

# V. Uganda: Whence do you come and whither do you go?

by G. Lukongwa Binaisa

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As it was in 1897, so it is today in 1997. Then, Uganda was trying to get out of the morass that it sunk into after the death of King Mutesa I of Buganda on Oct. 9, 1884. Oct. 8, 1962 is the date on which Uganda gained her independence from Great Britain. The country was rendered unstable, and almost ungovernable by tribal and religious wars. Today, in spite of the National Resistance Army — now known as the Ugandan Popular Defense Forces, to make it sound like a normal army of a civilized country — freedom is a far cry. Large areas in the north of the country are not yet subdued; the UPDF is still fighting an insurgency in the area.

President Museveni and his psycophants in the National Resistance Movement, his one-party dictatorship, have refused to learn the big lesson of history, that the use of violence merely for the sake of seizing political power and maintaining that power by using the army to silence all opposition, destroys the nation. Such a leader's rule depends on the threat that he can turn the country into a horrendous killing field at any time he chooses to let loose the weaponry in his armory.

The Uganda whose leading aim at the time of independence was to eradicate poverty, ignorance, and disease, and whose social services were the envy of many countries, is now ravaged by famine. In Kumi and Teso districts, out of a projected population of 300,000, some 100,000 are famine-stricken, suffering from all diseases brought about by malnutrition. Diseases which had been brought under control, such as malaria, typhoid, leprosy, cholera, sleeping sickness, and dysentery, are now back with a vengeance. To make matters worse, AIDS has taken a heavy toll on the lives of Ugandans. Today, Uganda is losing its population at one of the fastest rates in the world.

President Museveni is one I liken to the Roman Emperor Caligula, who was so arrogant that he had the nerve to appoint his horse as "Roman Consul." Museveni looks down upon all non-Himas and non-Tutsis, as if they were not human beings, but some lower species of creation. His life, as those who have read his autobiography have seen, revolves around the cow, which may shed some light on how he looks at the

non-Hima and the non-Tutsi. Such a view coheres with his statements to the *Atlantic Monthly* that he did not blame the whites for slavery, since if you are stupid, you should be taken as a slave. Museveni can say this and get away with it, not because he is loved, but because he is feared.

Furthermore, Museveni, behaving according to character, has, by the new law forbidding persons to leave his one party, the National Resistance Movement, and by his threat to hold a referendum to decide on whether to have one or more parties, put Ugandan back to colonial status, where the fundamental human freedoms have been abrogated through the back door.

Museveni's government is the only government in modern times to carry out what was literally a daylight robbery, when, by decree, he took 30% of everyone's money at the bank early in his regime, without explanation, without even telling the horrified public what he did with that money. It must be recalled that when Museveni was fighting his guerrilla war against Obote, on more than one occasion, he robbed some Ugandan banks, leaving behind useless pieces of paper in the form of "IOUs" which have never been satisfied.

A cursory look at statistics shows that since the commencement of Museveni's regime in January 1986, more than 3 million people have perished, including refugees from wars which he launched, as in Rwanda and Zaire. This number of people is ten times greater than the number killed in the eight years of Field Marshal Idi Amin's rule. Yet the press in the West chose to ignore the genocide, and concentrated on telling Africans that in President Museveni, they had a "new leadership."

The truth of the matter is that Museveni is building a new British Empire in the same mold as Cecil Rhodes, the British buccaneer and millionaire who aspired to building a Cape to Cairo railroad, passing through British territory all the way. In the case of Museveni, he wants a new British Commonwealth in East and Central Africa, of which he will be the viceroy, after turning the continent into a vast Bantustan for mainly British corporations with their sisters in Canada, but very few in America, to govern from the boardrooms under the transparent fraud of privatization. The African will once again be reduced to a drawer of water and a hewer of wood. The nation-states of Africa will have ceased to exist.



*Former Ugandan President Godfrey Binaisa (speaking), at a forum of the FDR-PAC, Jan. 25, 1997. With him is Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. The forum was titled "Africa: Looting Ground for Bush, Inc., or Breadbasket for the World?"*

## What to do

I believe that the African Civil Rights Movement, of which I am the provisional chairman, is correct in working to mobilize international public opinion to bring pressure to bear on those African rulers, like Museveni, who have turned themselves into unbridled despots, governing their countries as if they were private estates.

The African Civil Rights Movement shall continue to speak for the voiceless, to convince our rulers of the need for a true democratic and economic development in which we can all share, instead of the current policy of sectarianism and insidious discrimination on grounds of ethnicity. All Ugandans must stand equal, not only before God, but also before the law; and each must enjoy the same privileges and rights as the other. We shall not permit the policy of "Black on Black" apartheid to become a cancer in our midst.

We must be vigilant against those who, under the pretext of privatization, are "privatizing" the wealth of the country into their pockets, and are giving away the patrimony of the country on the cheap. We did not fight for independence only to give it away to the first bidder. Uganda, as a Sovereign, must never become a mere appendage of the big foreign corporations or a nation of paupers where a handful of millionaires flourish. If we permit this to happen, as it is happening now, the African will once again be a sojourner in his own land, living in a new version of Bantustans.

Neither the African Civil Rights Movement, nor myself, have any room in our minds to instigate the African people to violence. We condemn violence without reservation. We are horrified by the horrendous genocide now taking place in the

Great Lakes region of Africa. The wanton killings of refugees, merely because they are "Hutu" and do not belong to the aristocratic "Hima" and "Tutsi" who rule the area by "Divine Right," and practice a new brand of "Black on Black" apartheid, as opposed to the defunct "White on Black" apartheid, is most revolting and completely unacceptable.

I do not believe that the struggle needs confrontation of violence. Violence breeds violence. There is still a chance to stop violence. There is still a chance to stop people being killed, whether they are Hutus, whether they are Acholis in northern Uganda, whether they are southern Sudanese, whether they are in Somalia, whether they are Congolese, or in the Republic of Congo in Brazzaville or the Democratic Republic of Congo in Kinshasa.

We have realized that until we mobilize the entire population of the United States, as I am calling upon you, those who believe in the principles of the African Civil Rights Movement, to call upon members of your state legislatures or provincial legislatures, to act to stop the genocide in Africa.

We are losing young people who haven't even been given a chance to live their lives normally. We are losing thousands upon thousands of women, innocent women, and little children who have not even been permitted to grow up. This is my concern. If we say we had better go all-out to fight a war against Kabila, that is not as quick a solution as the solution that can be invoked if the President of the United States were to act to end the holocaust in Africa, by bringing the British Commonwealth to account for the holocaust in Africa and for the actions of their warlord, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.