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COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN AFRICA

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EDWIN MADUNAGU

Introduction

In this issue of the Committee for Academic Freedom in Africa's *Newsletter* we return to some of the major concerns that have motivated CAFA's work over the recent years.

First, we further document the state of academic freedom in Africa, with a report/interview about Burkina Faso and we update a chronology of students' and teachers' struggles different African countries against structural adjustment.

With this issue we also begin a "domestic window" on the structural adjustment of university education as it is being gradually implemented in the United States. We do so for a number reasons. First, we cannot speak of the violation of the right to study in Africa while being silent on the same violation in the USA. Second, by reporting on structural adjustment in an "advanced" industrialized country we dispell the myth that structural adjustment was necessitated in Africa, or other parts of the Third World, by some inherent learning disability or managerial incapacity (as is often implied in World Bank literature). Finally, by connecting the university budget cuts in the U.S. to the adjustment of Africa' educational system we hope to help build the type of international network and solidarity which is today necessary if education is not to be used *against* the majority of people on this planet as a means of discrimination.

In this issue we also continue our campaign for a World Bank-free African Studies Association (ASA), by reprinting our petition to the ASA and the names of some among our colleagues who have signed it. We do appreciate the fact that in the preliminary schedule of this year's ASA Annual Meeting in Orlando *no World Bank panels are listed*. We nevertheless think that the only way in which we can prevent the type of presence that the World Bank has had in recent years at the ASA is by maintaining our mobilization and by continuing to expose the fact that the World Bank's presence constitutes a violation of academic freedom. We should add that similar concerns apply to the inclusion among ASA panels of panels run by the U. S. military. In this case too, we must ask, what is the U.S.

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