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Ghanaian Minister Helps African Americans Discover Their Roots



Pastor Kodjoe and Salome Sumney - By Manny Otiko — Dr. Kodjoe Sumney is a person who truly fits the word African American. Born in Ghana, Sumney travels back and forth between the United States and Africa conducting short-term mission trips through his non-profit organization Mission Africa 2000, which is based in San Bernardino. He is also on a mission to bridge the gap between native-born Africans and African Americans.

Sumney is due to return to America in July to prepare for his seventh annual mission trip to Ghana, from Oct. 17-26 and Oct. 26- Nov.2.

This year Mission Africa will send five different teams. In addition to the trips planned for October and November, mission teams were also in Ghana, from Feb. 1-10, Feb.15-26 and June 24-26.

"There is a great gap between Africans and African Americans that needs to be bridged," Sumney said via e-mail from Ghana. " There is no communication on either side. Africans were taken to the Diaspora for the betterment of the slave master. Now that they have learnt a lot they should come

home and use what they have learned to build the continent of Africa just as Korean or Chinese Americans are doing."

Since 2000 Sumney has taken more than 250 African Americans to their ancestral home. The Mission Africa 2000 team ministers to people, builds schools and donates medication, books, clothes and computers. Sumney said the long-term goal is to establish a rehabilitation center for troubled African American youths. Sumney has also acquired hundreds of acres of land and is building the Returned City Resorts where many African Americans are constructing homes.

"The reaction of African Americans when they get to Ghana or Africa is surprising," he said. "They have been lied to and now understand that Africa is a lovely place to stay or do business. Africans are very God-fearing, especially Ghanaians."

Sumney says that the Ghanaian government has been very supportive of his project. He recently collaborated with the Ghanaian government on the third annual Prayer Conference, for good governance, which was held in May.

"The government is excited and encouraging people to come back and invest or give back their experiences," he said. "Also Ghana was the port where many slaves left for the New World, so this is a way of filling the vacuum that was created," Sumney added.

Sumney is hopeful that African Americans can follow the examples of immigrant groups in the United States who return to build their ancestral homelands. "They must be open minded," he said. "Korean, Chinese and Mexican Americans give to their countries. African Americans are also expected to come back to Africa and help build the continent as Jews for example Jews have done for Israel."

Several African Americans are going to Ghana with Sumney to celebrate the nation's 50th year of independence. Ghana was the first African country to obtain independence under the leadership of Dr. Kwame Nkrumah. Mission Africa Inc. plans to organize "The Diaspora Banquet Of Development" to honor African Americans and the Diaspora in Accra, the capital of Ghana.

"A lot of pastors, church leaders, investors, musicians, community leaders and human rights activist have registered to go," Sumney said. "This will be great to see African Americans and Africans come together in the motherland where it all began." For more information about Mission Africa 2000 call the project coordinator at 909-874-4429, 909-644-9055 or 909-238-6891.

The e-mail address is missionafricainc@yahoo.com. You can also visit them on line at their web site

<http://www.missionafricainc.org/>. (Writer Manny Otiko is a social critic and co-creator, along with his brother Chris, of the "Ghetto Fabulous" cartoon strip (www.gfabtoons.com). He also edits his own blog at http://otiko_30.blogspot.com)

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Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger Rides Into The Election Spotlight At The Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo

The Governor, Serving As Grand Marshall, Also Meets With California Black Media To Address Equal Education, Small Business Assistance Programs, and Prison Reform



Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger shows the appreciative crowd at the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo that he needs no double to stride his stuff on a horse. The popular event that highlights the modern-day feats and the history of Black cowboys was held at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center last Saturday. Photo courtesy of PhotoVision

BURBANK, CA (CBMA) July 17, 2006 – State advertising and outreach, prison reform, education, bi-partisan voting, and small business assistance, were just some of the issues addressed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger when he met with over 20 members of the California Black Media (CBMA) before the Bill Pickett Invitational Rodeo held at the Los Angeles Equestrian Center on Saturday.

The briefing allowed CBMA owners, editors, and representatives an opportunity to engage in conversation with the Governor on issues of importance to the African-American community and Black media industry. On the subject of education, the governor said everyone should have equal access and dedicated more than \$55 billion to education to better equalize educational opportunities for all

communities. In expressing his commitment to equal access he pointed to his action to settle the Williams lawsuit when he came into office to ensure students in underserved communities have the teachers, textbooks and classrooms they need.

The class action suit claimed State agencies failed to provide public school students with equal access to instructional materials, safe and decent school facilities, and qualified teachers. The settlement agreement and legislative proposals requires all students have access to the same educational experience, regardless of neighborhood. The legislation, signed by the Governor in 2004, establishes standards, provides financial assistance to repair low performing schools, and requires facilities inspections.

When asked about his thoughts on rehabilitation as a significant component of prison reform, the Governor informed CBMA members that a special session is being called in Sacramento in August to address the issue. He further commented that he would like to see facilities created specifically to transition non-violent offenders in order to prepare them to re-enter society and decrease their chances of being re-offenders.

On the subject of small business support, the Governor pointed to his comprehensive workers' compensation reform package which slashed premiums by up to 40 percent and his executive order requiring that 25 percent of state contracts be granted to small businesses.

President of the CBMA, Hardy L. Brown, commended the Governor on accepting his invitation to address the group. "The

Governor connected with the Black media in his desire to see that our community is not left out when it comes to education, small business development, and rehabilitation to combat recidivism.”

“This is a step in the right direction if we, as community media, are to provide our readers and listeners with information that will impact their lives from Sacramento,” Brown continued.

The mission of the CBMA is to develop and nurture governmental and political alliances for the betterment of the African-American community and media industry in California. Since its inception, the CBMA has launched an ongoing “fair share” initiative targeting state departments that advertise and outreach to the African American community; held numerous political and informational briefings across the state, negotiated state-wide advertising buys, and hosted a legislative day in Sacramento. We plan to have other briefings with the Governor and other statewide elected leaders,” Brown concluded, “After all he is the governor for all of us, regardless of party affiliation.”

The event, organized by BPC MediaWorks on behalf of CBMA, was sponsored by Southern California Edison, Time Warner Cable, Black Contractors Association of the Inland Empire, Southern California Gas Company and Chino Hills Ford.

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By Allowing White Racists in the Military, We’re Training Domestic Terrorists



By Judge Greg Mathis, *(left)* Commentary, Black America Web.com— White supremacists believe that the white race is superior to all others and have used their beliefs to discriminate against those that didn’t share their same ethnic or religious backgrounds. The U.S. government, realizing that such ideologies threaten the health of our country, has spoken out against such groups. In fact, 10 years ago, the Department of Defense made it clear that anyone subscribing to extreme separatist beliefs was not welcome in the U.S. military.

But, with wars waging in Iraq and Afghanistan, the military is spread thin and desperate to recruit new soldiers. So desperate, in fact, that they are willing to overlook the growing number of white supremacists that have joined the military in the last few years. As long as they are willing to train hard and fight for their country, these new recruits are accepted into the armed forces.

Unfortunately, these newly-minted soldiers aren’t really in the military to defend the U.S. They are actually, in their minds, training for the race wars that they believe will inevitably take place.

These future domestic terrorists are learning much of their trade at the expense of taxpayers, many of whom they will eventually rise up against.

According to a study recently released by the Southern Poverty Law Center, extremists enter the military purposefully — they want to learn combat techniques and want access to weapons, all with the ultimate goal of initiating race wars here in the U.S.

Considering the military the perfect training ground, white supremacy groups encourage their members to enlist.

Military personnel quoted in the report say that there are several hundred known extremists in the military. They are spread across the different branches of the military, yet manage to communicate with each other about weapons and recruiting new members. One officer based in Fort Lewis, Washington noted that there are 320 white supremacists at the base; only two have been discharged to date.

The military has always had extremists in their ranks. In 1961, then-President John F. Kennedy reprimanded an Army general for passing out extremist materials to his troops. In 1979, 20 Klu Klux Klan members were uncovered on a Navy aircraft carrier. And, in 1995, Army veteran and Bronze star winner Timothy McVeigh killed 169 people when he set off a bomb in an Oklahoma City federal building.

McVeigh along with his accomplice, Terry Nichols, also a veteran, was an anti-government extremist; the bombing was inspired by a neo-Nazi novel that McVeigh actually encouraged other soldiers to read while he was in the Army.

Extremists present a serious threat to both their fellow soldiers and to the public at large. Ethnic soldiers not only have to worry about dying in combat, but they also have to worry about being the potential victim of their fellow soldier’s racially-motivated acts.

Once their tour of duty is up, these white supremacists are back in society, more violent than before and, now, with an intimate knowledge of guns and explosives.

The U.S. government can’t sit around, waiting for the next Timothy McVeigh to reveal himself. By identifying and discharging known extremists from the military, we can stop future domestic terrorists in their tracks. Taxpayer dollars should not pay for White Supremacy Boot Camp. The military is supposed to protect all of America, not train those who plan to wreak havoc on its

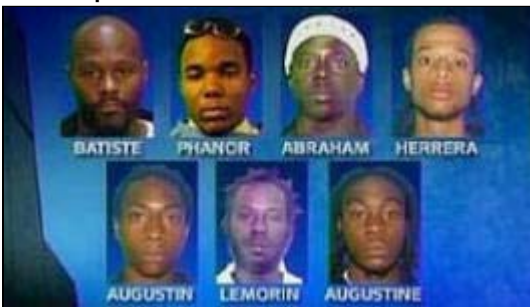
citizens. July 14, 2006. (Judge Greg Mathis is national vice president of Rainbow PUSH and a national board member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.)

[Editors Note: For more on this issue, go on line to related articles: "Will we get back on track or not? - In our opinion"-07-13-2006, <http://www.annistonstar.com/opinion/2006/as-editorials-0713-0-6g13b4441.htm> ; "Rape, killings of Iraqis called 'tip of the iceberg'", <http://www.pww.org/article/articleview/9470/1/330/> ; Group says racists joining military, By John Kifner, New York Times, 07-07-06.

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Were Black 'Terrorists' Entrapped?

"I read the (federal) indictment this morning," said Jack King, an attorney with the Washington, D.C.-based lawyers' group [National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. "It was so thin, it was unbelievable." King likens the Miami Seven to the 1968 Panther 21 case in which New York Black Panther Party members were indicted on charges of plotting to blow up the New York Botanical Gardens and several department stores. King called the Panther case a classic example of police infiltration and frame-up linked to COINTELPRO, the government's '60s-era program designed to disrupt domestic dissent."



NNPA, News Report, Wendell P. Simpson, PHILADELPHIA – In the language of George Orwell's double speak, war is peace, truth is lies. And 2006 is 1984. In today's post-9/11 environment, Big Brother's prying eyes peer into your phone records, your Internet conversations and the intimate transactions of your life. And thought crime, by the reckoning of some legal and law enforcement experts, is apparently a punishable offense. While the Justice Department and the U.S. Attorney General's office touted [the] FBI bust of the Miami Seven as a significant victory in the war on terror, critics of the government's methods have suggested the raid was part of a "pre-emptive" criminal justice policy that presumes guilt

before the fact.

These same critics have suggested that the Miami Seven, or the Seas of David, as they called themselves, were nothing more than a bunch of loudmouth bozos who went around spouting anti-American rhetoric, and whose plan to blow up the Sears Tower in Chicago was hatched and encouraged by an FBI informant posing as an al-Qaida operative. So now the question becomes, were these men entrapped? Is dissent a tangible criminal offense? And if so, where is the hue and cry from the various human and civil rights groups, like the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union?

"There are groups like the Ku Klux Klan and other white supremacist organizations that recruit over the Internet and talk loudly about taking certain actions," said former FBI counter-terrorist special agent Tyrone Powers. "Shouldn't they be charged under the same statutes as the Miami Seven?" John White, director of communications for the national office of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said the organization has contacted its office in Miami to get a feel for the situation there. But so far, White said, there has been no hue and cry from anyone regarding the case. "It's premature," said White, "for us to have a take on this."

The ACLU, saying they weren't familiar enough yet with the case to comment, suggested the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers might be able to help. "I read the (federal) indictment this morning," said Jack King, an attorney with the Washington, D.C.-based lawyers' group. "It was so thin, it was unbelievable." King likens the Miami Seven to the 1968 Panther 21 case in which New York Black Panther Party members were indicted on charges of plotting to blow up the New York Botanical Gardens and several department stores. King called the Panther case a classic example of police infiltration and frame-up linked to COINTELPRO, the government's '60s-era program designed to disrupt domestic dissent.

"The Panther 21, unlike the Oakland (Calif.) Panthers, were slackers who were infiltrated by a rookie cop. The cop was the only one plotting to do anything. Those guys were totally and completely inept." King said the Panther 21 were held without bond for 25 months before being acquitted by a New York jury after 45 minutes of deliberations. "These guys in Miami, all they did was talk," said King. "They marched around the neighborhood in fatigues. They were eccentric and different and somebody called the cops and dropped a dime on them. "But one look at the indictment and you know," King said. "It looks like these guys were never going to do anything."

The Seas of David has been portrayed as a cult that professed to a convoluted doctrine of Christianity loosely sprinkled with a seasoning of pseudo-Islamic dogma. The gang made no secret about their discontent with some U.S. policies. That made them conspicuous in the dangerous Miami ghetto of Liberty City, where weary neighbors are constantly on the alert. It was that conspicuousness which brought them the unwanted attention of the authorities. In a federal indictment handed down last

Thursday, Miami Seven were charged with conspiring with al-Qaida to "levy war against the United States, and to oppose by force the authority thereof" by committing acts of violence, including blowing up the Sears Tower and destroying the FBI building in Miami.

U.S. Attorney R. Alexander Acosta of the Southern District of Florida said, "... the group had the intent and took several steps toward fulfilling their plan of blowing up the Sears Tower and the Miami FBI building. They were never able to obtain, however, the explosives or access needed to implement their plan." However, an article appearing in Time Magazine suggests the group's ringleader never asked the informant/faux al-Qaida operative for explosives. Instead, Time said, the group requested "... \$50,000, radios, uniforms and steel-toed boots. Was the plan to blow up the Sears Tower or kick it down?"

By their own accounts, law enforcement officials have characterized the Miami Seven as the proverbial "gang that couldn't shoot straight," an inept bunch who were not positioned financially, logistically or tactically to pull off anything resembling a real act of terror. FBI deputy director John Pistole called the group "more aspirational than operational."

Powers said the Miami Seven conspirators were not in any sense an al-Qaida sleeper cell. "This is a publicity case," said Powers. "Essentially, they have a group of guys having a conversation. But once you take one step toward bringing an act to fruition, you can be charged. "The problem with the case is, (the group) never had any contact with an al-Qaida official," Powers said.

"The big catch is not seven guys in Florida, it is seven guys in Florida having a conversation with an al-Qaida official. An informant doesn't count. At best, you have criminal conspiracy and the FBI knows it." "These guys' mission," he continued, "was rhetorical."

Powers said that under the present "pre-emptive" philosophy of criminal justice, there are a lot of groups and organizations that could be charged criminally. Powers added that any group contemplating civil disobedience could now be placed in the FBI's files.

An official at the FBI office in Miami said he had no further comment on the matter beyond the indictment handed down by the U.S. Attorney General's office last Thursday. However, the U.S. Department of Justice was not reticent to talk about it at all.

"We're not in the position to rate the seriousness of the threat," said Justice Department spokesman Brian Sierra. "Our job is to address criminal conduct. "The defendants conspired to provide their services and material support to al-Qaida. If there are persons conspiring to co-operate with al-Qaida, that is a crime," Sierra said. "If the facts bear out there was a crime, it doesn't matter if their fingers were on the trigger. In fact, if that's the case, it's often too late."

Greg Miller, a former federal prosecutor, said he believed there were questionable issues attendant to the raid and subsequent arrests. "Some things struck me as odd," Miller said. "(Seas of David) didn't appear to have taken significant steps to further the alleged plot. "There are many people who are around friends who grumble and say a lot of things about their disenchantment with government policies. We have to be concerned with the investigative policies of the government that when people are blowing off steam, it is turned into a crime."

Miller said the Miami Seven defense will likely allege entrapment, but it will be difficult to prove. "The government," said Miller, "will try to show predisposition to commit a crime. But in our efforts to ferret out terrorists, we have to be careful not to overreact and abridge the people's Constitutional rights. Those rights cannot be stepped on in order to fight terrorism. "If this case boils down to a bunch of people sitting around complaining," Miller continued, "then the system has a problem." (July 10, 2006) [For more articles on this issue, go on line to: "PanAfrica: Beware, From Mogadishu to Miami Al-Qaeda now Wears a Black Face," <http://allafrica.com/stories/200606270853.html> ; "History repeats itself: Who is terrorizing who?" by George and Candy Gonzalez , San Francisco BayView, <http://www.sfbayview.com/070506/historyrepeats070506.shtml>

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Youth Violence – Causes and Solutions

Guest Commentary



By Rikke Van Johnson (left) - The City of San Bernardino has recently seen an upswing in the amount of crime that has been perpetuated by gangs and gang violence. It does not help when society and the news media continue to glorify crime, giving front-page notoriety to those who commit these despicable acts. The causes of this type of crime are numerous and multi-faceted. They have been explored ad nauseum.

Disengagement – the youths across our city are usually not tied to any meaningful support group or structures that help them to develop in positive ways. It's not like when I was coming up and we had a lot of social services/neighborhood programs and mentors. The youth need direction, guidance and activity.

When the structure at home is riddled with problems and issues, the children are impacted.

Strong external influences – i.e. media, hip-hop culture's strong emphasis on violence, leads to devaluation of life (not saying hip hop culture is bad - but the part that is weightier on guns, violence, etc. projects imagery that sways thoughts and actions which is not healthy).

Economics – not having the means to the ends can push anyone to destructive and poor decision making.

Lack of male mentors/active role models – the increase of female single parent head-of-household has had a negative impact on the community.

Easy accessibility to illegal firearms – the trafficking of handguns and other weapons into economically distressed communities is at an all time high.

Nothing for young people to do – community activities, poorly funded sport leagues, and after school activities are at an all time low.

Lack of desire to be successful – lack of hope for a different life outside of the immediate surroundings causes a continuing downward spiral. It's like being on a roller coaster that is moving fast and comes to an abrupt stop. Before you can get off, it starts again. To simply have hope for something better would at least make a person question their current actions.

Peer pressure – this is real and very strong especially in low economic communities.

Apathetic attitude from some elected officials – some elected officials just don't get it.

Many youth are angry and feel their future doesn't hold much promise for a better life. Some feel powerless in the face of drug-addicted parents, gang infested neighborhoods, fatherless homes, and violence in the home. But there are solutions to bring the problem of gang violence in check. The solutions will not happen overnight and will require an enormous investment of time, talent and treasures.

Solutions should include accessible quality parenting skills for parents of at risk youth. We need to get into the homes if we are to have a long-term impact.

There needs to be more supervised youth activities sports (year round), artistic programs (arts, music, dance, etc), college visits, trips to beaches, mountains, zoo's, and other areas which shows something outside of their local area. It is necessary to develop programs and activities that not only keep youth active, but also help them develop in their skills, talents and abilities.

There needs to be youth employment programs and a coordinated effort to provide real community service opportunities (with incentives) in the communities where the violence is occurring. We need more participation from the citizens to be actively involved in their communities.

There needs to be Teen Centers and facilities. There are NO facilities specifically geared to teens. They need their own center; adult supervised of course, but with structured programs and the ability to allow them to create there own programs.

Character teaching needs to be a priority. No one is teaching the value of anything, not even lives. We cannot educate all the parents but we can educate the students by making character education programs available to all students at all ages, beginning in kindergarten.

There needs to be male mentorship and positive male role models actively involved in the lives of our youth. They can not emulate what they don't see. The development and nourishment of a mentoring relationship and mentoring programs are critical to influencing positive change in the lives of our youths.

These are just some solutions and there are more. It's going to take a lot of time, effort and commitment from a lot of people to make the necessary changes to better our community. The main thing is to develop a plan of attack and go for it.

With that in mind I will be initiating a Youth Roundtable. The goal is to develop a plan to positively engage the young people in our community. Our initial meeting will take place on Thursday, July 27, 2006 at Temple Learning Center, 1707 W. Baseline in San Bernardino starting at 6:30pm. Please contact me if you want to work at implementing solutions (909) 384-5378. My name is Rikke Van Johnson and I am and will always be your servant.

Councilman Rikke Van Johnson

6th Ward, San Bernardino

July 15, 2006

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What Should We Know About Hormone Disrupting Chemicals?

Dear EarthTalk: Can you explain what "hormone disrupting" chemicals are, how they affect our health and

what they have to do with environmental problems? — Tom Rose, Oakland, CA



Many of the human body's process, including reproduction, mental processing and metabolism, are controlled and regulated by hormones, chemical "messengers" produced by the endocrine glands. In the embryo and fetus, hormones guide the development of the brain, the nervous and immune systems, the sexual organs, and the liver, blood and kidneys, among other organs and tissue.

Hormones work by attaching to "receptors," molecules on cell surfaces that carry information into the cells, triggering certain actions. In recent years, scientists have found that certain man-made chemicals disrupt this process by blocking it altogether, throwing off the timing—or by actually mimicking natural hormones and binding with the cells themselves. Such chemicals have been dubbed

"hormone disruptors."

Since the 1940s thousands of chemicals have been released into our air, water and food. Chemicals now contaminate virtually every corner of the globe, and the average person has over 100 chemicals in his or her body. In one study of pregnant women, the average woman had 286 chemicals in her fetal blood.

Many of the worst chemicals have been banned or phased out, but they continue to linger in the environment and will no doubt do so for centuries to come. Among the worst culprits in hormone disruption are: PCBs, used heavily in the electrical industries until banned in 1978; phthalates, still widely used in the plastics industry; and dioxin, one of the most hazardous of all chemicals, a byproduct of paper-bleaching, waste incineration and coal-burning, among other industrial activities.

The effects of this growing "chemical soup" were first noticed in wildlife. Alligators in Florida's Lake Apopka, for example, have been unable to reproduce in recent years due to underdevelopment in young males. North Sea seals exposed to synthetic chemicals have also developed reproductive problems as well as suppressed immune systems. And gull colonies in California and elsewhere suffered significant population losses after exposure to chemicals interfered with their reproductive capabilities.

According to *Our Stolen Future*, co-authored by Dr. Theo Colburn of the World Wildlife Fund, former Boston Globe reporter Dianne Dumanoski and Dr. J.P. Myers, now Senior Advisor to the United Nations Foundation, numerous human health problems also owe their origin to hormone disrupting chemicals. They include low sperm count and increased testicular and prostate cancers among men, and increased rates of breast cancer, endometriosis and tubal pregnancies in women. "What we're talking about is an overall low-dose exposure and a cumulative effect," says Holly Lucille, author of *Creating and Maintaining Balance: A Woman's Guide to Safe, Natural Hormone Health*.

With so many chemicals permeating our environment, it is almost impossible to attribute specific health problems to specific substances. Individuals can hedge their bets by eating organic and choosing personal care and household products that avoid chemicals. They can also pressure their elected representatives as well as business leaders to work to reduce the amount of pervasive chemicals in the environment. For more information on this topic, contact: *Our Stolen Future*, www.ourstolenfuture.org. (From the Editors of *E/The Environmental Magazine*) Got an Environmental question? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o *E/The Environmental Magazine*, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/, or e-mail: earthtalk@emagazine.com. Read past columns at: www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php.

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Attacking Iran Will Not Stop the Violence in Lebanon



Your tax dollars at work: Hundreds of Lebanese women and children have died or been injured in the massive bombings of over 23 tons of explosives on Lebanon in the last week.

"Editor's Note: American neoconservatives have leapt on the current crisis in the Middle East as a way to push their anti-Iran agenda, calling for an end to the Islamic Republic as a way to mortally wound Israel's enemies. But Hamas and Hezbollah are not puppets of any nation, the writer says. NAM contributor William O. Beeman is professor of Anthropology and Middle East Studies at Brown University and has lived and worked in the Middle East for more than 30 years. His most recent book is "The 'Great Satan' vs. the 'Mad Mullahs': How the United States and Iran Demonize Each Other" (Praeger Publishers, 2005)."

New America Media, Commentary, William O. Beeman— Blaming Iran for the horrific violence between Israel and the Arabs of Lebanon and Palestine is a popular stance in the world today. But such finger-pointing will do nothing to stop the destruction

going on in the region. Paradoxically, however, Iran could play a role in bringing about peace. Iran makes a convenient scapegoat. It has no defenders. Americans and Europeans are already furious with Tehran over the development of Iran's nuclear program. The Sunni states in the region — principally Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt — are worried about growing Iranian power as Shiite forces throughout the region grow in influence. The Sunnis are uncomfortable defending the Shiite community in Lebanon, and are quite happy to have Iran bear the blame for the war.

Meanwhile, in the United States, neoconservatives are primed with a decade-long program to attack Iran that they have conveniently grafted onto the Hezbollah-Israeli conflict. Yet, the Sunni states and the neoconservatives are mistaken in their analysis and in their strategic goals.



In Palestine the assault on the people as well as journalists continue. This week Aljazeera technician Wail Tallus was shot in the legs by Israeli troops, joining dozens of additional Palestinians also killed or injured this week alone.

The Sunni states seem to hope that the Shiite world as a whole will be weakened through Israel's actions. But no magic Israeli bullet will eliminate the need of the nations in the region to come to peaceful terms with Iran, which grows stronger and more prosperous every day with every American misstep and every increase in the price of oil. Nor can the Sunni states avoid accommodating the significant, growing non-Iranian Shiite population in the region.

As for the neo-conservatives, their basic thesis on Iran can be found in an article by William Kristol, writing in the Weekly Standard and London's Financial Times on July 16:

"No Islamic Republic of Iran, no Hezbollah. No Islamic Republic of Iran, no one to prop up the Assad regime in Syria. No Iranian support for Syria ... little state sponsorship of Hamas and Hezbollah."

But Hamas and Hezbollah are not puppets. They have control of their own actions and destinies. More importantly, the neoconservatives' proposed action — attacking Iran militarily — is acknowledged by American military strategists to be impractical and potentially ineffective at this time. Even if the United States or Israel could successfully destroy the Iranian government through a military attack, this action would not curtail violence against Israel. More specifically, it would not destroy Hezbollah or Hamas.

Hamas was founded in 1987, but its pedigree predates the Iranian Revolution since its parent organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, dates back to the 19th century. Iran has no control at all over Hamas' actions or its political agenda. The closest Iran comes to actually influencing Hamas is through financial support, provided based on a general open appeal from Hamas leader Khaled Mesha'al after Hamas won the election in Palestine.

Iran was instrumental in the birth of Hezbollah in the early 1980s, when it was the only defense available for the Shiite community. However, though Hezbollah uses Iranian arms, former CIA analyst and now Georgetown University professor Daniel Byman wrote in Foreign Affairs in 2003 that Iran "lacks the means to force a significant change in the [Hezbollah] movement and its goals. It has no real presence on the ground in Lebanon..."

In short, both Hamas and Hezbollah have their own history, their own reasons for existing, and their own agendas regarding Israel and the West. They are not empty vessels waiting to be filled with an Iranian agenda. Yet the neoconservatives still say: destroy the state supporters, in this case Iran, and the offending groups will be destroyed in turn.

This spiel should sound ominously familiar to Washington policy makers. It was the precise formula promulgated by a major group of neoconservative advisors, including Richard Pearle and Douglas Feith, to then-Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 1996. They called for the overthrow of the governments of Iraq, Iran and Syria, on the theory that this would undercut support for groups opposing Israel. Again in 1998, many of the same neo-cons, along with Dick Rumsfeld and Paul Wolfowitz, advocated the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, in part to obtain security for Israel.

Washington should reject the neoconservative agenda and instead reach out to Iran. Many Westerners may find it hard to believe that Iran could ever play a positive role in a conflict of this sort. Yet Iran craves the respect of the international community more than any other commodity one might offer, and relishes the idea that it might be offered a respectful position as a peacemaker. Iran has hinted in the recent past that it would drop its hostile posture toward Israel if relations with the United States were to improve.

Though the Islamic Republic does not directly influence the actions of Hezbollah and Hamas, they offer a way to talk to the two groups. Iran has been willing to serve as mediator in the past in the region, notably in working with Armenia and Azerbaijan, and has garnered bona fides for its efforts. Vilifying Iran is not doing anyone any good. But talking to them and asking them for a little help might do a great deal to bring peace to the region. (July 19, 2006) [For more articles related to this issue, go on line to: "If Lebanese dislike Hizbollah, they hate Israelis," By Robert Fisk, <http://www.khilafah.com/home/category.php?DocumentID=13604&TagID=1> ;

Western media has dropped the ball by failing to tell the real story in Lebanon, Jewish state's

offensive has primarily targeted civilians, By Marc J Sirois; Daily Star staff, Thursday, July 20, 2006, http://www.dailystar.com.lb/article.asp?edition_id=1&categ_id=1&article_id=74092 ; for more on the Lebanon, Palestine, and the Middle East in general <http://english.aljazeera.net/HomePage>.

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Ghetto-Fabulous-Toon

You always have a scene in rap videos where people are throwing dollar bills, but I wanted to outdo that. How come you axed my idea of throwing gold bricks?



The insurance company says it's a liability and too many of the dancers were getting concussions.



©Created by Chris and Manny Otiko

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Take a Bite Out of Summer!

Enjoy your favorite summer foods without the guilt



Family Features— If you're like most women, you want to look toned in your summer shorts and tank tops without giving up the foods you love. A recent survey by Boca Foods found that more than half of women feel guilty about the foods they eat at least two to three times a week, and almost 20 percent of women feel guilty every time they eat. Between backyard barbecues and beach parties, that's a lot of time spent feeling guilty when you should be soaking up the summer sun.

There are simple recipes that allow you to cook and eat in a more healthful way while still enjoying the delicious foods you love, according to Isabel Cruz, chef and owner of the Cantina Panaderia Restaurant in San Diego. For example, she suggests making Asian-Style Lettuce Wraps with Boca Foods Meatless Ground Burger instead of regular hamburger. You can save 100 calories and 9.5 grams of fat per serving, and you'll still be the hit at your next party.

Or, consider replacing your regular ground beef patty with a Boca Foods Meatless Original Burger at your next backyard barbecue. You will eliminate 110 calories and 12 grams of fat, and your taste buds will still be satisfied.

Whether you're looking to cut carbs, increase protein, watch your cholesterol and calories or reduce fat and saturated fat, Boca Foods meatless products offer a variety of choices. Additionally, they can help give your favorite meals a makeover.

For more great-tasting recipes and nutrition information, visit www.bocafoods.com.

Real Life — Real Helpful Eating Tips From Chef and Restaurant Owner Isabel Cruz - "As a chef, I love serving up scrumptious food that is exotic, fresh and dynamic," said Chef Isabel Cruz. "Whether I'm hosting dinner parties for my girlfriends or cooking a weeknight meal for my family, I serve healthful yet delicious choices. With this commitment to better-for-you eating, I've come up with some simple tips any woman can use to enjoy the foods she loves, guilt-free!"

—When you head to the grocery store, opt to walk home with the bags. Carrying the extra weight will help give your arms a good workout and give you some extra time to enjoy the weather.

—Veg Out! Shop farmers' markets for fresh produce and try one of the many soy-based meatless products as a better-for-you option in your favorite recipes.

—Salad plates aren't just for salad anymore. Grab some inexpensive small plates in festive summer prints to help keep portions in perspective.

—The hottest new accessory is a brown bag! Pack your own lunch and eat outside during your lunch hour. You'll have greater control over what you are eating and you'll be able to enjoy the afternoon sun.

Awesome BBQ Burgers

Serves: 4. Ingredients: 1 10-ounce package frozen Boca Foods Meatless Original Burgers; 1/4 cup barbecue sauce; 1/4 cup light cream cheese spread; 4 hamburger buns, split, toasted; 4 lettuce leaves; 1/4 of a medium cucumber, thinly sliced; 1/2 of a medium avocado, peeled, sliced. Directions: 1. Grill burgers as directed on package, brushing with barbecue sauce during last 2 minutes of grilling time. 2. Spread cream cheese on bottom halves of buns. 3. Top evenly with lettuce, burgers, cucumbers, avocados and top halves of buns.

Sassy Chik'n Sandwich

Serves: 2. Ingredients: 2 frozen Boca Foods Meatless Original Chik'n Patties; 2 teaspoons country Dijon mustard; 2 teaspoons horseradish sauce; 2 lettuce leaves; 4 slices Italian bread, toasted; 4 tomato slices; 4 medium slices fresh buffalo mozzarella. Directions: 1. Microwave patties as directed on package. 2. Mix mustard and horseradish sauce until well blended. 3. Place lettuce on 2 toast slices. 4. Top evenly with tomatoes, patties, mustard mixture and mozzarella. 5. Cover with remaining toast slices.

Asian-Style Lettuce Wraps

Serves: 2. Ingredients: 4 crisp, green leaf lettuce leaves, washed and dried; 1 cucumber, chopped; Sesame Soy Drizzle Sauce; 1/4 cup dark sesame oil; 2 tablespoons Japanese rice vinegar; 2 tablespoons low-sodium soy sauce; 2 tablespoons sugar; Asian-Style Ground Cooking oil for pan (approximately 2 tablespoons); 1 pouch (1 cup) frozen Boca Foods Meatless Ground Burger; 1 teaspoon fresh, minced ginger; 1/2 clove garlic, minced; 1/4 cup chopped green onion; 1 cup fresh bean sprouts. Directions: 1. Wrap lettuce in paper towel and refrigerate until ready to serve. 2. Whisk together sesame oil, rice vinegar, soy sauce and sugar for drizzle sauce; set aside. 3. Heat oil to coat large nonstick skillet or wok. 4. Add ground burger, cook and stir on medium heat about 3 minutes (until about half way cooked). 5. Add ginger and garlic and heat about 2 1/2 to 3 minutes more. 6. Stir in green onion and bean sprouts and cook about 1 minute more, just until heated through. Don't overcook bean sprouts; recipe tastes best when they still have some crunch left. 7. Lay lettuce leaves flat on plate, divide cucumber evenly on each leaf. 8. Scoop 1/4 ground burger mixture (about 1/4 cup) on each leaf. 9. Drizzle sesame soy sauce (about 2 teaspoons) onto inside of lettuce wrap, and roll up lettuce wraps. Special extra: Sprinkle ground burger mixture with chopped peanuts before wrapping. Serving suggestion: This is a good amount for two people as an appetizer. To serve as an entrée, add 1 cup of steamed rice before wrapping, or provide it as a side for your guests. Courtesy of: Boca Foods.

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Pentagon's Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) Scandal

Freedom Waiting Since 1986 - finds Government covered up Fraud on the U.S. District Court in New York

Racism, Corruption, and Cronyism in the Pentagon is keeping Department of Defense "No-bid" Contracts From Black Company

New York

Read all about it right here "Fraud on the Federal Court " Filing of February 24, 2006 <http://www.freedomny.com/fraud>

Federal Court hearing scheduled for Tuesday March 28, 2006 in U.S. District Court in New York

In May of 1986, CINPAC Inc. of Ohio was declared by the U.S. Department of Labor as being unqualified as a manufacturer to receive U. S. Government contracts for the production of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE). (exhibit 3, page13 of filing) Since that time CINPAC has received over a billion dollars in "no bid" contracts that were "set-aside" for war readiness, from the same Government Contracting Officer that was notified of their non-qualifying status. The CINPAC contract awards were done to

replace the only Black owned MRE supplier, Freedom Inc., of the South Bronx in New York. At the time, Freedom was being falsely accused of nonperformance by a Contracting Officer, in order to justify their removal from the special "no bid", Industrial Preparedness Mobilization Program. The fraud of favoritism against Freedom Inc. was verified by the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, case # 43965, which ruled in 2001, that Freedom's contract had been breached and mismanaged by the Department of Defense as well as being improperly defaulted and terminated by the same Government Contracting Officer in 1986. (page 5 of filing) Despite the court rulings, CINPAC is still in the MRE business, and Freedom Inc. is still out of business. It is a fact that CINPAC was unable to perform the war contract requirements during "Operation Desert Storm" in 1991 causing a MRE shortage that was remedied by the use of "off the shelf" food from supermarkets to feed our American frontline combat troops. (exhibit 18, page 21 of filing). Freedom Inc. also states they can prove that a bankruptcy was filed by CINPAC during "Operation Desert Storm" that led to a Government gift of \$10 million dollars from the same Contracting Officer, in order to keep CINPAC in business.

It appears that while the Department of Defense is rewarding CINPAC for defrauding the Government and putting our combat troops in jeopardy, Freedom Inc. is being shunned and kept in the administrative legal system for what can only be explained as racist and or corrupt reasons.

The arrogant bureaucratic response to regulations and litigated decisions creates the atmosphere allowing for bid rigging and procurement fraud right under the noses of U. S. Military flag Officers who have procurement management oversight. For instance, at the time of the original application by CINPAC, regulations required a three-year suspension from receiving contracts as a penalty for providing false information and representations on the MRE procurement application.

Our investigation does not reveal any lapse in the participation by CINPAC in the MRE Program despite the 1986 Department of Labor declaration that CINPAC did not qualify for the MRE Program. The Department of Labor had determined that the CINPAC procurement application was not accurate. My goal is to stimulate your interest in verifying the facts... To discover if this case represents simple bureaucratic bungling or if indeed there is a combination of systemic corruption and racism in the MRE program. I urge you to request that members of Congress generate "forensic investigations" into this matter by both the Department of Justice and Department of Defense Inspector General. Of prime concern is the power of deflection exhibited by the Defense Logistics Agency's HQ legal department ... Their inaccurate response to inquiry has stifled investigation, chasing away any congressional or military oversight that would discover the administrative contract abuses and racism that is being allowed by DLA against Freedom, Inc.

This situation clearly depicts that a series of "no bid" war readiness contracts was illegally given to an unqualified vendor and these contracts were repeatedly renewed by the same Contracting Officer, in violation of Federal laws.

The corrupt CINPAC contracts replaced the Freedom Inc. MRE contracts, which, according to the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals, (ASBCA) had been breached, and illegally terminated by the same Contracting Officer.

Despite these ASBCA decisions and the Department of Labor declaration that CINPAC was not qualified to become a MRE vendor, the Contracting Officer still maintains control, with the apparent cooperation of those responsible for his immediate procurement oversight, to continue denying Freedom Inc., a qualified manufacturer and the only Black African American owned MRE Prime Contractor, to have equal access and equal treatment procedures that are required by the Federal Acquisitions Regulations which govern federal contract procurement.

It appears to me that Freedom Inc. is the victim of obvious collusion, "bid rigging", contractor abuse and wrongful litigation. It also appears that the institution of government is being misused as either a corridor for corruption or as a roadway for racism in the MRE program.

Please look at what has just been filed in U.S. Federal Court in Manhattan N.Y. on 24 Feb. 2006 by viewing this web link. Then call your Congressman and Senator.

<http://www.freedomny.com/fraud>

see other related stories on this same issue

http://www.theatlantavoice.com/AV_contractor1.htm

http://www.theatlantavoice.com/AV_contractor2.htm

This will be a continuing story by Wallace Allen

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