

A tribute to people who have been committed to real change

late 19th century to the
beginning of the new millennium

paintings, oil on linen, 40x50 cm

Jan van Eden

2019 - 2021

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AMSTERDAM



galerie Art Singel 100
Amsterdam
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Fundacion van Eden - Santolaria
Sabayes (Huesca, Aragon)
www.fundacionvanes.org.es



Piotr Kropotkin



Domela Nieuwenhuis



Jose Marti



Emma Goldman



Rosa Luxemburg



Gerda Taro



Frantz Fanon



Patrice Lumumba



Malcolm-X



Winnie Mandela



Vanessa Redgrave



Chris Hani



Angela Davis

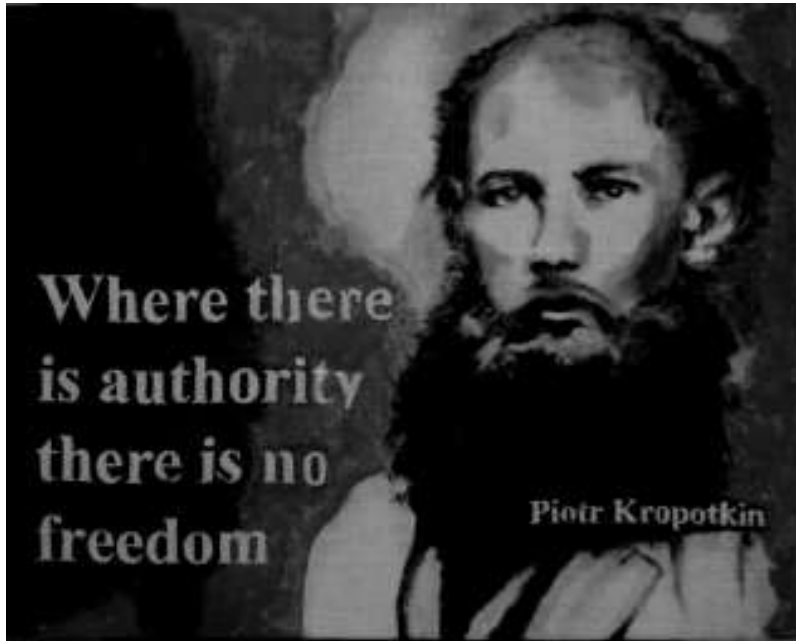


Steve Biko

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Piotr Kropotkin



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Prince Pyotr Alekséyevich Kropotkin was a geographer and Russian political thinker. He is considered one of the main theorists of the anarchist movement. Kropotkin was born in Moscow on December 9, 1842, into a noble family. His father, Prince Alexey Petrovich Kropotkin, owned large estates in three provinces.

Piotr served in the Russian Army from 1862 to 1867, was commissioned on an expedition to Siberia. Of this period he says: "The five years I spent in Siberia were very instructive for me regarding human character and life. I was put in contact with men of all conditions, the best and the worst ". Kropotkin continued his research work in Finland and with the Geographical Society.

In Saint Petersburg, he attended the evening meetings of the Tchaikovsky Circle disguised as a peasant and in 1873 Kropotkin was arrested by the Tsarist police. In March 1876, due to his physical deterioration, the doctors prescribed his transfer to the Military hospital in Saint Petersburg. In this year he escaped from prison with the assistance of friends. After a short period in England, he settled in Switzerland, arriving in Neuchatel in December 1876.

After the February Revolution, Kropotkin decided to return to Russia. In mid-1917 he embarked incognito from Aberdeen to Bergen (Norway), but despite the secrecy he was received by a demonstration of workers and students. Entry to Russia after 41 years. Kropotkin met again with Lenin, where he presented his views to him. From 1920 his health began to deteriorate, and he died on February 8, 1921. The Bolshevik government offered an official funeral but anarchist family and friends rejected the offer. Russian anarchist groups formed a funeral commission, among which were Alexander Berkman and Emma Goldman. The act also marked the beginning of the end of Russian anarchism, hitherto very powerful.

Kropotkin to refute the struggle for life as the central axis in evolution, carried out a series of studies in Siberia and observed that the species in that part of Asia, far from showing a fierce struggle to survive, showed an altruistic behavior that he would define as "mutual support". In this way, altruism between the species was for him what will provide them with success in the struggle for existence.

Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis Founder of socialism and anarchism in the Netherlands



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Ferdinand Domela Nieuwenhuis, founder of socialism and anarchism in the Netherlands, was born in Amsterdam in 1846 and died in Hilversum in 1919. His personal life was dramatic: three wives died in childbirth and he outlived some of his children. He started out as a Lutheran pastor, but would leave the church after nine years and devote himself to socialism.

On April 24, 1886, the critical article "The king is coming" was published in "Recht voor Allen". In this article, King William III was characterized as "someone who makes so little of his job." Although he was not the author of the article, Domela Nieuwenhuis as editor-in-chief took ultimate responsibility for the article and Domela was sentenced to a year in Utrecht in 1887 for lèse majesté. In 1888, thanks to the unexpected support of Abraham Kuyper's 'small people', Domela Nieuwenhuis was elected by the Schoterland district as the first and only socialist Member of Parliament. Domela Nieuwenhuis was completely ignored in his parliamentary speeches. He stood for a ban on forced shopping; introduction of the eight-hour working day; introduction of the minimum wage; labor ban for children under the age of 15; free education; establishment of health funds and pension funds; compensation in case of industrial accidents; reduction of indirect taxes; ending the Atjeh War; independence for the colonies; nationalization of the railways and the abolition of tolls on national highways. He turned away from parliamentary democracy and became an anarchist. After 1898, Domela mainly devoted a lot of time to his editorial work for De Vrije Socialist.

Jose Marti, Cuban revolutionary poet and politician



213402 oil on linen, 40x50 cm

José Julián Martí y Pérez, (1853, Havana, Cuba - 1895, Dos Ríos), Cuban poet and essayist, patriot and martyr, who became the symbol of Cuba's struggle for independence from Spain. His dedication to the goal of Cuban freedom made his name a synonym for freedom throughout Latin America. As a patriot, Martí organized and unified the movement for Cuban independence and died on the battlefield fighting for it. His goal was to die in battle and not in a bed. As a writer, he was distinguished by his personal prose and his deceptively simple and sincere verses on the themes of a free and united America.

During a revolutionary uprising that broke out in Cuba in 1868, he sympathized with the patriots, for which he was sentenced to six months of forced labor and, in 1871, deported to Spain. There he continued his education and writing, obtaining a law degree from the University of Zaragoza in 1874.

Due to his continuous political activities, however, Martí was again exiled from Cuba to Spain in 1879. From there he went to France, to New York City and, in 1881, to Venezuela, where he founded the *Revista Venezolana* ("Revista Venezolana"). The policy of his magazine, however, caused the dictator of Venezuela, Antonio Guzmán Blanco, and Martí to return that year to New York City, where he remained, except for occasional trips, until he returned to Cuba where he joined the military fight.

Martí expressed his original thoughts on Latin America and the United States in an intensely personal style that is still considered a model for Spanish prose. His writings reflect his exemplary life, his goodness, his love for freedom and justice, and his deep understanding of human nature.

Emma Goldman, If voting changed anything they'd make it illegal

Emma Goldman (June 27 , 1869 – May 14, 1940) was a political activist and writer. She played a pivotal role in the development of anarchist political philosophy in North America and Europe in the first half of the 20th century.



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Born in Kaunas (Russia, now Lithuania) emigrated to the United States in 1885. She and anarchist writer Alexander Berkman, her lover and lifelong friend, planned to assassinate industrialist and financier Henry Clay Frick as an act of propaganda of the deed. Frick survived the attempt on his life in 1892, and Berkman was sentenced to 22 years in prison.

Goldman was imprisoned several times in the years that followed, for "inciting to riot" and illegally distributing information about birth control.

After the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War, Goldman traveled to Spain to support the anarchist revolution there.

She died in Toronto, Canada, 1940.

[On colonialism:] *The European conquerors are the first who are not merely after subjugation and economic exploitation, but the means of production itself, by ripping the land from underneath the population. In this way, capitalism deprives the primitive social order of its foundation. What emerges is something worse than all oppression and exploitation, total anarchy and a specifically European phenomenon, the uncertainty of social existence.*

Rosa Luxemburg, naturalized German citizen anti-war activist and revolutionary socialist

Rosa Luxemburg (Polish: Róża Luksemburg) was born on 5 March 1871 in Russian-controlled Poland. From 1886, Luxemburg belonged to the Polish left-wing Proletariat Party (founded in 1882, anticipating the Russian parties by twenty years).



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She began political activities by organizing a general strike, as a result, four of the Proletariat Party leaders were put to death and the party was disbanded, After fleeing to Switzerland to escape detention in 1889, she attended the University of Zurich.

In April 1897 she married the son of an old friend, Gustav Lübeck, in order to gain a German citizenship. Settled in Berlin, she was active there in the left-wing of the SPD. Luxemburg professed a commitment to democracy and the necessity of revolution.

From 1900, Luxemburg published analyses of contemporary European socio-economic problems in newspapers. Foreseeing war, she vigorously attacked what she saw as German militarism and imperialism. In 1913 Luxemburg called for a general strike to rouse the workers to solidarity and prevent the coming war. However, when nationalist crises in the Balkans erupted to violence and then war in 1914, there was no general strike and the SPD majority supported the war, as did the French Socialists. The German Reichstag unanimously agreed to financing the war. Luxemburg defended Karl Marx's dialectical materialism and in her writings regarding the Russian Revolution she says in 1917:

The awkward position that the Bolsheviks are in today, however, is, together with their mistakes, a consequence of basic insolubility of the problem posed to them by the international, above all the German, proletariat. To carry out a socialist revolution in a single country surrounded by reactionary imperialist rule and in the fury of the bloodiest world war in human history – that is squaring the circle.

On 8 January 1919, Luxemburg's Red Flag printed a public statement by her, in which she called for revolutionary violence. The uprising had limited support and consisted of the occupation of a few newspaper buildings and the construction of street barricades. Luxemburg was captured in Berlin on 15 January 1919 by the Rifle Division of the Cavalry Guards. Its commander Captain Waldemar Pabst, with Lieutenant Horst von Pflugk, questioned her under torture and then gave the order to summarily execute her. The body was flung into Berlin's Landwehr Canal.

In 1919, Bertolt Brecht wrote the poetic memorial Epitaph honouring Luxemburg and Kurt Weil set it to music in The Berlin Requiem in 1928:

*Red Rosa now has vanished too,
And where she lies is hid from view.
She told the poor what life's about,
And so the rich have rubbed her out.
May she rest in peace*

Gerda Taro, Fotoperiodista antifascista during the Spanish Civil War

Gerta Pohorylle (1 August 1910 – 26 July 1937), known professionally as Gerda Taro, was a photographer active during the Spanish Civil War. She covered the war in Aragon and in the Cordoba province. She is regarded as the first woman photojournalist to have died while covering the frontline in a war.



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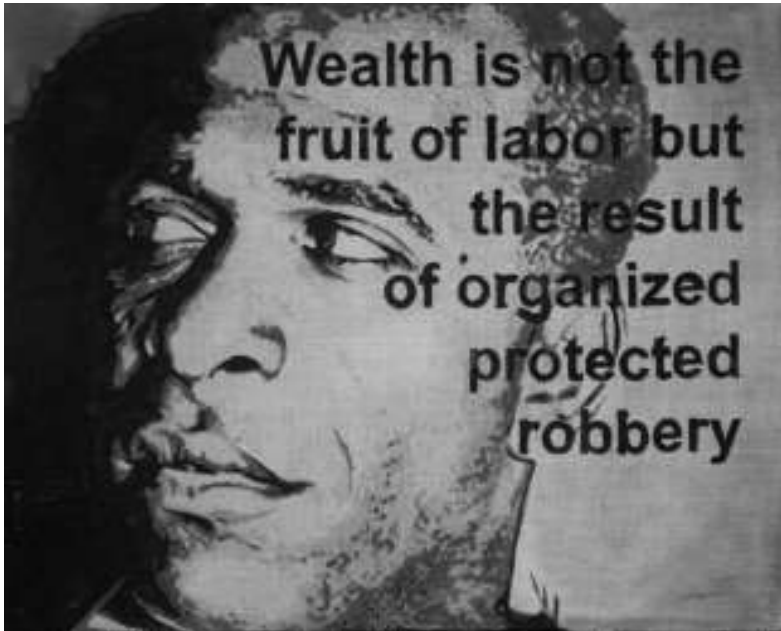
Taro was the companion and professional partner of photographer Robert Capa. The name "Robert Capa" was originally an alias that Taro and Capa (born Endre Friedmann) shared, an invention meant to mitigate the increasing political intolerance in Europe and to attract the lucrative American market. A significant amount of what is credited as Robert Capa's early work was actually made by Taro.

Due to her political commitment, Taro had become a respected anti-fascist figure. On 1 August 1937, the French Communist Party gave her a grand funeral in Paris, drawing tens of thousands of people on to the streets, buried her at Père Lachaise Cemetery, and commissioned Alberto Giacometti to create a monument for her grave.

Frantz Fanon

Wealth is not the fruit of labor, but the result of organized protected robbery

Frantz Omar Fanon (1925, Martinique – 1961, Algeria), was a French West Indian psychiatrist and political philosopher from the French colony of Martinique, whose works are influential in the fields of post-colonial studies, critical theory and Marxism.



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As well as being an intellectual, Fanon was a political radical, Pan-Africanist, and Marxist humanist concerned with the psychopathology of colonization and the human, social, and cultural consequences of decolonization.

In the course of his work as a physician and psychiatrist, Fanon supported the Algerian War of Independence from France and was a member of the Algerian National Liberation Front. For more than five decades, the life and works of Frantz Fanon have inspired national liberation movements and other radical political organizations in Palestine, Sri Lanka, South Africa, and the United States.

Fanon begins with the premise that decolonization is, by definition, a violent process without exception. One of the essays included in *The Wretched of the Earth* is "On National Culture", in which Fanon highlights the necessity for each generation to discover its mission and to fight for it.

I had things to say and I said them, Patrice Émery Lumumba

Ideologically an African nationalist and Pan-Africanist, he led the Mouvement National Congolais (MNC) party from 1958 until his assassination in 1960. ... In 2002, **Belgium** formally apologised for its role overseeing the assassination of **Lumumba**.



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France's ambassador in Léopoldville maintained a certain bemused distance when Belgian King Baudouin handed over power to Lumumba at a solemn ceremony on 30 June 1960. Baudouin's speech was "the polar opposite of self-criticism", ambassador Pierre-Albert Charpentier commented in a cable to the French foreign affairs ministry.

The king lauded the "genius of King Léopold II", whose rule of the colony had achieved such international notoriety that it had been satirised in a pamphlet by American author Mark Twain, he reported.

Lumumba, on the other hand, delivered a "violent diatribe against the regime of exploiters, executioners and colonialists" and the "humiliating slavery that was forced upon us", addressing the Congolese people and not the king, who, visibly embarrassed, "talked to his neighbours". In other cables Charpentier expressed his admiration for the 35-year-old former leader of the independence struggle, whom he described as "skilful, aggressive and courageous", very different from the "bland politicians around him".

Lumumba personified the Congolese nation, he commented, unlike the "uncouth clan chiefs" bogged down in their "self-interest [and] their traditional hatreds".

But the ambassador also warned that Lumumba could become "the strong man of Congo within a few months", which he judged to be both good and bad news - on the one hand he had the qualities of a statesman but on the other it was "worrying when one thinks of his admiration for [Kwame] Nkrumah and [Gamal Abdel] Nasser".

Malcolm X, American human rights activist

Born Malcolm Little (1925) better known as Malcolm X, was an American human rights activist. He is known for his staunch and controversial black racial advocacy, and as the vocal spokesperson of the Nation of Islam.



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In 1950, the FBI opened a file on Malcolm after he wrote a letter from prison to President Truman expressing opposition to the Korean war and declaring himself a communist. That year, he also began signing his name "Malcolm X".

Throughout 1964, his conflict with the Nation of Islam intensified, and he was repeatedly sent death threats. On February 21, 1965, he was assassinated.

Speculation about the assassination and whether it was conceived by leading members of the Nation, or with law enforcement agencies, have persisted for decades after the shooting.

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela South African anti-apartheid activist and the second wife of Nelson Mandela.

A member of the African National Congress (ANC) and heading its Women's League. Born in 1936, she was known to her supporters as the "Mother of the Nation". Due to her political activities, she was regularly detained by the National Party government. She was subjected to house arrest, kept under surveillance, imprisoned, and banished to the remote town of Brandfort.

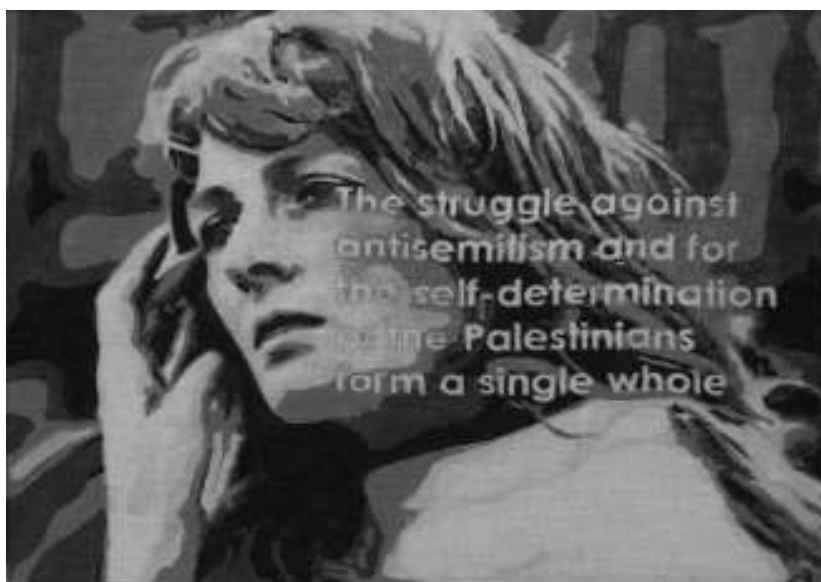


Winnie's life entailed being sent into internal exile twice. First by the apartheid regime to prevent her from fanning the flames of revolt of the youth uprising that began in Soweto where she lived. And second by her own party, beginning in 1989 to clear the way for the ANC's capitulation in the negotiations at the Convention for a Democratic South Africa. The ANC leadership, to clear the path to power, issued Nelson Mandela with an ultimatum: 'Winnie or the presidency'. Winnie went so far to describe Mandela as a sell-out and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a farce acting on behalf of Stratcom (Strategic Communications, a setup to create and spread false narratives against political enemies). One government agent, Paul Erasmus, told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that he'd been in charge of a scheme to paint Mrs Mandela as an alcoholic and drug-user.

The outpouring of emotion that has followed Winnie's death in 2018 is comparable to that for Chris Hani, leader of the South African Communist Party and Chief of Staff of the armed wing of the African National Congress (ANC). Hani was assassinated in April, 1993, a year before the historic first democratic elections. Winnie Mandela discerned that the main opponent in the negotiations was, in fact, Capital. Not the least of her contributions was to set a living example of the role of a woman in the struggle, capable of more than matching that of any man.

Vanessa Redgrave (born 1937) – actress and political activist

Redgrave's support for the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) was a source of controversy throughout her career. Redgrave defended her stance in her 1991 autobiography, saying that *"the struggle against antisemitism and for the self-determination of the Palestinians form a single whole"*.



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She received the best supporting actress Oscar for her performance in the 1977 film *"Julia,"* in which Redgrave played the title role — a woman murdered by Nazis prior to World War II for her anti-fascist activism.

Following her nomination, members of the Jewish Defence League burned her in effigy and allegedly offered a bounty on her head. There was a firebombing at one of the theatres that screened the documentary.

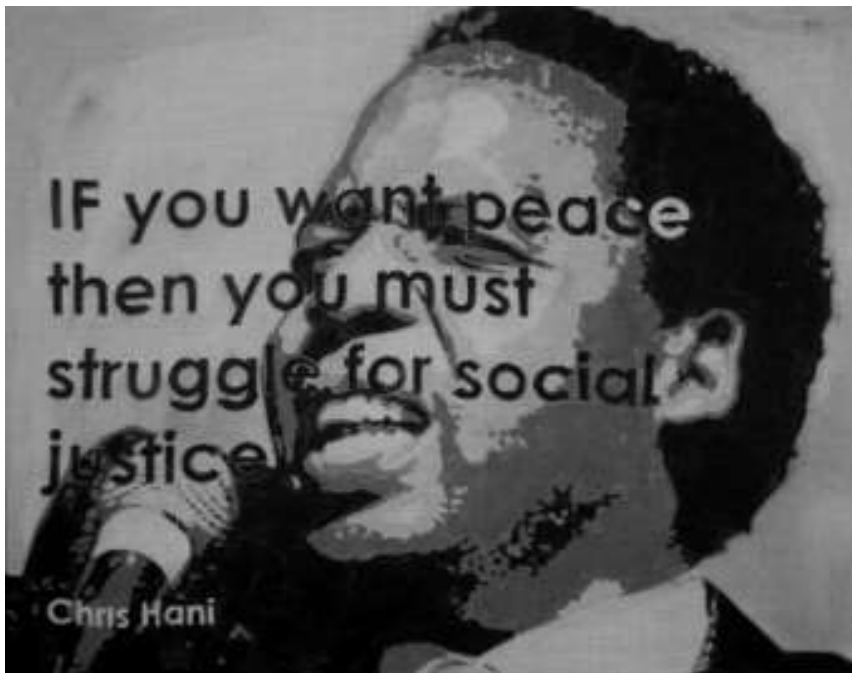
Vanessa Redgrave referred to "Zionist hoodlums" during her Academy Award acceptance speech.

The cancellation by the New York Theatre Workshop of the production *My Name is Rachel Corrie* was denounced by her as an "act of catastrophic cowardice" as "the essence of theatre is to communicate about lives, and about beliefs, and what is in those beliefs." Redgrave has been an outspoken critic of the "war on terrorism", calling Guantanamo Bay a concentration camp.

In 2017, Redgrave made her directorial debut with the movie *Sea Sorrow*, a documentary about the European migrant crisis. She has heavily criticized the exclusionary policy of the British government towards refugees, violating the principles of the Declaration of Human Rights.

Martin Thembisile Hani (28 June 1942 – assassinated 10 April 1993).

Born into a family of ordinary working people in the Eastern Cape, he excelled in his studies at the university. It might strike many of us as odd that a peasant boy from the eastern Cape should have acquired such a keen interest in the classics. Chris studied both Latin and Greek. The Extension of University Education Act (1959) had put an end to black students attending White universities. During his years in the Western Cape Hani participated in protests against the takeover of the university by the Department of Bantu Education and came into contact with the South African Congress of Trade Unions. This increased his



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Hani's frustration with the Apartheid system, led him to join the underground South African Communist Party in 1961 and Umkhonto We Sizwe (MK, military wing of the ANC) in 1962.

His encounters with the law began with his arrest at a police roadblock in 1962. He was found to be in possession of pamphlets containing objections to the government's notorious policy of detention without trial. He was subsequently charged under the Suppression of Communism Act and held in jail. In 1963, while out on bail pending an appeal, Hani went underground in Cape Town and Johannesburg where he was instructed to leave South Africa to undergo military training. Hani left South Africa for the Soviet Union, and returned in 1967 to take an active role in the Rhodesian bush war, acting as a Political Commissar in the Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army operating out of Zambia. His long stay in independent Africa had forced him to contend with the reality that independence had in many respects failed the ordinary people who had struggled for it. The emergence of rapacious indigenous elites with their lifestyle of conspicuous consumption disgusted him more than the colonial arrogance of the settler bourgeoisie. Within the ANC alliance too he would not keep silent about the abuse of power and incipient corrupt practices. In his opinion the world may well be entering a second era of colonial expansion and imperialist aggression not dissimilar to that of the late 19th century. No small nation could assume it was safe from the aggressive attentions of the more powerful and technologically advanced powers of the north. The death of the leader of the armed wing of the ANC and popular communist leader on the eve of the first democratic elections in South Africa threatened the transition to democracy. Hani's SACP would have proved a serious match for the ANC in the 1994 elections.

As long as we inhabit a capitalist democracy, equality will elude us, Angela Davis

"As long as we inhabit a capitalist democracy, a future of racial equality, gender equality, economic equality will elude us".

Angela Ivonne Davis, born in 1944 is an American communist and political counterculture activist. working with the Communist Party USA in the 1960s, and involved in the Black Panther Party during the Civil Rights Movement.



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Angela Davis wrote a series of books about race, class, women and the prison industrial-complex, and became Professor of the History of Human Consciousness at the University of California, Santa Cruz.

She is an outspoken critic of the prison-industrial complex, and supporting prison abolition. In her work, she writes: *"Mass incarceration is not a solution to unemployment, nor is it a solution to the vast array of social problems that are hidden away in a rapidly growing network of prisons and jails"*.

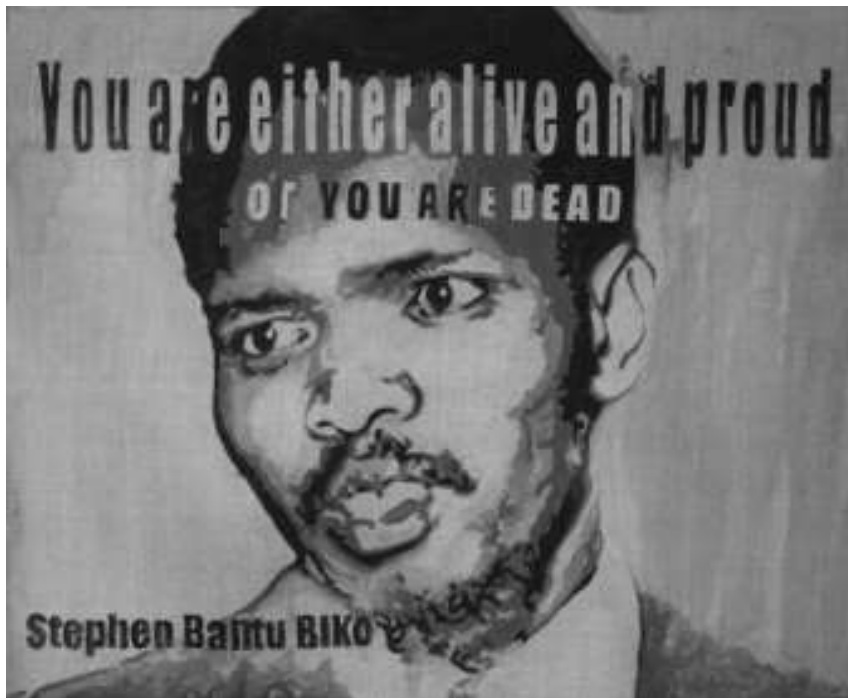
The Rolling Stones song "Sweet Black Angel," recorded in 1970 and released on their album Exile on Main Street (1972), is dedicated to her.

John Lennon and Yoko Ono recorded their song "Angela" on their album Some Time in New York City (1972) in support of her.

She remains active in movements such as Occupy and the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign.

Stephen Bantu Biko, South African anti-apartheid activist

Bantu Stephen Biko (18 December 1946– died in police detention 1977) was a South African anti-apartheid activist. Ideologically an African socialist.



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Founder of the Black Consciousness Movement and first president of the black student organisation SASO. He was careful to keep his movement independent of white liberals, but opposed anti-white racism.

Raised in a poor Xhosa family, Biko grew up in Ginsberg township in the Eastern Cape. In 1966, he began studying medicine at the University of Natal, where he joined the National Union of South African Students (NUSAS).

Strongly opposed to the apartheid system of racial segregation and white-minority rule in South Africa.

Influenced by the Martinican philosopher Frantz Fanon and the African-American Black Power movement, Biko and his compatriots developed Black Consciousness as SASO's official ideology. The movement campaigned for an end to apartheid and the transition of South Africa toward universal suffrage and a socialist economy.

Following his arrest in August 1977, Biko was beaten to death by state security officers. Over 20,000 people attended his funeral.