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Introduction

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EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

Greetings!

We welcome you to this inaugural issue of *Groundings*, a publication of [The Walter Rodney Foundation](#). We want to share with you news about the Foundation's activities and to provide a platform for discussion and engagement on issues related to the ideas of Walter Rodney.

Groundings takes its name from the title of Walter Rodney's book, *The Groundings with My Brothers*, published shortly after Walter Rodney's expulsion from Jamaica in 1968. As significantly, we also take the name from the process of grounding that Walter Rodney spoke about in that text. Grounding is a learning experience, a process of gaining real knowledge. The key is listening carefully to get the message; it requires having the humility to receive information from those that society considers inferior.

For Walter Rodney, groundings were not isolated events. "*Groundings* exemplified his approach to life; that of an integrated and inseparable academic and activist in pursuit of equality, justice and a common humanity. It was an organic practice that connected him with working class people in the Caribbean, Africa and throughout the world."¹

Grounding allows us to take account of the specifics of our respective histories, enables oppressed people and those fighting for social justice to share experiences and work together, irrespective of backgrounds, levels of education or the forms of power with which we are confronted. Grounding is an engaged political practice, a pedagogical tool, as well as a philosophical orientation.

The goal of *Groundings* is to support struggles for social justice and liberation in the global South, especially in Africa and the Caribbean. It aims to provide a safe space for discussions, reflections, engagement and the building of solidarity with those in struggle for a better world; for a common humanity.

We welcome contributions to *Groundings*. These should be short (no more than 3000 words), clearly written, with a minimal use of jargon. We welcome critical analyses but not profanity. Articles, book reviews, commentary, letters to the editors, poems and other forms of artistic expression should be sent to GroundingsJournal@gmail.com. It is not our intent to publish everything that is submitted.

In this inaugural issue, we report on the 10th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium, held in March 2013, and on the inaugural Walter Rodney Public Speakers Series held in Atlanta during the Spring of 2013.

Readers will recall the proposal by the Republic of South Africa to posthumously bestow the *Oliver Tambo Award* to Forbes Burnham, a former Guyanese president, under whose rule and in his said direction, Rodney was assassinated. A global campaign resulted in the decision being rescinded by the South African government. Our short review essay reflects on these events, suggesting that the issue may not yet be fully resolved.

We carry a report on the long overdue International Commission of Inquiry into the death of Walter Rodney, which is now formally underway. We feature an article by long-time Rodney family friend and comrade Eusi Kwayana. And to round out our issues, we will always pay homage to those who struggled alongside Rodney, or those who worked tirelessly for our common humanity, who have recently left us to join our ancestors.

Due to the production delays in getting this initial issue out, we are reporting on the now somewhat distant but nonetheless historically significant WRF events of 2013, with the intention of catching up on reportage of Spring 2014 events in a 2nd issue to follow soon. Please bear with us while we get caught up, and become more current moving forward. Ashe.

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1 Dr. Patricia Rodney, Introduction to *The Groundings with My Brothers*, p. 12, Walter Rodney Press, 2014.