

BLOOD AT THE ROOT

Violence
By The
State

Submission to the UN Human Rights
Committee Reviewing the Fifth Periodic
Report of the United States

Under the International Covenant on
Civil and Political Rights
(ICCPR)

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BLOOD AT THE ROOT: VIOLENCE BY THE STATE

As the United Nation's Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law (EMLER) visits the United States, Brazil, Sweden, and other countries in the world, the testimony from impacted individuals of the African Diaspora makes evident that systemic racism exists and thrives within all the institutions we seek for remedy through justice.

Randall Kennedy, author, and American Law professor at Harvard University states in **American Police Crimes Against African Women and Women of Color**, *"Deliberately withholding protection against criminality (or conduct that should be deemed criminal) is one of the most destructive forms of oppression that has been visited upon African Americans."*

Mothers, fathers, family, and communities cry over the bullet-ridden bodies of their loved ones. Beaten, raped, incarcerated and torture survivors beg for change. In hearing these cries, we must realize that only revolutionary reconstruction at the level of the nation state will end Afrophobic violence perpetuated by police and "deputized" vigilantes.

Therefore, we are asking the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent (PFAD) to conduct full and complete investigations into the assassinations, murders and political exiles of the following individuals. If, the PFAD determines that it cannot investigate these deaths, we ask that it determine which UN mechanism would be best suited to handle our request, and that the PFAD follow through with that mechanism until a proper investigation is submitted for its review.

It is our expectation that after the investigations are completed, or reviewed, by the PFAD that it will submit a statement to the nation state where the victim resided demanding full accountability and reparatory justice for the actions taken on its doorsteps against these victims of African descent.



MARIELLE FRANCISCO DA SILVA – MARIELLE FRANCO

Assassinated 14 March 2018 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Brazilian Councilwoman Marielle was a staunch and vocal fighter for [women's and LGBT](#) rights and against militarized police violence in the favelas. After speaking at *Jovens Negras Movendo Estruturas* (Young Black Women Moving [Power] Structures), [she and her driver were shot to death](#) while sitting in her vehicle.

WE DEMAND

A thorough investigation into the Brazilian government's collusion in Franco's murder.



**ELEANORA FAGAN
– BILLIE HOLIDAY**

Tortured and Assassinated 17 July 1959,
Metropolitan Hospital, East Harlem, NYC, USA

Billie Holiday refused to submit to the racist practices of her day and this made her a target of the United States government. She sang openly about lynching violence in the South with her song “Strange Fruit.” She is considered one of the first, and directly involved, assassinations carried out by the United States in its “War on Drugs.” There is sufficient evidence to prove that the US government shackled Billie to a hospital bed and a guard was stationed at her door. Billie’s friends were not allowed to visit, all her gifts of flowers, cards, and well wishes were taken from her room, and she was refused life sustaining medication. Billie is quoted as saying “They are going to kill me”—they referring to the Head of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, and extreme racist, Harry Anslinger, who assigned Federal Bureau Agent Jimmy Fletcher to indict Holiday on drug charges.

WE DEMAND: A full and complete disclosure of the United States Government’s assassination of Billie Holiday



COINTELPRO: AN EFFORT TO END BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENTS AND ASSASSINATE LEADERS

The FBI began its counterintelligence program **COINTELPRO** in 1956. The program began as a concerted effort to disrupt the scope and influence of the **Communist Party** of the United States. In the following years, COINTELPRO grew the program

to include additional American organizations including the Socialist Workers Party and the Black Panther Party. The program attempted to diminish American leftist and Black liberation organizations and terrorize their leadership. “COINTELPRO was later rightfully criticized by Congress and the American people for abridging first amendment rights and for other reasons (vault.fbi.org).”

COINTELPRO is alleged to be responsible for the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK), Malcolm X and Fred Hampton Sr., as well as numerous political prisoners of the Civil Rights War.

WE DEMAND

1. A determination that COINTELPRO was a structure of the Cold War.
2. A full and complete investigation of the assassinations of MLK, Malcolm X, Fred Hampton Sr.
3. A full and complete investigation into other political prisoners of war, including Paul Robeson, Angela Davis, and other Black Communist party members and the present day harassment by the United States government including against UHURU and all protestors.



ASSATA OLUGBALA SHAKUR – JOANNE DEBORAH BYRON

Tortured prisoner of war in political asylum
from 1984 – Present

Identified as a Political Prisoner as early as October 1973 by [Angela Davis](#), Black Panther and Black Liberation Army member, [Assata](#) was arrested and convicted of a crime she could not have committed based on forensic evidence. She was placed in a men's prison, solitary confinement for 21 months, and forced to immediately surrender her new born to the USA upon her birth in prison. Shakur testifies to being beaten, refused medical attention, and sexually assaulted while imprisoned. She was granted political asylum after escaping these horrendous conditions, but New Jersey police still threaten to kidnap her. Although in asylum from 1984 to present, Assata was the first woman added to the [FBI's Most Wanted Terrorist](#) list as Joanne Deborah Chesimard with a \$2 million reward in 2013, 40 years after the fateful incident.

WE DEMAND: A full and complete forensic investigation into the incident on the night of 2 May 1973 and exoneration.



EMMETT LOUIS TILL

Kidnapped, Tortured and Lynched 28 August 1955

Perhaps the murder that started the Civil Rights War, [Emmett Till](#) was a child from Chicago caught in the Jim Crow racist practices of Amerikkka's deep South. Even after the full confession of the perpetrators, the US government was not willing to thoroughly investigate one of the most horrific lynchings in the history of America. With a search warrant for his accuser's arrest [sitting in plain sight](#), the US government forced family, allies, and friends to find evidence to indict the killers at the federal level.

WE DEMAND

The posthumous federal indictment of Carolyn Bryant for the kidnapping, torture and lynching of Emmett Till, and a written apology to Mamie and Emmett Till's remaining family for the US Government's role in their trauma by denying them justice for Emmett's lynching.

CONCLUSION

“Southern trees bear a strange fruit, Blood on the leaves and blood at the root” Strange Fruit, written by Abel Meeropol and performed by Billie Holiday

These cases of torture and assassination are the strange fruit that anti-Black systems of (in)justice have come to bear. We close our demands for investigation and redress with the following quote:

“Many uneven and unfair structures of systemic racism seem to have mutated into forms even stronger and more difficult to dis-mantle. And making it all worse is the inability or unwillingness of too many of our political leaders and institutions to address matters of race –or to address it in an honest, nuanced, and constructive fashion, giving all of the raw histories, complexities, and emotions that it engenders.” Tom C. W. Lin, **The Capital-ist and the Activist: Corporate Social Activism and the New Business of Change**

