



# African Advocate

Voice of African Immigrants & Refugees In Illinois



NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED AFRICAN ORGANIZATION (UAO)



January/February 2012

Issue 4

Friend,

## One Africa Campaign

The United African Organization has launched a petition on [Change.org](http://Change.org), lobbying the U.S. Department of State to include the whole African continent under its Bureau of African Affairs.

**[View and Sign!](#)**



### Why are we petitioning?

The State Department's Bureau of African Affairs, led by Assistant Secretary Johnnie Carson, currently excludes Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Western Sahara from its agenda.

Instead, the aforementioned countries are grouped with the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, together with Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and others.

This distinction is based on false labels and outdated racist categorization with no empirical validity. The artificial distinction between North Africa and the rest of Africa could be perceived as a balkanization scheme, which negatively impacts US foreign policy relations throughout the entire continent of Africa.

North Africa is geographically and historically part of the African continent, and all fifty-three (53) independent African states, including North African countries, are represented in the African Union (AU).



Your donation is tax-deductible

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### THE MISSION

The United African Organization is a dynamic coalition of African national associations that promotes social and economic justice, civic participation, and empowerment of African immigrants and refugees in Illinois.

We strongly believe that it would be far more productive for the State Department to engage with the entire continent of Africa, including North Africa, under its Bureau of African Affairs.

We are one Africa, from the Cape to Cairo, indivisible and bound together! Therefore, no square inch of African land should be excluded from African affairs.

#### What can we do?

Join the UAO in petitioning the U.S. Department of State to include the entire continent of Africa under its Bureau of African Affairs!

**[View and Sign the Petition!](#)**

## SAVE THE DATE!

United African Organization presents:



6th Annual Chicago Summit on  
**African Immigrants & Refugees**  
+  
**Community Resource Fair**

Schultz Auditorium,  
IIT Tower Building  
10 West 35th Street, Chicago, IL 60616

**Saturday, May 12, 2012 from 9:00am - 5:00pm**

For more information, email: [summit@uniteafricans.org](mailto:summit@uniteafricans.org)

**To register online, [click here.](#)**

### OUR GOALS

- Build the leadership and organizational capacity of the community
- Advance public policies to increase opportunities and support for immigrant and refugee integration
- Ensure that African immigrant and refugees have an active role in multiple civic arenas
- Promote community development and access to social services
- Serve as a viable model of African Unity and Empowerment

Follow us: [f](#) [t](#) [g+](#) [You Tube](#)

Listen to our Podcast:



Highlights from African  
Voices:

[Top news stories from Africa](#)

[Interview with Fatimata Traore,  
President of Illinois Association of  
Hair braiders](#)

[Music from local duo Survivors](#)

**Register:**



Join us, Saturday Feb 4th!

**ILLINOIS IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION SUMMIT**

**ONE NATION ONE DREAM**

**EDUCATION IS POWER**

**DATE & TIME:**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2012**  
9AM - 1PM (DOORS OPEN AT 8AM)

**PLACE:**  
**MALCOLM X COLLEGE**  
1900 W VAN BUREN, CHICAGO

**FREE WORKSHOPS**

- ★ BECOME A U.S. CITIZEN! FREE WORKSHOP
- ★ STOPPING DEPORTATION/IMMIGRATION:  
Free Workshop on Keeping Your Family Together
- ★ UNITING AMERICA THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM
- ★ HEALTHCARE REFORM / EDUCATION / JOBS
- ★ GET OUT THE VOTE 2012!!
- ★ RUNNING FOR YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL COUNCIL
- ★ YOUTH LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT [WWW.ICIRR.ORG](http://WWW.ICIRR.ORG)

Event sponsored by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights.  
Contact [aarreola@icirr.org](mailto:aarreola@icirr.org) for any questions.

ICIRR: Education is Power!

Join Our Mailing List!

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

**CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP**

Next Citizenship workshop:

**Date:** Saturday, February 18  
**Time:** 9:00am-12:00pm

**Venue:** Indo-American Center, 6328 N. California Avenue, Chicago, IL 60659

To register or for more information, contact Cheikh Diop:  (312) 949 9980   
or email: [cheikh.diop@uniteafricans.org](mailto:cheikh.diop@uniteafricans.org)

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Next Leadership workshop:

**Date:** Saturday, Feb 25, 2011  
**Time:** 9:00am-1:00pm  
**Venue:** 10 West 35th Street, 6th floor, Chicago, IL 60616  
**Topic:** Grant-writing II  
**Speaker:** Maria Gray

You MUST register in advance for the workshop in order to attend for free - email: [training@uniteafricans.org](mailto:training@uniteafricans.org) or call  (312) 949 9980 

**UAO event to mark ANC's centenary**

To mark the 100th anniversary of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa

The **United African Organization** invites you to a panel discussion and multimedia presentation on:

**The ANC and African Liberation Struggles**



**Panelists:**

Prexy Nesbitt (Mozambique & Angola)  
James Thindwa (Zimbabwe)  
Joshua Ngoma (Zambia)  
Fatuma Karuma (Tanzania)  
+  
clips from *Have You Heard*  
From Johannesburg

**Date:** Saturday, February 11, 2012  
**Time:** 3:30pm-6:00pm  
**Venue:** Bronzeville Rm, 8th floor  
JIT Tower, 10 West 35th Street,  
Chicago, IL 60616

**RSVP:** (312) 949 9980  
[events@uniteafricans.org](mailto:events@uniteafricans.org)  
[www.ancfrica.eventbrite.com](http://www.ancfrica.eventbrite.com)  
[www.uniteafricans.org](http://www.uniteafricans.org)



UAO's ANC Centenary Event

**ICIRR 2nd ANNUAL ILLINOIS IMMIGRATION INTEGRATION SUMMIT**

**"Education is Power"**

**Date:** Saturday, February 4, 2012

**Time:** 9am-1pm

**Venue:** Malcolm X College,  
1900 West Van Buren,  
Chicago, IL

Registration information available on ICIRR website.

**UAO DISCUSSION / FILM ON ANC & AFRICAN SOLIDARITY**



As part of its contribution to mark the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa's 100th birthday, the UAO will host a panel discussion and film screening.

We hope to use this event to reflect upon liberation movements across the African continent, and the solidarity that was built between countries in Africa and the ANC during the anti-apartheid struggle. These lessons from our history can inform how we build links and organize today!

**Join us for a panel discussion and film screening on:**

**The ANC's links to other liberation struggles in Africa, and the contributions of African countries to the struggle against apartheid.**

**Date:** Saturday, February 11, 2012

**Time:** 3:30pm-6:00pm

**Venue:** Bronzeville Room  
6th Floor, IIT Tower Building  
10 West 35th Street  
Chicago, IL 60616

We will open the event with some clips from [Have You Heard from Johannesburg](#), a series of documentaries by Connie Fields about the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa.

**Our panelists are:** Prexy Nesbitt (on Mozambique and Angola), James Thindwa (on Zimbabwe), Joshua Ngoma (on Zambia) and Fatuma Karuma (Tanzania).

There will be time for questions and comments from the audience.

**Please RSVP:**

[Get your tickets online!](#)

Or via email: [events@uniteafricans.org](mailto:events@uniteafricans.org)

Or via phone:  [312-949-9980](tel:312-949-9980) 

Panel discussion and film screening on the ANC's links to other liberation struggles in Africa, and the contributions of African countries to the struggle against apartheid.

**Date:** Sat, February 11, 2012

**Time:** 3:30pm-6:00pm

**Venue:** 6th Floor, IIT Tower Building  
10 West 35th Street

**HUGH MASEKELA CONCERT  
IN CHICAGO**

Legendary South African musician Hugh Masekela is in Chicago in February to give a concert:

**Date:** Sat, February 18, 2012

**Time:** 7:30pm

**Venue:** Pick-Staiger Hall,  
Northwestern University, 50  
Arts Circle Drive Evanston, IL  
60208

**Tickets:** VIP tickets through  
ANC 100 committee: \$25 for  
adults and \$10 for  
students. RSVP by 2/2 to:  
[vickie.casanova@yahoo.com](mailto:vickie.casanova@yahoo.com)

Other tickets: [buy online via Northwestern](#).

**TUNE INTO ALIE KABBA'S  
AFRICA SPEAKS ON:**



Sat, February 25, 2012  
from 2:00pm-3:00pm (CT)

on WVON AM1690

**NEWS ROUND-UP**

**Money matters: Leadership workshops focus on the ABC of fundraising**



Participants at the UAO's January Leadership Workshop

**GIVING BACK**

Each *African Advocate*, we feature a member of our community who is 'giving back'.

**Mombasa Relief Initiative**

UAO supporter **Amania Drane** is part of an organization called Mombasa Relief Initiative (MRI).

Founded in 1993, MRI came about through the combined efforts of 2 Kenyans and 7 Americans. The group wanted



At the UAO's latest Leadership Workshop on January 21, 2012, participants learned **about fundraising strategies**. Maria Gray facilitated the workshop. Ms. Gray has spent many years in the non-profit sector working on bringing in grants.

The next Leadership Workshop, **on February 25**, will continue the discussion on fundraising.

The UAO's African Leadership Development Program is targeted at African community leaders in and around Chicago.

Leadership workshops take place every month and cover a range of topics. **The workshops are free BUT you must register in advance to attend.** The next workshop will be:

**Date:** Saturday, February 25, 2012

**Time:** 9:00am-1:00pm


**Venue:** 6th Floor, 10 West 35th Street, Chicago IL 60616

**Topic:** Grant Writing 2

**Facilitator:** Marcia Lipetz

Marcia Lipetz, PhD, has spent her career in Chicago's philanthropic, nonprofit, and academic communities, primarily in leadership positions. Lipetz is currently consulting with foundations and corporations on grantmaking and community involvement. She was the first full time Executive Director of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, the founding Executive Director of the WPWR-TV Channel 50 Foundation (now known as the Alphawood Foundation), and the President & CEO of the Executive Service Corps of Chicago. Lipetz is a past Board Chair of the Donors Forum.

E-mail [training@uniteafricans.org](mailto:training@uniteafricans.org) to register or call

 (312) 949-9980  for more information.

## African Voices in January

January's African Voices Podcast featured:

- News and events from the African community in Chicago
- News from the African continent
- How to get employment advice from the UAO
- *Africans in Chicago* interviewed Fatimata Traore, President of [Illinois Association of Hair Braiders](#)
- Music from Chicago-based duo [Survivors](#), made up of Johnny T from Rwanda and Jeanri from Haiti.



[African Voices Episode 4](#)

to find a way to improve the lives of children in Mombasa, Kenya.

Today, MRI serves the children of Mombasa through three key initiatives: (1) Health Care (2) Education and (3) Economic Empowerment.

Their initiatives include

- Sponsorship of 25 Kenyan students' school fees
- A nutrition program that provides lunches at two locations (Pwani & Kilifi) and feeds over 300 children
- Food First program, which helps Kenyan farmers to increase their yield with a long-term goal of them assisting to feed children in the schools they support
- Teacher's program, which provides annual salaries of two teachers at Mnazi Moja primary school in Mombasa.

One way to get involved with MRI's work is to attend their **Annual Packing Party:**

**Date:** Sat, March 3, 2012

**Time:** 11:00am-2:00pm

**Venue:**

Palmer Park Fieldhouse  
201 E. 111th St.  
Chicago, IL 60628





[Click for larger image](#)

[For more on MRI, visit their website](#)

If you would like to contribute news, events, issues, interviews or music to our podcast:

Email:  
podcasts@uniteafricans.org

Call:  (312) 949 9980  between 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri.



[Click to listen!](#)

[Survivors Music](#)

We all have stories about how we, each in our own way, enrich our communities.

Tell us how you GIVE BACK to YOUR COMMUNITY...

You could be featured in the next issue of African Advocate!

Email:  
editor@uniteafricans.org

## UAO interviews Funeka Sihlali about ANC 100



[CAN TV - January 2012: 100th anniversary of ANC](#)

In January, UAO Executive Director Alie Kabba interviewed Funeka Sihlali, a South African who has been living in Chicago in the 1970s. In this fascinating interview, Funeka talks about how she left South Africa due, in part, to her involvement in protests as a nursing student.

She speaks about the solidarity she found among the African-American community in Chicago, and the role African-Americans played in the struggle against apartheid.

She also talks about the African National Congress' centenary celebrations this weekend and events planned throughout the year to celebrate its 100th birthday.

[CLICK TO WATCH](#)



## What is the proposed Family Unity Waiver?

In early January, the Obama administration announced that it would propose a **Family Unity Waiver**. What does this mean?



President Obama

The waiver would make it possible for some close relatives of US citizens who qualify for legal status to process their applications more quickly and easily.

Under the current system, relatives of US citizens have to return to their home countries in order to apply for legal status. As a result, many people face long term separation from their family members who are citizens in the US.

However, ICIRR warns that the Family Unity Waiver is a proposal and not law. There is still work to be done to make proposals like this reality and improve the lives of countless immigrants to the United States.

For more info on the Family Unity Waiver, check out ICIRR's fact sheet and attend ICIRR's Annual Illinois Immigration Integration Summit on Saturday, February 4, 2012, at Malcolm X College from 9am-1pm.

United African Organization  
3424 South State Street, Ste 3C8-2  
Chicago, IL 60616  
 312-949-9980   
[www.uniteafricans.org](http://www.uniteafricans.org)

