

AFRICAN STUDENTS UNION

February 4, : Day of Solidarity with the
people of Angola

As African students in the United States, the question that we constantly ask is whether the people of the United States seriously believe in the preamble of their constitution:

"All men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness, and when such rights are refused them over a long period of time by a government, the people have a right to overthrow such a government"

With such a fundamental permise inherent in the consitution of the United States, one would think that the United States would use all its might and wealth to fight oppression and dictatorship all over the world

Yet as far as Africa is concerned this definitely has not been true. Instead, we see the United States Government and American business coming together and using their resources to support all the fascist alien regimes in Africa - South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Portugal, which has continually insisted on retaining her colonies in Africa. This is made possible by the constant supply of Arms to Portugal by United States Government. Such weaponry has been used to supress the African peoples desire to control their own destiny.

February 4, marked the 9th year of Guerilla warfare in Angola. On this day in 1961 African nationalists in Launda, the capital of Angola, attacked the major political prison attempting to free the victims of an alien regime in their country. The attack was foiled when the Portuguese soldiers savagely and brutally mowed down the African people with machine guns supplied by the United States Government. It was this event that marked the beginning of armed struggle against foreign white rule in Southern Africa.

The fighting is still going on in Angola, Mozambique, Guinea - Bissau, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Portugal, however, refuses to give independence to its African colonies. And like the French in Vietnam and Algeria, is waging a brutal war, committing crimes that have not ocured before in human history. Portugal fights this war because she maintains the fallacy that her African colonies are parts of Portugal. Obviously any reasonable human being knows that no part of Africa can be part of Europe, geographically culturally or otherwise.

Citizens of America, we want to bring to your notice that without the support of the American Government and American business, Portugal would not be able to pursue or continue fighting the brutal and futile war.

Portugal is a member of NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization), an organization that is maintained by the United States Government.

This organization has consistently supplied arms to Portugal, despite the fact that it has been proven over and over again to the U. S. Government that such arms are used to murder Africans. The fighting ability of Portugal has further been enhanced by the discovery of oil in Angola by the Gulf Oil Company. The company has stated that Angola will shortly be among the top twenty oil producing countries of the world. However, the proceeds from Angolan oil, 20 million dollars, goes not to the people of Angola, but to the Portuguese Government. This amounts to half the budget the Portuguese use in suppressing the peoples of Angola.

Citizens of America, we appeal to you to condemn and protest this basic infringement of the right of all men to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness", a principle enshrined in the American constitution but accepted by peoples all over the world as a fundamental right. People, such as those in Angola and Mozambique are now struggling to obtain that fundamental right. The United States Government must not be allowed, by you American citizens to hinder such a struggle for liberty.

With such a fundamental principle inherent in the constitution of the United States, one would think that the United States would use all its might and wealth to fight oppression and dictatorship all over the world. Yet as far as Africa is concerned this definitely has not been true. Instead, we see the United States Government and American business coming together and using their resources to support all the fascist African regimes in Africa - South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and Portugal, which has continually insisted on retaining her colonies in Africa. This is made possible by the constant supply of arms to Portugal by United States Government. Such weaponry has been used to suppress the African peoples desire to control their own destiny.

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