

**Afrikan Liberation Activities: Reflections, Future Strategies and other Commentary**  
**St. Thomas/St. Croix, United Virgin Islands**  
**Thursday, May 22, 2008 – Monday, May 26, 2008**

**Presented by: Youth who attended the ALD events, as listed above**

Everything that I was able to be present at, along with everything else that I was **not** physically present at (but was in spirit) during the gatherings this past week have undoubtedly been divinely blessed. And (not but) I am ready to see the dialogues etc. come into fruition in some way, today. I know we all have elevated in some way, through these experiences and are still overflowing with ancestral energy to plan and do more for next year already. Let's do our best to keep each other in these heights continually so that we may progress cohesively and be strengthened even greater than we can imagine today.

**DaraMonifah Cooper, St. Thomas, USVI**

Overall, I really received a great charge from all of the events that took place on St. Thomas and St. Croix from May 23-26. The dialogue was great and many important issues were addressed including implementing plans to control our own land and agricultural market, building an economic base for and by the community, elevating our understanding of our cultural roots and uniting with each other.

*(After speaking to Brother Kenya of St. Croix and going to the farm that his family lives on, I still have not made the connection between why they have so much unutilized land and why there is talk of a need to begin producing more crops on St. Croix. Why isn't the land that his family has access to utilized? or is there possibility that the land can be utilized?)*

I liked the fact that there was food at the events. A hungry people can not get work done effectively. The concert following the meetings was also a great element to add in after a long weekend of work and the ancestral hike topped it all. The hike was a good time to bond with each other, which is essential to any movement.

It was also nice to receive a semi-full contact list of all the attendees at the first meeting on St. Thomas. Also, within the contact list I really liked that the field that each person worked in was noted - very helpful for identifying each other when it is time to mobilize and work together.

**Nusaiba Jackson, New York, NY**

## **ORGANIZING**

In terms of organizing, the following is a bulleted list of suggestions regarding what we need to focus on in order to have an even more effective event next year:

- Planning Committees for the next set of ALD activities should be organized based on strengths and what we already do primarily, then on whatever else needs to be done. *There's no point in having a whole lot of heavy topics and dialogue if we can't properly ingest it.* In addition to keynote speakers, guest speakers and local speakers there should be other forms of media and activities throughout. Music, videos, documentaries, exercises, games, etc. in order to keep the mood high and interactive
  - Possible planning committee areas:
    - **Administrative:** Secretaries, Attendance Keepers
    - **Moderators:** musicians, performers, physical therapists, martial artists, etc. to provide activities throughout and in between heavy topic speakers
    - **Media:** Videographers and Photographers etc.

- **Documentation:** Reporters and Writers (poets, musicians or other literary and/or visual artists in this group)
  - **Security**
- Contact lists of all the attendees at all meetings/gatherings on all islands in order to maintain a mailing list, share photos, experiences and document etc. (To include name(s), addresses, numbers, and strengths as I added to the original list.)
- **Break-out groups:** The conference could be split into sections, for example, day 1 would cover Economic development and Agricultural development, day 2 would cover the cultural issues and bridging generation gaps and so on. After speakers for each topic have spoken, then breakout groups would bring closure to and solidify the topic. Within breakout groups solutions to the issues would be discussed and finally presented to all in attendance. Organizations or people who are in attendance would be appointed, in public, to take on certain tasks in order to ensure that the solutions are actively carried out. These appointed members would then schedule to meet at least monthly throughout the year. There would also need to be someone available to serve as "Chair" of each topic to track the progress of the organizations/people involved.
- There is definitely much room for the youth to be placed into the organization and coordination of the Afrikan Liberation Day events. Subjects that may appeal to the youth and, therefore, increase attendance are: **Revolution through Music and Fashion, Media and the Movement, Personalizing the Revolution, Police Brutality and the need for Community Defense, The Generational Communication Gap, Holistic Natural Healing, Cultural identity: How to release the status quo**

## FOOD

Having food at the event was enjoyable. A hungry people can not get work done effectively. We can work to reorganize that aspect so that next time, it is local food that we all can eat and be nourished from. We'll need to fundraise so that the food preparers will not have purchase the food out of their own resources and possibly even get compensated for the preparation.

## ENTERTAINMENT AFTER THE EVENT

The One Love concert following the meetings added a much needed aspect to the whole. Additionally, we have to remain mindful of which struggle we are fighting at all times. Simple things like the smoking of marijuana have been known to assist the so-called powers that think-they-be with disrupting our celebrations. Let's not give them any more ammunition to work with. We can enjoy ourselves without involving said drugs that are deemed illegal by the system in which we are currently operating under.

## NATURE INVOLVEMENT

Doing something in nature like the Ancestral hike, "was a good time to bond with each other, which is essential to any movement." I think something of this type should be planned as part of the ALD activities, annually along with our carrying over the energy of ALD into other local historical events like the Fortsberg Ancestral gathering on St. John, the Coal Carriers historical/ancestral tour on St. Thomas, Fireburn on St. Croix, etc.

June 2, 2008