

## MOTHER AFRICA, WHY DO YOU BLEED SO?

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### AFRICA, OH MOTHER AFRICA, WHY DO YOU BLEED SO?

You bled profusely many, many years ago as millions and millions were taken from deep down your womb by foreign slave traders, aided by your own. Shipped like cargo East, West and North and South across oceans, chain bound neck and foot, to be traded and possessed like common chattel for the convenience of the greater mortals?

You looked on helplessly like an invalid, as the West scrambled for ownership of your immense natural resources, endowing to themselves without guilt, what belonged to others.

And then you bled mercilessly from Cape to Cairo and from the West to the East, as thousands upon thousands of **“those wild, bloodthirsty and black terrorists”** were brutally murdered by champions of white supremacy. For how could just but chattels, aspire for the long cherished western ideal of self-determination and independence. How could they too, aspire for a preserve of only the civilised West and against western interests?

You bled yet again in Sharpeville, in Soweto and elsewhere in South Africa because of your color and this, as the powerful West looked on in amusement?

Then you bled from wounds inflicted by your own and against self. You bled from your own in Angola, Biafra, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and many more, for I, the Communist or Capitalist and not the other, should be king?

You bled uncontrollably in Rwanda as the Hutus butchered the Tutsis to near extinction, while the Priest massacred his own congregation. And all this, as the World looked on, arms akimbo.

You bled in Sierra Leone, in Liberia, as sons raped their own mothers and sisters and short-sleeved each other.

You bled in Bunia as the Lendu and Hema sons macheted their own siblings; for how dare they speak a different tongue?

You bled in Darfur, even as Egalland warned of genocide. At least this time, the World **‘acted’, debating!** Genocide! What are you talking about? Genocide! Not according to the UN Convention. Genocide! A few thousands more! Genocide? At long last, the target is achieved, more than 300,000 dead. And then the World leapt into action, sending a paltry ill equipped force to police an area the size of France.

Today you continue to bleed endlessly; from your mouth, your ears, your nose and indeed from every part of your body. You bleed from wounds inflicted by bounty hunters, foreign and shamelessly, your own. You bleed in South Sudan, in Congo DR, in the Central African Republic (CAR), in Nigeria, in Somalia, in Sudan, in Uganda, in Mali, in Kenya and many more others.

You bleed because of ignorance, disease, hunger, poverty and paradoxically, even amidst and indeed because of plenty. Drought in Somalia, thirst in Niger; floods in Mozambique; oil in Nigeria; diamonds in Sierra Leone; gold in South Africa and of course, every mineral in Congo DR.

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You bleed from preventable causes if only any one cared? You bleed from hunger and malnutrition in Somalia, South Sudan, Mauritania, amid bumper harvests elsewhere. You bleed as millions and millions of lives are lost from killer malaria, amidst un-imaginable scientific and technological innovations and advances elsewhere. And as if this was not enough, you bleed as that scourge HIV Aids; poison deliberately laced on food, mercilessly decimates millions in Sub Saharan Africa. For how dare they eat food!

You bleed while foreign investors plunder your resources for a song and as you continue happily, to provide slave labour to them.

You bleed as eighty seven per cent of your population wallows in poverty with millions unable to read or write.

You bleed as the purported elected '*servants*' of the oppressed take advantage of the very poverty and ignorance to plunder at will, billions and

billions of dollars, aided by the Western banks, to whom the anti-money laundering rules must not apply!.

You bleed because of the sin of religious belonging, the sin of color, the sin of tribe and or the sin of ethnicity. Indeed you bleed from every inconceivable and myopic excuse.

You bleed even with the best; Julias Mwalimu Nyerere, Kwame Nkrumah, Kenneth Kaunda, Abdel Nasser and that Giant of a man, the late Nelson Madiba Mandela.

One can only hope and continue to hope that, that one day will come when you will stop bleeding. The time when the plundering, the ignorance, the disease, the hunger, the poverty will cease because they are no more. The day, when the sleeping giant will have awoken and taken its rightful place in the World.

Long live Africa and best wishes as you commemorate your freedom day.