



17th November, 2022

Honourable Kamala Harris Vice President of the United States Office of the Vice President White House Old Executive Building 1800 G Street NW Washington, DC 20502

Dear Honourable Kamala Harris,

Attached, you will see a letter, signed by several notable Guyanese social activists, concerned and appalled by the many ills perpetuated against the citizens of our country. The situation might not have been so horrendous but for the fact that it is engineered and fueled by the national government, the group of people vested with the power and tools to protect the rights of the citizens.

To say that Guyana is on the brink of civil unrest is mildly describing the situation. We have traveled to many villages within the ten administrative regions of Guyana and spoken to affected residents. Consequently, we have documented, what we presume to be, the central concerns of the people, selected from a mass of other complaints, to give an insight into the pervading ills affecting our people. We believe that the Government is deliberately setting the stage for civil unrest, an occurrence that may only serve to compromise our fledgling democracy and create chaos and loss of innocent lives.

We are, therefore, appealing to you, kind ladies and gentlemen, to use your high offices to influence the requisite changes that can only serve to rectify the situation so that all Guyanese can once again enjoy peace, goodwill, and the patrimony of this dear land. Thank you all and may God continue to bless you in your daily efforts to make this world a better place.

Yours sincerely

Lelon Saul

Secretary

STATEMENT BY ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS CONDEMNING ACTS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND VICTIMIZATION BY THE PPP GOVERNMENT OF GUYANA

We the undersigned organizations and individuals are gravely concerned about the escalating social, racial, economic, and political injustices leveled at African Guyanese and other who do not support the governing People's Progressive Party (PPP) regime of Guyana. These injustices have moved beyond geographical borders to Guyanese living in the diaspora, particularly those who vociferously denounce these atrocities.

The situation has recently ballooned to unimaginable proportions with PPP activists extending their malice beyond Guyana's borders and into the diaspora, towards President of the U.S-based Caribbean Guyanese Institute for Democracy (CGID), Rickford Burke. The Guyana Police Force has twice recently issued malicious wanted bulletins for him, all within a 12-month period, devoid of lawful justification.

Undoubtedly, the rights of citizens and the rule of law are under siege in Guyana and it must be noted that these threats are vile in nature and pose a danger, not only to Mr. Burke, but to humanity everywhere. Happily, Guyana's oil and gas wealth has placed the country among the world's fastest-growing economies which have attracted multinationals and transnational corporations the likes of Exxon Mobil and Hess, among others. Sadly, the vile acts of discrimination adopted by the government have shut out a large portion of the citizens from enjoying the benefits of the nation's oil wealth and national patrimony.

Coupled with that, the most fundamental of rights; freedom of expression and association, are blatantly assailed on a daily basis by the government. Economic genocide is now prevalent and those unwilling to 'toe the line' in adherence of the regime's autocratic governance are ostracised, marginalised and victimised. Private businesses are persecuted for advertising with media houses deemed unsupportive of to the government. Further, organizations that rely on state subventions (grants) and contracts, are punished and defunded if perceived to be non-compliant with the ruling PPP and its political objectives.

Most reprehensibly, the PPP government abuses the powers of Guyana Police Force (GPF) as well as the Criminal Justice System as its enforcement agencies for political vendetta, victimization and revenge. They also abuse the Courts to obtain the most repugnant forms political and personal recrimination. The concomitant result is pervasive intimidation and coercion of the massed, struggling for economic survival, to either be forced into silence or comply with the abominable policies and acquiesce to receiving inconsequential handouts.

The PPP government has unashamedly 'graduated' from attacking Guyanese in the Diaspora to attacking elected officials in New York. On October 30, 2022, twenty-one Guyanese organizations held a Guyanese Diaspora Town Hall Meeting where several elected (USA) government and law enforcement officials, discussed transnational repressive crimes against Guyanese in the USA, orchestrated by the PPP government. The meeting was addressed by New York State Attorney General, Letitia James and U.S Representative, Hakeem Jeffries. Both officials emphasized that the United States will not tolerate racism in Guyana or any other country. They also called for an investigation of the myriad of complaints of racism, racial discrimination, governmental abuse and police atrocities which have been alleged by a vast majority of Guyanese

Consequently, Minister of Governance, Gail Teixeira, Vice President, Bharrat Jagdeo, and Attorney General, Anil Nandall, launched vicious attacks against the organizers, as well as the Attorney General, Letitia James and U.S Representative, Hakeem Jeffries. Their reckless attacks reflect the conduct of despotic regimes that abhor accountability.

Furthermore, we vehemently denounce the PPP regime's uncouth attempt to interfere in the New York elections of Attorney General James, by disseminating false information to her opponent, and mobilizing its supporters in Queens, New York, to attack the Attorney General as well as Congressman Jeffries, who is Chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and member of the Congressional Black Caucus. The government's contemptuous attacks on these officials have caused irreparable harm to Guyana and deeply injured race relations in Guyana and the diaspora. We therefore sternly rebuke the PPP regime for their reckless and contemptuous attacks on Attorney General James and Congressman Jeffries.

Moreover, Ms. Teixeira and Vice President, Bharrat Jagdeo attacked Mr. Burke and former Chairman of the Police Service Commission (PSC), retired Assistant Commissioner of Police, Paul Slowe, referring to them as criminals who should not be listened to. Their attack perpetuates an appallingly racist stereotype that is unacceptable in any civilised society. We strongly condemn this abuse of free speech and demonstration of disdain for African Guyanese by the PPP government, who portrayed these gentlemen as criminals, simply because they condemned the Government's discriminatory policies and practices towards those with whom they have political differences. This is deeply abusive, offensive, and racist! We demand an immediate cessation!

Democratic governments embrace investigations of discrimination and do not oppose denunciation of such social ills. We strongly condemn the Government of Guyana's efforts to criminalize African Guyanese leaders and institutions with ridiculous and malicious accusations and libel. The Government has crossed a line with its disgraceful falsehoods and slander, which is fueling national outrage and inciting racial hostility.

Speaking out against the PPP government is becoming increasingly dangerous. Government officials employ unconstitutional coercive tactics, like utilizing the Guyana Police Force and other ruthless, repressive methods to crush, and eventually silence, those who speak out against their draconian policies. Consequently, the diaspora has emerged as a voice against racism and corruption, and resolute advocates against police abuse. Consequently, the PPP government has been committing transnational repressive crimes to harass and silence the diaspora in the US from speaking out. We are advised that said crimes are now the subject of an FBI investigation, which we welcome.

The Government's recent labeling of black leaders as 'criminals' is racist and offensive to all African Guyanese as well as to African Americans and people of African ancestry around the world. African Guyanese are the descendants of the indomitable slaves who braved the many atrocities to defeat slavery and colonialism. They went on to purchase villages and establish commerce and industry as well as a banking system. Our fore parents were the modern equivalent of engineers, medical scientists, bankers, and mathematicians among other worthwhile vocations and their ingenuity and industry were catalysts to Guyana's development. Hence, contrary to the belief of the PPP government politicians, African Guyanese and their leaders are not criminals.

Africans Guyanese currently face discrimination, indignity, inhumane atrocities, subjugation, humiliation, lack of opportunities, unemployment, underdevelopment in their communities, neglect, displacement, discrimination, and marginalization, all supporting their positions of abject poverty. Therefore, the point for discussion is not whether this is not whether the PPP regime discriminates against Blacks, and others who do not support the regime, but rather, how to address this dreadful wrong. Africans and opposition supporters have had enough of the regime's mendacious, self-serving denials with no solution in sight. We demand an immediate resolution to the crisis.

Respecting African Guyanese, regardless of their political view, is an imperative to cohesion and stability in Guyana. African Guyanese must feel free to voice dissent and dissatisfaction on issues that affect them. The PPP government must realize that Guyana is a multi-ethnic state and work towards its transformation to a cohesive multiracial, multicultural democracy that thrives on the rule of law.

Every right-thinking Guyanese should strongly condemn the wanted bulletins issued by the Guyana Police Force for CGID President, Mr. Rickford Burke, especially since he lives outside of the jurisdiction, in the US and has violated no laws here. Mr. Burke has demonstrated the unique propensities of leadership, and is a law abiding citizen, thus, exposing the bulletins as malicious, lacking credibility, devoid of legal basis and designed to smear his character. We, therefore, demand that they be withdrawn forthwith as they demonstrate an astonishing abuse of power.

This PPP government discriminates against and subjugates Africans Guyanese. When the affected group cry out in indignation and pain, the government labels them with derogatory, racist names, and attempts to lecture the Black population about what is racism and discrimination and who they should listen to. It begs the question, what, or who, gave the PPP Government the authority to dictate to African Guyanese how they should respond to their pains and frustrations and who is qualified or unqualified to represent their causes, rights and interests?

While the government continues to deny its racist practices, we list hereunder some of the multitude of cases of blatant discrimination:

- (i) In August, 2022, Guyana's Attorney General, Anil Nandlall, issued a statement claiming that it was unlawful for an African Guyanese organization to convene a forum to discuss whether Guyana is an emerging apartheid state. His statement was a most dangerous abuse of power, and an egregious assault on the rule of law, of Article 146 of the Constitution of Guyana which guarantees the right to free speech.
- (ii) In a show of brutal power, the Government has confiscated or attempted to confiscate lands and property of African Guyanese, based on an unjustifiable, unlawful and arbitrary determination of illegitimate acquisition. This obnoxious display of apartheid discrimination, bullyism and gross abuse of power must end immediately.
- (iii) The government's argument that it is not racist because they have appointed several black cabinet ministers and departmental heads, and that the public service is approximately 68% black, is offensive and disingenuous. Decision making is centered on a cabal. African Guyanese ministers are either complicit with the cabal, to preserve power, or are powerlessness to curtail the ruthless exploits of hardliners in the government.
- (iv) The Government audaciously uses the Guyana Police Force to persecute African Guyanese and other political opponents who speak out against racism and corruption. Unfortunately, the presence of an African Guyanese Commissioner of Police offers no insulation from political abuse. The Commissioner fully implements the directives of the regime and ensure that the rule of law does not take precedence over PPP political exploits.
- (v) Further, the fact that the Police Commissioner (ag) is African Guyanese is also irrelevant as the very Commissioner ensures that the Force is subservient to the political directorate, and carries out their repressive policies against the African Guyanese citizens. The cabal clearly exercises absolute power and it's obvious that the Police Commissioner concedes his powers over the administration of the Force to the Minister of National Security. This is the nature of apartheid governance!

- (vi) On October 28, 2022, the Police high-handedly arrested Attorney-at-Law Tamika Clarke after she advised her client against breaching his constitutional rights. To date, neither government officials nor any member of the hierarchy of the Guyana Police Force has bothered to even as much as issue an apology to the aggrieved Attorney-at-Law. Notably, this disgraceful, unconstitutional act has been condemned by the Guyana Bar Association, Guyana Association of Women Lawyers, Jamaica Bar Association as well as the Commonwealth Caribbean Bar Association.
- (vii) From the time it came to power in August 2022, the PPP government directed the GPF to unjustifiably arrest several African Guyanese Members of Parliament and former APNU+AFC government Ministers, Guyana Elections Commission officials, and former CEOs of government agencies, on what were clearly trumped-up charges for political revenge.
- (viii) The regime directed the Police to unlawfully break into the home of Opposition Chief Whip, Mr. Christopher Jones, and arrest him unlawfully, although enjoined from doing so by the Guyana Supreme Court. Today, two years later, these cases remain stalled in the courts. There have been no convictions. These cases have cannot be prosecuted because the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) have no evidence to support these malicious, fabricated charges.
- (ix) Clearly the PPP government has weaponized the Guyana Police Force as a sword against personal and political enemies and corruptly sanctions Police corruption to keep segments of the population in check. Lawlessness and abuse by the GPF is also tolerated by the regime as enforcement to impose ethnic political dominance.
- (x) Government has terminated black contractors and awarded over 95% of government contracts, totaling hundreds of billions of dollars, to its supporters. Most African Guyanese and all opposition supporters are literally banned receiving government contracts. Officials then presumptuously and provocatively, distributed pictorial evidence of these contract signings, to the media, in a bold show of ethno-political dominance.
- (xi) Black-owned businesses, businesses operated by opposition supporters and African Guyanese-dominated civil society organisations, independent of the government, face economic persecution. They are excluded from state contracts. The suffer withdrawal of subventions (grants) thereby undermining their economic viability and contribution to society. These organisations include the International Decade for People of African Descent Assembly Guyana (IDPADA-G), African Cultural and Development Association (ACDA), Critchlow Labour College, Car Care (hotels and motor vehicles), Cevons Waste Management, and others. The PPP government has also revoked contracts from black-owned security companies and awarded said contracts to its ethnic supporters.
- (xii) Recently the Government unjustifiably slashed funding for IDPADA-G after Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo repeatedly and unfairly attacked its leadership and falsely accused them of misappropriating funds yet again stereotyping African Guyanese leaders as "criminals." The Government also defunded ACDA, depriving the organisation of much-needed financial resources for the staging of the 2022 Emancipation celebrations. However, this same government simultaneously disbursed increased funding for activities hosted by other non-black cultural organisations. We strongly denounce such mischievous, divisive governance, and condemn the government's deplorable efforts to divide the Guyanese society by race.
- (xiii) Trade union repression in unionized workplaces dominated by African Guyanese and opposition supporters is rampant. The right to collective bargaining as guaranteed in Article 147 of the

Constitution of Guyana is under assault by the PPP government. This atrocity requires urgent redress by the international community, as the government refuses to recognize said unions, and has been enacting arbitrary wages and working conditions in blatant of collective bargaining laws and agreements.

- (xiv) The Government is persecuting, harassing, and has arrested almost all African Guyanese Talk Show Hosts, including Member of Parliament, Mr. Sherod Duncan, in violation of the 'free speech" provision of the constitution. On November 2, 2022, African Guyanese Talk Show Host Mr. Kidackie Amsterdam was arrested for using a bullhorn while protesting the government. Despite enjoying such said right while in opposition, the PPP regime unilaterally outlawed such protests when they assumed office.
- (xv) These cases receive deliberately slow redress in both in the criminal and civil terms of the courts, while the government and their propagandists drag those falsely and maliciously through the mud and portray them as criminals.
- (xvi) The government is using the Cybercrime Act to suppress free speech. Recently, the Police Force arrested and charged Police Sergeant Dion Bascom with Cybercrimes, because he spoke out about an alleged cover up of a high-profile murder. He was subsequently fired after being deemed a 'whistleblower' in a matter that implicated several senior officers of the GPF. This is in violation of the Public Disclosures Act. This saga requires an international investigation.
- (xvii) Guyana has degenerated into an autocratic state. The government has directed the police to use both pellets and live bullets in crowd dispersals in an effort to discourage peaceful and lawful protests. We deplore this precipitous slide to dictatorship and official sanction of Police brutality. Similarly, the government has been accused of complicity and cover-ups of unjustifiable Police shootings that were deemed to be murder.
- (xviii) The previous PPP government allegedly committed hundreds of extrajudicial killings of African Guyanese young men, as well as several political assassinations, including journalists, from 1998 2011, with impunity. There has never been any justice for these victims of this genocide. The audacious perpetrators have not been held accountable. We deplore these heinous killings and reiterate the call for an international investigation, as this matter continues to engender animosity and resentment in the society.
- (xix) Immediately upon its installation in government the racist regime arbitrarily commenced turning back, expelling and deporting Haitians and African from Guyana; including African medical students. They subsequently banned Haitians from entering Guyana under facade of preventing human smuggling. Further, they arbitrarily enacted a visa requirement for Haitians, which is a flagrantly racist and abominable violation of the Revised CARICOM Treaty of Chaguaramas. Meanwhile the government has been welcoming immigrants from Southern Asia, Cuba, China and Venezuela.
- (xx) Many African Guyanese citizens have complained of unjustified omissions from the distributions of COVID-19, and flood relief cash grants another detestable act of blatant racial discrimination.
- (xxi) The government made an additional \$250,000.00 severance payment to GUYSUCO workers, which are mainly their political supporters, although said workers received a severance pay from the previous APNU+AFC administration. Meanwhile the government has refused to grant a meaningful

salary increase to the majority government and state employees, who are mostly of African descent, in spite of a 2020 election promise a 50% increase.

(xxii) The PPP Government unjustifiably terminated the services of more than 3000 African Guyanese state employees, because of their perceived political affiliation, leaving them economically crippled and without the ability to take care of their families.

(xxx) African Guyanese who vociferously denounce the Government's discriminatory policies and practices are maligned, and labeled as criminals by a racist gang in the Government and publicly chastised and slandered by government aligned media entities.

(xxxi) President, Irfaan Ali boldly attempts to sell the "One Guyana" mantra amidst blatant injustices and racist, triumphalist policies, and practices, particularly in the criminal justice system, which relegates African Guyanese and opposition supporters generally to second-class citizenship while inciting resentment and racial hostilities.

(xxxii) The open vindictiveness of Ministers and other cabinet members in their ruthless pursuit of absolute power, dominance and control over every sphere of national life, is dangerous for democracy and the rule of law. It is an existential threat to the African Guyanese population and non-PPP supporters in Guyana.

(xxxiii) The government is deliberately withholding taxpayer's funds from the capital City – Georgetown, other historical African Guyanese villages, towns, local government councils and Regions, which it does not govern and which are populated with opposition supporters. This abomination cannot be tolerated. All Guyanese must benefit equally from the resources of our country.

(xxxiv) The government is utilizing the nation's oil wealth, and the oil and gas sector, as if it belongs only to them and their supporters. They indiscriminately dole out the billions in contracts to their supporters or expatriates, while excluding African Guyanese and opposition supporters. Undoubtedly the PPP government and their supporters are milking the nation's wealth and nation's patrimony, while forcing others to settles mere crumbs. This atrocity is generating intense societal resentment and anger and will engender civil disorder.

Guyana is in a serious crisis, precipitated by racism and corruption. The PPP government has refused to meet with the collective leadership of the African Guyanese and other communities, as well as the parliamentary opposition to resolve these concerns and to construct a consensus agenda for inclusive governance and the development of Guyana. They are a one seat majority government, governing like an apartheid dictatorship.

It is obvious that the PPP government is opposed to leveling the playing field by facilitating opportunities for equitable access to resources for all citizens. The have rejected equality in the management and distribution of the country's wealth, national patrimony, and other resources. The policies and practices of the government establish that it does not subscribe to the constitutional principles equal rights and justice for all. We reject such brutal and oppressive ethnocratic and apartheid PPP governance of our beloved country and people. There must especially be a change in policy to ensure equitable governance, equitable distribution and benefit from the nation's wealth and national patrimony.

We, the undersigned, hereby call on the United States Government, the US Congress and Congressional Black Caucus, CARICOM Heads of Government, the ABCE Countries, the United Nations, Commonwealth, Organization of American States, African Union and all African Heads of Governments, as well as other international agencies, to intervene urgently, to facilitate an amicable resolution to this

untenable crisis of racism and corruption in Guyana. We propose an urgent Washington DC conference on Guyana's future to ventilate and resolve the matters laid out herein.

SIGNED:	Indi
	Vinceroy Jordan, MP.
	Member of Parliament & Vice Chairman of the People's
	National Congress Reform (PNCR)

Darren Wade Attorney at Law

Deron Adams, J.P Regional Chairman Region No. 10 Upper Demerara-Berbice

Shurwayne Holder, M.P Member of Parliament & Chairman of the People's National Congress Reform (PNCR)

International Decade For People of African Decent Assembly Guyana

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Christopher Jones, M.P. Member of Parliament Opposition Chief Whip

Coretta McDonald, A.A, M.P Member of Parliament

President of the Guyana Trades Union Congress (GTUC) General Secretary of the Guyana Teaches Union (GTU) Joycelyn DeJonge
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Whiebess Nima Flue-Bess, M.P.

Elton McRae 8th May Movement

Pandit Ubraj Narine His Worship

Mayor of Georgetown

Sis. Penda-Guyan

Ghana Day Association

Rev. Dr. Rudi Guyan

Forum of the Temple of African (KaaMetic) Spirituality

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Leslie Gonsalves

Trade Unionist

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Ganesh Mahpaul, M.P. MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT Shadow Minister for Local Government

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Althea Wade

COMMUNITY LEADER

Ann Mars

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COMMUNITY LEADER

NO.C

Wanda Casey

COMMUNITY LEADER

Clarita Monay Wright

COMMUNITY LEADER

Vashtie Watts **COMMUNITY LEADER**

Organizations Against Racism (GOAR)
Representative PNCR North America Region (PNCR-NAR) Représentative Guyana Action Committee (GAC) Representative Black Lives Matter Brooklyn (BLM) Representative Guyana Unity Movement/(GUM) Representative/ Anything Guyanese First Representative APNU/AFC North America Support Group Representative AFC Brooklyn Representative Sisters On The Move Representative Bartica Diaspora United Representative ime Guyana Veterans Association (GVA) Representative Center For Guyana's Development Representative Guyana Karaoke Fans Representative Guyanese DJs & Promoters Representative One Guyana USA (OGU) Progressive Guyanese American Organization (PGAO)

Buts

Guyanese Association Of America (GOA)

Rebuild Guyana

Guyana East Coast Connection INC

T.M. McFarland

T.M. McFarland

Chairman of Union/Naarstigheid Neighborhood Democratic Council

Shona James
Shona James
COMMUNITY LEADER

Vanessa Simon
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Former Director of the Competition & Consumer Affairs Commission and Former Magistrate of the Judiciary of Guyana