



OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA REGARDING THE IVORY COAST

We, the undersigned, are writing to express our most profound outrage about your Administration's active support for the murderous attacks of the French-led, foreign invasion force on the people of Côte d'Ivoire. Even if the reports of the Western-controlled media are to be believed, the scale of the bestial brutality unleashed against the people of Côte d'Ivoire is horrendous. According to the latest report, at least 1,200 people were slaughtered in Duékoué by the partisans of your candidate, Alassane Ouattara—the man who you personally urged the people of Ivory Coast to accept as their president, although the highest court of the country, the Conseil Constitutionnel, declared his opponent, Laurent Gbagbo the winner of the presidential election. Those murderers acting on behalf of Ouattara, trained, armed, or transported by the French, the Americans and the United Nations, have organized in gangs responsible for spreading sheer terror among the inhabitants of Ivory Coast, killing, raping, disemboweling, plundering mercilessly. Furthermore, during the night of April 6, 2011, over 2,300 innocent, weaponless civilians were killed by French and Onuci reckless and irresponsible bombings of Abidjan, the capital city of Ivory Coast. The residence of Laurent Gbagbo himself was targeted: according to reports from witnesses, what seems to be tons of bombs have been dropped on his house in a cold, cynical and premeditated attempt to kill him and his family. For over a week now, life in Abidjan has lost any semblance of normalcy, with people hiding inside, unable to secure basic necessities, as they live in fear for their life and further random attacks.

Although your discourse, President Obama, or that of your friend Nicolas Sarkozy, the very unpopular president of France, would have us believe that U.S. and French support for Ouattara and opposition to President Gbagbo are dictated by a desire to protect and nurture "democracy," and "freedom," we can no longer be fooled by such empty and hypocritical rhetoric. It is clear to us that we are, once again, confronted with pretext and plunder, with revenge and retaliation against African independence, and with the vile intent to create a new, more mobile and agile neo-colonialism, one based on the firm intent to deny African people the right to make decisions in their own best interest, and to benefit their own natural resources.

While in Accra, Ghana, in July 2009, Mr. President, you boldly stated that "We must start from the simple premise that Africa's future is up to Africans." And you further added that history was on the side of "those brave Africans" who fight for true freedom, "not with those who use coups or change Constitutions to stay in power." "Africa," you concluded, "doesn't need strongmen, it needs strong institutions. America will not seek to impose any system of government on any other nation — the essential truth of democracy is that each nation determines its own destiny." Your speech generated great hope and enthusiasm among those who wanted to believe that your words were sincere; among those who wanted to believe that finally, in the most powerful Western nation, African humanity would not be denied any further, thus finally breaking from a long and tragic past, replete with complete contempt for African lives and freedom. We wanted to believe, President Obama, that your evocation of your father's and grandfather's experiences in Kenya were more than a rhetorical device to get us to lower their guards. Yet, less than two years later, we have no choice but to conclude that your professed consideration for the integrity of national institutions, and for the Africans' right and responsibility to govern themselves was nothing but another deceitful trick to further the American empire and white racial supremacy. Once again, African liberty is trampled upon, with complete deliberation and cynicism. This time, Mr. President, with your full endorsement. And it is a shame.

Earlier this week, what many had feared became reality when French Special Forces, with the full approval of your Administration, realized a coup, and illegally kidnapped President Gbagbo and his family, including his grandchildren. Degrading images of Laurent Gbagbo in his underwear, at the time of his capture, were quickly circulated all around the world, all in an attempt to diminish and ridicule an African head of state, and through him, a whole continent. President Gbagbo and his companions, as you know, Mr. President, were then turned over to Alassane Ouattara's supporters. We fear that President Gbagbo and his family will be tortured and then summarily executed, all in the name of "democracy," and "liberty." Or maybe a mockery of trial will be organized, with trumped up charges, and the President's guilt a foregone conclusion. However, whatever scenario the West and its African puppets select, the outcome will be disastrous for Africa, and for Ivory Coast more particularly, as further chaos and devastation will spread. But, it will also be disastrous for you, Mr. President, for make no mistake: Africans, all over the Continent and the Diaspora, are yearning for real change, and real freedom; for genuine respect for our humanity and our institutions; and for many, Laurent Gbagbo is a true hero. For those who will have colluded for his demise, they will only have scorn, and they shall never forgive nor forget. Laurent Gbagbo and his family members must be immediately released for the sake of peace and justice. Otherwise, you will have to bear the responsibility of creating greater and unnecessary African suffering, and your hands will be covered with African blood—the blood that runs in your veins, remember?

Sincerely In Opposition,

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| Garvey Musumunu | Eva M. Keith | Ana Yenenga, | Segun Shabaka | Brother Saladin |
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