published several pieces.

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R. O. Rom Kalilu (Ph. D) is a painter and an art historian-critic from Nigeria. Dr. Kalilu, who won a gold medal in the 1978-79 All African Painting Contest, is currently a lecturer in Fine and Applied Arts at Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomosho, Nigeria.

J. O. J. Nwachukwu-Agbada: Unfortunately, we had not received any bio-data on Nwachukwu-Agbada at the time of going to press.

Christine M. Timm is a doctoral student in English at the City University of New York Graduate Center. Ms. Timm also teaches literature and composition at Queens College, City University of New York. She is also the editor of *Concerns*, a journal of the Women's Caucus for the Modern Languages.

EDITORIAL

Chris Hani has also been killed!

Apart from Sahrawi (Western Sahara), South Africa is the only other African country that is still ruled by a minority group without popular mandate from the majority of the country's population. For almost a century now, South Africa has been ruled by a white minority (also known as Boers) under policies of racial segregation collectively known as *apartheid*. Under these policies, the black majority are discriminated against and denied the right of full citizenship. They are mostly confined to poor areas, the so-called "homelands", and do not have equal access with whites to housing, employment, education, health, transport, and other essential government services. In fact, they are forbidden by law from living in "white areas" which alone constitute 87% of the land area of South Africa. And all this in their own country!

Knowing that freedom and equality would not be granted on a silver platter, South African leaders like Steve Biko, Chris Hani, Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Walter Sisulu, and Oliver Tambo, among others, realized early in their lives that the only option left for liberation was through revolutionary armed struggle. Liberation organizations like the African National Congress (ANC), the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC), and the South African Communist Party (SACP) were founded with armed wings with a view to furthering the South African liberation cause. This development earned prominent South African leaders like Mbeki, Mandela and Sisulu long terms in prison. Others like Biko, Mathew Goniwe, Tsietsi Mashinini, Eric Mntonga, Mapetla Mohapi, Abram Tiro, David Webster... paid for the freedom of the people of South Africa with their lives.

Most recently, Chris Hani has also been killed for championing his people's cause. But Hani's name is just a new addition to the long list of South African nationalist leaders, including whites, who have fallen at the hands of apartheid for championing democratic rule by a popularly elected government. As the secretary general of the SACP at the time of his death, a powerful affiliate of the popular ANC on whose executive committee he served as a member, and a onetime chief of staff of its armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, Hani was a very prominent black South African leader. He was intimately involved in the ongoing negotiations between the apartheid government and South African black leaders for a multi-racial government. He spoke out strongly against the apartheid system and vigorously called for its dismantling. He was vocal in demanding the release from jail of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners confined on Robben Island. He was equally outspoken on the issue of international sanctions against the South

African apartheid government, arguing that this was the only way the apartheid government could speed up the process of democratization.

Such outspokenness, broadmindedness, articulateness, and, above all, zealous vigor were a constant source of discomfort for any apartheid bigot. His communist leaning was not only of particular worry to the apartheid government, but in it the latter found justification for Western, especially U.S., sympathy. The apartheid government had to be propped up to keep communism via Chris Hani in check. Since Mandela's release, Hani had arguably become apartheid's greatest source of pain. It was no surprise, therefore, that after being gunned down in broad daylight in the driveway of his home on April 10, 1993, the person who was arrested in connection with Hani's murder was a Pole who had fled his country's communist system which he unquestionably hated with a passion.

We at *Ufahamu* pride ourselves in having had the opportunity to meet Chris Hani during his tour of the U.S. in 1991. We join his family, friends, and the rest of true nationalist South Africans in mourning his death. His murder and, soon after it, the death of Oliver Tambo, the long time president of ANC, are major blows to the South African liberation struggle. We are acutely aware of the role that Hani played in trying to bring about democratic change in South Africa. His murder may very well slow down the process. However, we hope that it will not derail it altogether. It is, therefore, regrettable that the South African government could not protect a leader of Hani's stature against this heinous crime at a time when everyone was hoping that the ongoing talks would yield some positive results and set the country on a path of political reform, public order, peace and economic progress. The murder of leaders like Hani will not cow South African nationalists and thwart their gallant march to an anti-racist, free and democratic South Africa. It will only make the road more rugged and the journey more arduous. It is up to the apartheid government to stop politically motivated murders and facilitate a peaceful transition to a democratically and popularly elected government or risk continued bloodshed and mass resistance. This, of course, will neither benefit the black majority nor apartheid diehards.

We want to dedicate this issue of our journal to the memory of Chris Hani, that of all those fallen South African heroes, and all those who have died in the cause of liberation all over the world. Their blood will not be shed in vain. We are not just wishing South African nationalists victory in their struggle, for we know they will eventually emerge victorious, but we wish them quick victory. May Chris Hani's soul rest in eternal peace. *AMANDLA!*

Angaluki Muaka