

# AFRICA'S UNKNOWN WAR: APARTHEID TERROR, CUBA & SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION

**September 27th & 28th, 2013, University of Toronto**  
**Toronto, Canada**



***Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the battle of Cuito Cuanavale***

*This is a free event.*

## **PROGRAM**

***Location: William Doo Auditorium, 45 Willcocks Street, Toronto, Canada.***

### **SEPTEMBER 27 - FRIDAY**

7pm-10pm

Film screening: Sisters and Brothers Keeper: Cuba & Southern African Liberation followed by panel discussion and Q&A (7pm-8:45pm).

9:15pm-10pm - Reception

### **SEPTEMBER 28 - SATURDAY**

8:30am – light refreshments

9am-10: 45am: Apartheid's War of Terror: Regional Terrorism & Destabilization

10:45-11am - Break

11am-12:30pm: Homeland is Humanity: Cuban and Southern African Liberation

12:30-2pm: Lunch (Film screening of Cangamba)

2pm-3: 30pm: South Africa's Stalingrad: The Battle of Cuito Cuanavale

3:30-3:45 – Break

3:45pm-5: 15pm: Legacies of the Liberation Struggle

Cultural Gala

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Speakers include:**

\***Silvio Baró:** Renowned scholar on Cuba's relationship with Africa. He served in Cuba's internationalist mission to defend Angola from apartheid South Africa's

aggression. He has researched, taught and worked at, among others, the University of Havana, Casa de Africa and the Centre of the Study of International Politics.

**\*Piero Gleijeses:** Author of the universally acclaimed & groundbreaking *Conflicting Missions: Havana, Washington and Africa, 1959-76*. He is currently writing *Visions of Freedom: Havana, Washington and Pretoria in Southern Africa, 1976-91*. Gleijeses is Professor of American Foreign Policy, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

**\* Prexy Nesbitt:** Internationally recognized scholar, & veteran of the anti-apartheid struggle, Nesbitt is currently working on his memoirs of the southern African liberation struggles, and the extraordinary people he worked with, from Amilcar Cabral to Eduardo Mondlane to Graca Machel to Nelson Mandela.

**\*Jorge Risquet:** Cuba's chief diplomat in Africa from the 1970s to the 1990s, who played a crucial role in the negotiations that ended South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

**\*John Saul:** Internationally acclaimed & honoured scholar on southern Africa & veteran anti-apartheid activist. Professor Emeritus at York University (Canada), Saul is currently working on the book *The Thirty Year War for the Liberation of Southern Africa, 1960-1990*.

**\*Isaac Saney:** Cuba specialist who teaches at Dalhousie University & Saint Mary's University (Canada); author of the acclaimed, *Cuba: A Revolution In Motion*, he is currently finishing the book *From Soweto to Cuito Cuanavale: Cuba, The War in Angola and the End of Apartheid*.

**\*Various diplomats and representatives from Angola, Cuba, Namibia and South Africa.**

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Email: [isaney@hotmail.com](mailto:isaney@hotmail.com) or call Isaac Saney: 902-494-1531

Email: [melanie.newton@utoronto.ca](mailto:melanie.newton@utoronto.ca) or call Melanie Newton: 416-978-4054

Email: [adifferentbooklist@rogers.com](mailto:adifferentbooklist@rogers.com) or call Miguel san Vincente: 416-538-0889

Website: [www.cubaafrica.org](http://www.cubaafrica.org)

## **SPONSORS**

*\*Canadian Network On Cuba\* Caribbean Studies Program, University of Toronto\*  
New College, University of Toronto \*Canadian Union of Postal Workers \*Africa  
Studies, University of Toronto*

*\*James Robinson Johnston Chair of Black Canadian Studies, Dalhousie University\*  
United SteelWorkers \*A Different Booklist \*Taylor Report/CIUT-FM \*Group for  
Research and Initiative in the Liberation of Africa \*Canadian-Cuban Friendship  
Association Toronto*

\*\*\*\*\*

Today the African continent has 55-independent countries. While no outside power directly holds sway over African territory (with the exception of French-ruled Djibouti), the issue of African independence is posed as sharply as ever. 2013 will mark the 25th anniversary of a landmark in the struggle for African independence & self-determination: the decisive defeat at Cuito Cuanavale in Angola of the racist armed forces of the apartheid South African state by combined Cuban and Angolan troops. This led to the immediate independence of Namibia, accelerating the end of racist rule in South Africa. These events and Cuba's extensive & crucial role in the struggle against apartheid South Africa, however, remain virtually unknown in the West. Also forgotten is the apartheid regime's regional war of terror, which set the context of Cuba's intervention. Africa's Unknown War: Apartheid Terror, Cuba & Southern African Liberation will commemorate the 25th anniversary, while elaborating apartheid's reign of terrorism. The symposium will be held on September 27th & 28th, 2013 at the University of Toronto, in Toronto, Canada.

\*\*\*\*\*

*"The Cuban people hold a special place in the hearts of the people of Africa. The Cuban internationalists have made a contribution to African independence, freedom and justice unparalleled for its principled and selfless character." - Nelson Mandela –*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **On Apartheid South Africa's War of Terror**

From 1975 to 1988, the South Africa armed forces embarked on a campaign of massive destabilization of the region. The loss of life was immense. The South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission stated that "the majority of the victims of the South African's government attempts to maintain itself in power were outside South Africa. Tens of thousands of people died as a direct or indirect result of the South African's government aggressive intent towards its neighbours." South Africa's war of terror was so devastating that in 1986 the late Julius Nyerere, then president of Tanzania declared:

"When is war not war?...When is terrorism not terrorism? Apparently when it is committed by a more powerful government against those at home and abroad who are weaker than itself...Those are the only conclusions one can draw in the light of the current widespread condemnation of aggression and terrorism, side by side with the ability of certain nations to attack others with impunity, and to organize murder, kidnapping and massive destruction with the support of some permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. South Africa is such a country."

\*\*\*\*\*

### **On Cuba & Southern African Liberation**

Cuba is often described as the only foreign country to have gone to Africa and gone away with nothing but the coffins of its sons and daughters who died in the struggles to liberate Africa. More than 330,000 Cubans served in Angola. More than 2,000 Cubans died in defense of Angolan independence and right of self-determination.

The 1987-88 military defeat of South Africa in Angola constituted a mortal blow to the apartheid regime, ending its dream (nightmare for the region's peoples) of establishing hegemony in southern Africa as a means by which to extend the life of the racist regime. Cuba played the central role in those fateful events.

Nelson Mandela has underscored Cuba's vital role. In 1991 he declared:

"The Cuban people hold a special place in the hearts of the people of Africa. The Cuban internationalists have made a contribution to African independence, freedom and justice unparalleled for its principled and selfless character. We in Africa are used to being victims of countries wanting to carve up our territory or subvert our sovereignty. It is unparalleled in African history to have another people rise to the defense of one of us. The defeat of the apartheid army was an inspiration to the struggling people in South Africa!"

In 1994, he further stated: "If today all South Africans enjoy the rights of democracy; if they are able at last to address the grinding poverty of a system that denied them even the most basic amenities of life, it is also because of Cuba's selfless support for the struggle to free all of South Africa's people and the countries of our region from the inhumane and destructive system of apartheid. For that, we thank the Cuban people from the bottom of our hearts."

\*\*\*\*\*