

***ALFREDO**

Our blood united
in the fight against
the beast
that preys
for profit

our sinew entwined
in the struggle for
peace
from power
through plunder
and privilege
through pillage

our nerve knit together
in the war against
insanity
Managua
Huambo
The Golan
Georgetown
San Salvador
Matola
assaults
to halt the progress of
humanity

Makeni
Harare
Gaborone
Guguletu
Soweto
Maseru...

Alfredo
humano
Alfredo
you fell on the soil of Angola
slain by the beast
so desperate to defeat
advancement and peace
in its twisted tentacle
trapped with greed
you heroically performed
your final deed

Alfredo
Cubano
compatriot and friend
your courage drawn
from our joint just cause
your pursuit relentless
without any pause

our spirit is one
enduring through time
embalming your life
enshrining our future
Alfredo's
Cuquita's
future flourishing
from the seed of your death
nourishing
the hungry and oppressed
future forged
through our unity in action
unfolding
the laws of transformation

Ofelia
humana
compatriota e amiga
your lifeblood was drained away

transfused
you now rise triumphant
strengthened and steeled
in the struggle
your flesh fused forever
in the fight for mankind
the fusion you had with Alfredo
eternally etched
in our hearts and our minds
the love we all share for
Alfredo

Zarina Carim

***ALFREDO ARMANTAROS served in the Cuban diplomatic mission in Lusaka between 1978 and 1982 where he became close friends with the ANC; later posted to serve alongside MPLA as a soldier in the Cuban army. On the eve of his return to Cuba, in 1984, he was killed in an ambush near Huambo. He had just turned 28. His wife Ofelia and two children now live in Havana.**