HWR 233

COMMITTEE FOR ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN AFRICA

EDWIN MADUNAGU

Newsletter No. 4 Spring 1993

INTRODUCTION

In this issue of the CAFA Newsletter we continue our practice of beginning with an essay on the general situation of academic freedom in Africa. Silvia Federici's "The Economic Roots of the Repression of Academic Freedom in Africa" is a assessment of the two major theories claiming to account for the increasing repression of academic freedom in Africa in the 1980s.

This essay is followed by a number of reports from the academic freedom "front." The last is a protest against the "Boren Bill," a piece of legislation passed in the U.S. Congress in 1992 that allocates funds for U.S. academics and students to study and research in Africa (and other "Third World" venues) on the condition that they report to U.S. military authorities.

In the middle are two pieces dealing with the action of African university teachers and students in Kenya and Nigeria to preserve and enlarge their academic freedom. The first is a precis of a history of recent academic freedom struggles in the University of Nairobi excerpted from the Kenya Human Rights Commission Report, "A Haven of Repression." The second is an update on the situation of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) in Nigeria since the end of its relatively successful strike in the summer and fall of 1992.

This issue therefore highlights a new era of threats to African universities and to the intellectual independence of African academics emanating from the World Bank and the U.S. government. It also shows continuing evidence of the tremendous powers of resistance to these threats rooted in Africa academics and students. But they need our help. We, as North American academics, are in a good position offer it by protesting the effort of the U.S. government and agencies like the World Bank to force African intellectuals into having only one viable career option: to be a cadre of neoliberal bureaucrats recolonizing Africa.

For more information about CAFA, contact C. George Caffentzis, Department of Philosophy,University of Southern Maine, Portland, ME 04103 or Silvia Federici, New College, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY 11550.

CAFA SPONSORS
Dennis Brutus
George Caffentzis
Horace Campbell
Harry Cleaver, Jr.
Silvia Federici
[illegible] Ihonvbere
[illegible] Linebaugh
[illegible]ing Marable
[illegible]y Murray
[illegible]s Rediker
Gayatri Spivak
Immanuel Wallerstein

CB5
CB5/3/864

IN THIS ISSUE OF CAFA NEWS

Economic Roots of the Repression of Academic Freedom in Africa 2
Kenya: "Haven of Repression" 6
Nigeria Update 10
The CIA, the Military and African Education 11