
APDUSA VIEWS

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QUICK TO HONOUR; QUICK TO DISHONOUR

Introduction.

It is one of the many abuses of power by a majority led ANC government. This is when numbers alone count. Principles and fairplay are flushed down the toilet.

I refer to the obscene haste to change names of places, streets and buildings with the names of those persons regarded as heroes by the ANC.

Equally obscene is the number of times the name of a single “hero” is used. Leading the race is the name of Mr Nelson Mandela.

I have not heard him say once: “No more! Enough!”

Is the ANC short of “heroes” that it has to use the same names over and over again?

Case No.1 - The Walter Sisulu University

In their desperation to change names, there are cases when inoffensive names are removed to make way for a “hero’s” name. This was the case of the University of Transkei – “Unitra”. It was altered to “Walter Sisulu University”. We do not know the late Mr Sisulu’s link with the Transkei. We know that he was born there and grew up in that area. But he spent most of his adult life in Johannesburg (i.e. when he was not in prison)

We could understand, though not necessarily agreeing, if that honour had gone to the late Mr Govan Mbeki because of his political activity in the Transkei.

Anyway, the University of Transkei became the Walter Sisulu University

During October 2007, a scandal erupted at the Walter Sisulu University. The gist of the scandal was that a Bachelor of Commerce degree offered by that University was not accredited by the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA)

Certain pertinent facts:

1. Students enrolling for that degree WERE NOT WARNED that that degree was not accredited with SAICA.
2. Students were not warned that firms of Chartered Accountants and Auditors were unlikely to give the students with that degree articles of clerkship leading to them becoming Chartered Accountants.
3. Students were not warned that in order to prepare themselves for the honours degree they would have to spend an extra year of study!!
4. Many students enrolled for that degree in the belief that after completion, they would be absorbed by the firms of chartered accountants as articulated clerks!
5. Many students had to learn the hard way that their degree would not assist them to obtain articles when they made application for articles of clerkship.
6. Graduates with that second class degree were forced to repeat the third year or do a bridging course
7. The Walter Sisulu University authorities acted with criminal irresponsibility towards its students and to the paying parents in failing to warn/or correctly advise them.

“Dr Fake!”¹

As if the matter of the sub standard Accounting degree was not scandal enough, another scandal erupted involving the Walter Sisulu University Council Chairman, “Dr” Somadoda Fikeni.

¹ This title appeared in the “Noseweek”

Briefly, it transpired that “Dr”Fikeni did not earn the doctorate which he claimed to have received from the Michigan State University. The spokesperson of the Walter Sisulu University, Ms Karuna Gopaul, sought to douse the flames by claiming that a doctorate was not a prerequisite for the position of chairmanship of the Council. Ms Karuna Gopaul is either a fool or an incompetent spin doctor in seeking to sidetrack the real issue. While a doctorate may not be a prerequisite for chairmanship of the Council, the attributes of honesty and integrity most definitely are.²

Conclusion:

Mr Walter Sisulu spent his entire adult life for what he believed was the cause of freedom. He sought nothing for himself. No foundations! No mansions! No glory! No immortality! Yet in death, his name has been dragged in the mud. All those students with that “worthless” degree; all those parents who have had to sweat and labour to pay the fees and other heavy expenses can only have curses for the Walter Sisulu University.

The man, when alive, gave nobody, except the security police, cause to curse him. Yet in death, those who in haste sought to honour him, did not guard and cherish that name.

The curses should be heaped on the heads of those who dishonoured his name.

Case No.2 – The O R Tambo Airport

² All the information about Fikeni was obtained from “Dispatchonline_blogs dated 6 March 2008

A few days after the completion of the above article, the writer came across what the daily newspaper “The Witness” called a “kak”³ list by Grant Schreiber⁴.

In this list features the “OR Tambo International Airport.” It is best quoted in full:

“For all the controversy about renaming the airport, “Oliver Tambo would probably not wanted his name attached to it simply because it is now associated with incompetence, corruption and general kakness. And this is first impression of the country for countless visitors.”

It has become a standing warning from airport officials that one should guard one’s luggage in the OR Tambo Airport against blatant theft.

We now hear that there is change in the air port security company in the hope of dealing with wholesale theft and plundering of passengers’ luggage.

We suspect that the change has been necessitated by 2010 and not to remove Tambo’s name from dishonour.

Case No. 3 – Professor Sibusiso Nyembezi

Pietermaritzburg or Msunduzi Municipality chose to honour one of its most distinguished citizens, Professor Sibusiso Nyembezi, by naming one of its building, formerly named the Symon Centre after him.

Professor Nyembezi spent his adult life serving the country, inter alia, as a dedicated educationist, scholar (he was awarded four doctorates), a writer and an editor of the publishing house of Shooter and Shuter.

³ According to the Encarta Dictionary, “kak” is a highly offensive word originating in Afrikaans and literally meaning excrement.

⁴ “The Witness” 18 December 2007 page 9

Symon Centre was so called because it was located in a tiny street called Symon Street. We do not know who or what Symond is/was. It certainly was not the name of some notorious oppressor or racist. The nondescript nature of its name did not save it from a name purge.

The Professor Nyembezi Centre accommodates businesses like Checkers, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Hungry Lion, Chicken Inn. The higher floors are the Municipal offices and very significantly the health department!⁵

At the basement or underground is a taxi rank, i.e. a kombi rank for some 500 kombis.

According to Bongani Hans:

“The underground taxi rank has become a mess and health hazard with crumbling sewerage pipes and commuters and minibus employees who urinate against the walls...

Even the toilets are dirty and they produce an unbearable smell that spreads across the rank. This smell overpowers the smell of dagga which is smoked freely by taxi drivers and conductors in the rank.”

The Professor Sibusiso Nyembezi Centre is the property of the Msunduzi Municipality which is ANC controlled and dominated. It is therefore a public asset and the duty of maintenance and cleanliness of which rests with the ANC controlled Council.

And what is the Health Department situated in this Centre of shame doing about the unrestrained and flagrant violation of the Health Laws and basic tenets of cleanliness going on literally under its nose?

Nothing!

⁵ These details and what follows are from a comprehensive article by Bongani Hans which appeared in “The Echo” of the 23rd February 2008

We have been told by Mr Bongani Hans in clear and hard-hitting language how the ANC has discharged its duty to honour Professor Nyembesi.

Second Conclusion:

We have seen how the name and honour of people regarded as heroes by the people have been linked to shame and infamy. The indecent haste to change names and grab the occasion for benefit of ANC members or persons chosen by the ANC is matched only by their swift disregard and shameful neglect for the persons honoured.

Common decency demands that when you choose to name a building, place or facility after a person who has made a significant contribution to the cause of liberation or to the upliftment of the community, there is a sacred obligation on you to regard that building or facility as a hallowed place. The respect and reverence demanded of you must manifest itself in ensuring that the place be kept in a spotless condition. Where possible it must be adorned with a garden of beautiful flowers; where it is possible, to hang works of art produced in the local community. Circumstances permitting, pleasing pieces of music be played. The ambience of the place must be such that it will strike the visitor immediately that there is something special about the place that has made it an object of such great pride and care.

What in fact has happened in the three instances mentioned above is tantamount to the *desecration* of the memories of the very people whom it was intended to honour.



Inside Guantánamo with Detainee 061⁶

By

Mariah Blake, Mother Jones.

{This article is from The ALTERNET: "Rights and Duties" where it was posted on April 2 2008}

The Pentagon knew that Murat Kurnaz was an innocent man at Guantánamo Bay, but they kept him there for five years anyway. This is his story.

IT WAS LATE September 2002, and construction crews were just finishing work on the main prison camp at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, when three German intelligence agents arrived on the island aboard a U.S. military plane.

The reason for their visit was sensitive. The Pentagon was still arguing that those held at Guantánamo were "the worst of the worst" and "the most dangerous, best-trained, vicious killers on the face of the Earth," but behind closed doors CIA officials were coming to the conclusion that a number of detainees had no links to terrorism, and were working on a list of prisoners to be set free.

One of the detainees being considered for release was Murat Kurnaz, a German-born Turkish citizen who had been pulled off a bus in Pakistan the year before and turned over to U.S. forces. Since then, American security agencies hadn't turned up any evidence that he belonged to a terrorist group or posed a threat to the United States. But before clearing his release, the CIA wanted the Germans to interrogate him and offer their stamp of approval.

⁶ We have reproduced the article without making any grammatical or spelling correction. - Editor

After they arrived, the agents were led out to a trailer near the dusty sprawl of cell blocks known as Camp Delta. Inside, the air conditioner was on full blast, and Kurnaz, a stocky young man with blunt features and a thick red beard, was seated on one side of a long table, his hands and feet shackled to a ring in the floor.

The men took turns questioning him--about the nightclubs he frequented in his wilder years, about his reasons for embracing Islam, about his journey to Pakistan and the heavy boots he bought before leaving--while a hidden camera rolled in the background.

All told, they spent 12 hours with him over two days, concluding by the end that he simply found himself "in the wrong place at the wrong time" and "had nothing to do with terrorism and al-Qaida," according to German intelligence reports.

They discussed their findings with CIA and Pentagon officials, then boarded a plane back to Germany. During a stopover in Washington, D.C., one of the agents visited the local branch of Germany's foreign intelligence service, the BND, and reported back to headquarters via a secure phone line, saying: "USA considers Murat Kurnaz's innocence to be proven. He should be released in approximately six to eight weeks." A few days later, a Pentagon release form for the detainee was printed and awaiting signature.

"At that point, the picture was clear," says Lothar Jachmann, a retired spy who headed the intelligence-gathering operation on Kurnaz for Germany's domestic intelligence agency, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, and was

briefed on the Guantánamo visit by one of the agents. "We had nothing on him, and we had gotten feedback that the Americans had nothing on him either. The plan was to let him go."

But Kurnaz was not set free. Instead, he spent another four years languishing at Guantánamo, where he was repeatedly designated an "enemy combatant," despite evidence showing he had no known links to terrorist groups.

Lawyers for Guantánamo detainees often argue that their clients are being held based on thin intelligence, but Kurnaz's case is the first where the record clearly shows that evidence of innocence was ignored to justify his continued detention. His story, pieced together from intelligence reports, newly declassified Pentagon documents, and secret testimony before the German Parliament -- much of it never before reported in the United States -- offers a rare window into the workings of the secretive system used to hold and try terrorism suspects.

MURAT KURNNAZ, the son of Turkish immigrants, was born and raised in Bremen, a rainy north German port city, where he lived with his family in a simple brick row house. His father, Metin, worked the assembly line at a Mercedes Benz plant, while his mother, Rabiye, stayed home with him and his two younger brothers. On Fridays he and his father attended the neighborhood Kuba Mosque, a storefront sanctuary with a barbershop, bookstore, and cavernous teahouse where old men in crocheted skullcaps huddle around plastic tables.

Mosque-goers remember Kurnaz as a shy, quiet boy who didn't take much interest in religion. "He was a normal Muslim Turk, who prayed once in a while, but was not very observant," says Nurtekin Tepe, a local bus driver, who has known Kurnaz since he was a child. Instead, Kurnaz spent his time watching Bruce Lee movies, dreaming about motorbikes (he hoped to get one and drive it 110 miles per hour on the autobahn), and lifting weights, often with his neighbor, Selcuk Bilgin, who had many of the same interests, though he was six years older.

This began to change in the fall of 2000. Kurnaz, then 18, was working as a nightclub bouncer; Bilgin had a dead-end job at a supermarket. Some of their friends had started getting in trouble with the law. Feeling there must be something more to life, both men began to take a deeper interest in Islam. Before long, they had cut pork from their diets, grown their beards long, and started attending a new mosque, Abu Bakr, which was located in a dingy, fluorescent-lit office building near Bremen's main train station and preached a strict brand of Sunni Islam.

Dieter Schmied

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I watched his interview on 60 Minutes this past Sunday. Listening to his story and reading it here anew leads me to the conclusion that Bush, Cheney and their neocon zionofascist gang deserve more than anyone else to spend the rest of their lives in conditions similar to those of the detainees in Gitmo. They are the worst terrorists the world has ever seen.

do you think this could happen to Y-O-U?

[\[Report this comment\]](#)

Posted by: jwpa13 on Apr 2, 2008 4:05 PM

Current rating: **5** [1 = poor; 5 = excellent]

The only answer is, Y-E-S.

Who will stop these assholes?
CLINTON? OBAMA?

OH yeah, it must be MCCAIN.

AT LAST! A PLACE IN HISTORY ASSURED.

President Thabo Mbeki has striven without rest to earn a place in history. In the short time he has been in government, he has had three biographies about himself written. Leaving aside the quality of the biographies, one thing is clear; he does have a high opinion of himself. Hence the biographies. He wants to be remembered as a visionary who will leave no stone unturned in pursuit of the African Renaissance. He also wants to be remembered as a leading intellectual who is also a man of letters and a lover of literature and poetry.

Mr Mbeki need not worry. He has already earned himself a place in history, but not in section of reserved for great men who have made their contribution in the field of human progress and advancement. His place will be in the other section reserved for history's villains who by their deeds and attitudes have caused untold suffering of innocent people. He has already carved himself a place in that section for his HIV Aids denialist position which has caused the death of many thousands of South Africans.

He will also be remembered for his undignified defeat in the race for the presidency of the ANC by a candidate who has no university degrees and who does not quote Yeats and Shakespeare and whose contribution to the field of arts is limited to the guerrilla song: "Umshini wami".

But most of all history will assure him of a position equal to that of the Queen of France Marie Antoinette. This lady is reputed to have responded to the cry of the poor for bread with the words:

"The people want bread. Let them eat cake."

We do not know whether she had actually uttered these words. But they were consistent with her character of indifference to the suffering of her people and her own life of numerous vices.

Thabo Mbeki has found himself a place in history right next to Marie Antoinette for the callous, insensitive and dishonest statement he made when asked about the crisis in Zimbabwe. His response was:

“There is no crisis.”

This, at a time when in Zimbabwe:

- The inflation rate exceeds 100 000%
- 80% of the population is unemployed
- About three million Zimbabweans have fled to South Africa and surrounding countries to escape starvation
- The life expectancy in this once thriving country has plummeted to 34 years for males and 37 for females.⁷
- the police and military are standing ready to crush any opposition
- The Electoral commission engages in deliberate prevarication in announcing results and after more than two weeks since voting ended the public has not yet been told of results of the presidential poll.
- The deliberate delay in announcing the presidential election results has generated nationwide tension. The people of Zimbabwe had hoped that by casting their votes there would be a radical change and hope of economic recovery and prosperity.
- The army, police and the militia have been called out to crush any act of defiance.

⁷ According to Professor Terri Barnes of UWC, the life expectancy of a female Zimbabwean is 34 years (Mail and Guardian Online 16th April 2008).

If her figure is valid, then it means that the life expectancy of a male will be less than 34 years.

