

APDUSA

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SHAME ON YOU MR MANDELA!!

It was with utter disbelief that millions witnessed Mr. Nelson Mandela assure that mass murderer, George Bush, the US President, that he supported him in the tracking down and flushing out of so-called terrorists. This is a dishonest way of describing the rape and violation of Afghanistan, a small and weak sovereign country which has done no harm to the U.S.

For the sake of record we repeat those shameful words:

"It would be disastrous if the president gave in to the call that the army must now withdraw before he has

actually flushed out the terrorists...I support him to continue until those terrorists have been tracked down."

Mr Mandela does not bother to explain why it would be disastrous if there was a cessation of the bombing during the Muslim Holy month of Ramadhan. Nor was an explanation tendered for whom it would be disastrous if the bombing was suspended. But it is common sense that a suspension of the bombing would have meant heavenly respite for the poor, the weak, the defenceless and most importantly, the innocent.

The whole world knows that the reason given for the naked aggression against Afghanistan was to " smoke out " Osama Bin Laden and his "Al Qaeeda terrorists". And the whole also knows that after weeks of extremely savage bombing , not one so called terrorist was flushed out or tracked down and captured.This, notwithstanding the use of the giant B-52 planes dropping bombs weighing 25000 lbs and the not-so-smart-after-all smart bombers each of which cost over R10 000 000 000,00(10 billion rand). Instead, thousands of innocent Afghans have had to flee their homes; hundreds, if not thousands, killed and injured; entire families were wiped out. Buildings, hospitals, roads, fields, and homes were pounded into smithereens.

According to Mr.Mandela it would be disastrous to put an end to the carnage and diabolical destruction of persons and their wretched (but precious to them) belongings!!

These shameful words were uttered at a time when there was a growing outcry against the taking of innocent lives and the indiscriminate bombing. Even from the United States, conscious, compassionate and fair-minded persons began publicly criticising the Bush Administration. Yet Mr. Mandela, who has not disputed when called "the moral conscience of the world", nor when called "the Father of the South African Nation" could not spare a single word for the

murdered innocents of Afghanistan. On the contrary, to save the innocents would amount to DISASTER!

It is ironical that a person who has been branded as a terrorist for a large part of his adult life, should use that epithet against the enemies of imperialism. Neither Mandela nor the likes of Bush have ever paused and explained, firstly to themselves, and then to their followers, what it is they have in mind when they call people "terrorists". Are terrorists those people who use violence against others to achieve certain objectives? If that is so, then the biggest terrorist in the world is the United States of America.

When Mandela and the ANC were called "terrorists" by the oppressive regime of the past and the same United States of America, there was a vociferous denial by the ANC. They asserted that they were "freedom fighters". The truth of the matter is that the "terrorist" label was simply used as a swear word to damn and demonise people fighting for their liberation. Under the notorious Terrorism Act of 1967 passed by the Nationalist Party, a person became a "Terrorist" even if he or she called for a boycott of a government institution.

We believe that Mandela ran to Bush in his well known posture, namely, cap in hand, for favours. The Burundi Peace effort in which Mandela invested much time and in which he staked his reputation, is floundering. Mandela was somewhat prematurely praised and honoured for the Peace Accords. There is no peace in Burundi and Mandela wants out. As he quaintly put it: "I am no longer the peace facilitator. I am the moral guarantor." He wants to salvage his name and reputation as the "Great Statesman". He, therefore, went to Bush for the latter's support for the idea that the United Nations should step into Burundi to save/implement the Peace Accords. He appears to have already forgotten the cowardly and despicable role played by the United Nations in facilitating the genocide that took place in Rwanda?

To truckle up to Bush, Mandela made those shameful and outrageous remarks. He wants to save his reputation as a statesman at the expense of the people of Afghanistan. His reputation is more important to him than the cold-blooded murder of innocent Afghans.

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the rape of Afghanistan. History will harshly judge Bush, the Butcher of Afghanistan and and his blockman, Tony Blair.

Mr. Mandela will not be spared.

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