



**Coalition for Africa's Liberation and Restoration**

May 25, 2020

Greetings and peace to you!

Please find below a **Declaration** from the Coalition for Africa's Liberation and Restoration (CALAR), urging Africans on the continent and in the diasporas, as we mark **Africa's Liberation Day on May 25** to wake up and claim their rights and dignity and protect their heritage from organized criminal agents. It calls on all to work to put an end to practices that bleeds Africa, and subjects Africans to all forms of indignities at home and abroad over the past five hundred years, while their heritage is turned over to strangers.

CALAR is a collaborative initiative of numerous groups on the continent and in the diasporas. We invite faith-based groups, civil society organizations, individuals and active groups who are ready to work to free Africa from the stranglehold that keeps Mama Africa's children in poverty conditions and restore her children to their endowed dignity, to join in this undertaking.

The situation is urgent and requires a sustained effort of all collaborators. We request that you disseminate this Declaration as wide as possible and call on others to do the same.

In peace and Justice,

*Aniedi Okure*

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For CALAR

## **A Declaration: Africa, Remember Who You Are**

*When Spider webs unite, they can tie up a lion* (Ethiopian Proverb)

On this **Africa Liberation Day May 25, 2020**, we, as people of faith and conscience, stand together in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis to lift up the ideals of Africa's liberation.

***Let us recognize and confidently assert the power and dynamism of Africa's people.*** The origins of the human family lie in Africa, the “cradle of humanity.” Africa's great universities, like the University of Timbuktu in Mali dating back to the 12th century, stand as powerful examples of the brilliance, innovation, and genius of African people. Women like Nzingha, fought for the liberation of her people from as early as the 1600's.

***Let us look inward and find our gold within.*** Currently home to over 1.3 billion people, Africa is leapfrogging, thanks to her innovation; from the *Ushahidi* platform to mobile banking perfected by African developers, *now* a much-needed lifeline given COVID-19's economic disruptions. COVID-19 has also spurred a revolution of new technologies—from solar powered hand washing stations *made in* Ghana, to Madagascar's promise of new treatment, and Senegal's test kits that are now saving lives throughout the continent. The global pandemic will continue to limit markets from other continents.

***Let us join forces to pursue economic justice now!*** These advances emerge despite a difficult context. The continent bleeds from resource exploitation, leaving its health systems fragile. Weak governance continues to expose Africa to organized criminal practices by foreign governments and multinationals who skillfully avoid taxes, manipulate prices, and limit opportunities for manufacturing. Africa loses more through illicit outflows to foreign governments and elites, than it gets from aid and foreign direct investment, combined. We assert that Africa's debt has been paid many times over. In fact, the world owes Africa and Africans reparations for the horrors of slavery, colonialism, apartheid, and ongoing resource exploitation. We believe a STRONGER, UNITED Africa and a better world is inevitable.

***Let us mobilize domestic resources to make universal healthcare a reality.*** Economic justice must include quality public healthcare for all. In April 2001, African Union member states agreed to allocate at least 15% of their annual budgets to health. Nearly 2 decades later, most countries have fallen far from the mark. COVID-19 is an opportunity to hit the reset button. We reject the push by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to privatize essential services—including health.

***Let us protect the planet and its people and democratize all essential services!*** We people of African descent have the power to build a better future. We demand full commitment to women and girls as leaders, entrepreneurs, and agents of change. We will not be fully free until we decolonize our minds and maximize the creativity of our youth. We must harness Africa's blessings of sun and wind to power new jobs, grow our own food, and drive a more just economic development model.

***Let us honor the sacrifices of our ancestors and demand leadership that puts the interests of the people first.*** We call upon the African Union, national leaders, faith-based institutions, social movements, civil societies, the diaspora and all people of good will to free ourselves from the shackles of oppression; break from the tutelage of the West and China; and promote accountability at all levels of human interaction.

We stand as a bridge to the blessings of future generations. Let us remain strong—as spider webs united, believing, and living our Creator endowed rights to dignity and justice.

Our Africa Liberation Day 2020 Call to Action – Let us Unite to Liberate Ourselves! – The Future is Ours!

*By the Coalition for Africa's Liberation and Restoration (CALAR)*