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Introduction

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EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

Greetings!

We are pleased to present this third issue of *Groundings*, a publication of The Walter Rodney Foundation (WRF). We continue to bring you news about the Foundation's activities and to provide a platform for discussion and engagement on issues related to the ideas and work of Dr. Walter Rodney.

We begin by providing a snapshot of the 13th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium, held in March 2015 at the Atlanta University Center Woodruff Library (AUC RWWL), Atlanta, GA. The annual symposium is held in the auditorium across from the Archive that houses the Walter Rodney Papers. This is followed by a recap of the Spring 2015, 3rd Annual Walter Rodney Speaker's Series, held weekly at the AUC RWWL, as a public lecture and as a credit bearing course for area students. As readers will see, the guest lists continue to include legendary Pan-African figures, local and international activists, students and scholars at all levels, and engagement with the community – all of which comprise a fitting tribute to and extension of the legacy and pedagogy of Walter Rodney. We continue to be humbled by the engagement of the community in these projects, and invite all our readers to join us in both events moving forward.

Next, in our Special Attention section, we start with a tribute to our comrade, the late Norman Girvan, by our Advisory Council Member and long-standing supporter, Jesus "Chucho" Garcia. This essay appears in its original Spanish version, which supports our desire to reach audiences throughout the whole Pan-African world, and is our first non-English contribution. We intend to publish an English translation, in a subsequent issue.

This is followed by our "Save The Date" for the 13th Annual Walter Rodney Symposium, March 18-19, 2016: "Youth Matters: An International *Groundings*". We invite you to participate in the symposium and welcome any topic/issue suggestions that you consider a priority. Contact us by visiting <http://www.walterrodneyfoundation.org/about/contact-us/>. Then, you will find information about the republication, in the form of a new edition, featuring a new Introduction and a new Afterword, of *Groundings With My Brothers*. This is the proud inaugural venture of the new Walter Rodney Press, also based in Atlanta, and augurs what we hope will be many more volumes to come.

Finally, this section ends with a powerful photo-essay, published here for the first time, by burgeoning artist Julian Plowden. Julian was a student at Southern Polytechnic (now a part of Kennesaw State University, in suburban Atlanta), when he was given a camera to use in his architecture class. Julian encountered the student and community protests erupting across the United States in the wake of the police murder of Mike Brown in Ferguson Missouri at the same time that he discovered his eye for photography and his knack for capturing the material space we inhabit. In the months that followed, he organically and spontaneously became an increasingly recognized photographic documenter of the new social movements that have come to form what many are calling the 2nd Civil Rights Movement. We are honored to share his work here as part of our ongoing commitment to sharing unique content of relevance to our readers. Many people are

unaware of these kinds of student mobilizations, which are so rarely covered by the mainstream media.

The final section, “Walter Rodney Remembered”, is devoted primarily to the historic Commission of Inquiry (COI) into the assassination of Walter Rodney, convened last year in Guyana, but now suspended by the newly elected government led by President David Granger. Wazir Mohamed (writing for the Justice for Walter Rodney Committee) provides a valuable perspective and framing of the COI suspension, and Anne Brathwaite (writing for the Justice for Walter Rodney Campaign) provides further updates, as well as the context for the petition (link provided) that demanded a two week extension of the COI, such that the COI could properly and fully complete its work.

A 3rd piece as it relates to the COI was added shortly before the release of this issue. It is a must-read to understand why Walter Rodney was assassinated at that crucial moment in 1980 by the PNC because he was a popular leader whose party was on the cusp of changing the political regime in Guyana. It explores why the COI has been truncated by the new President and leaders of Guyana, now supported by some of Walter's Rodney's (formerly) closest colleagues. It speaks to the disingenuous rewriting of history that has occurred to scuttle and discredit the COI even before it began. It speaks to the political condition of Guyana at this moment. The challenge is for the new government to commit to supporting the findings of the Rodney COI ahead of its release on 30 November 2015 (now 15 December 2015).

A two (2) week extension was just granted, at the request of the Commissioners, so that they could complete their review of the voluminous amount of evidence and testimony to date. On information and belief, but almost assuredly, the extension does not address the calls for a 2-week extension to hear the evidence of additional witnesses.

We all should consider these contributions closely as the historic work of the long awaited COI, as well as justice itself, hangs in the balance.

We conclude this issue with an updated and growing listing of the WRF Board and Committee members; and information about the expanding Walter Rodney Papers at the AUC RWL archive.

Finally, we continue to accept 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.

Ashe.

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