

Why We Fight

FRELIMO

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A large part of the Black population is unemployed. Do they not need to feed themselves adequately? Do they not also need to educate their children?

There is a great difference between a White and a Black. The White, because he is white, finds a job easily, earns a good living, can support his family and cover his expenses including the education of his children. While the African obtains work with difficulty, and as a result earns miserably little, not being able to satisfy even his minimum needs.

When there is a competition, 300–400 persons enter, but systematically only Whites win even if there are Africans with greater knowledge.

Why is it that the African, owner of the land, must suffer and the White enrich himself at the cost of the African?

Do the people of Mozambique wish to continue to suffer? We are certain they do not.

Almost all the commerce of Mozambique is in the hands of Whites and Indians. There are very few Blacks in commerce, and those who are are poor.

It is rare to see a bar or a shop belonging to a Black because it is difficult to get a licence. When they can, they construct a shed and use it to earn their daily bread; but when it's discovered by the police, the poor man's bar is seized and closed. The Black woman who sells peanuts in the streets, does it furtively, fearing that 'Papa Policeman' will say to her: 'Come now, mama, you can't sell peanuts here, do you hear? Go home and hurry up.'

We Mozambicans cannot continue to accept such humiliations. The White man cannot abuse our Black mothers. She is a Mozambican lady. She has a right to life.

In industry the same things happen as in commerce. There are many African workers who are quite skilled in their jobs, but badly paid. Where then is the equality between Whites and Blacks?

The large majority of Mozambican Blacks live from agriculture. Everything that the Black has achieved or won, he has done with great effort. The White man has seized everything and the Black must be satisfied with a *capulana* (sarong) in exchange for maize, catfish, peanuts, or even cotton.

Cotton is one of the sources of wealth for the Portuguese in Mozambique, and they have accumulated many fortunes.

It is very sure that the African is suffering, working only for the White man. Thus, for example, in the province of Cabo Delgado the Portuguese use a method to buy cotton cheap. They create many categories in terms of which payment to the Black man is made. Thus even the highest quality of cotton is placed in a lower category; and the African can never protest.

The modern methods the Portuguese have introduced into agriculture in Mozambique have as their object perfecting the exploitation of the land

and the workers. The new technical methods serve only to develop those crops that interest Portuguese companies without any consideration for the interests of the Africans. Furthermore, the new methods the Portuguese use tend to favour and legitimize the swindle that occurs when products are bought from African growers.

The education and training of Mozambican youngsters require money. But if Africans earn very little, where can they get this money? It's almost impossible. This is why the number of educated Africans is still rather small. There is only one barrier to their mental development – MONEY. When the White man educates his children, the Black man is perturbed, because he wishes to do the same but cannot for lack of money.

Faced with all these obstacles in trade, in industry, in agriculture, and in education, what do the people of Mozambique say? Do they wish to continue under the yoke of the colonialist fascist Salazar?

No, we have all had enough of so much oppression. The torture is coming to an end. It is time to demand our rights. But if the Portuguese do not wish to leave, what are we going to do? ONLY FIGHT. It is only through struggle that they will be convinced we want freedom, that we want to take back our land.

Mozambique is only for Mozambicans and we do not accept the intervention of any outsider. Many promise us their assistance but it is we who must take the initiative. We are going to expel the Portuguese!

Let us shout at the top of our lungs: FREEDOM! FREEDOM! FREEDOM!