

## A Great and Mighty Struggle

Written by Brother Salim Kujitawala ID2221  
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With the recent comments made by Morgan Freeman, it is very important that organizers, organizations, educators and supporters of the Black Liberation struggle, not only use African Heritage Month to reach our people, but every chance available. Black People must continuously counter, the Counter Intelligence Program.

Morgan Freeman is correct our heritage should not be regulated to one month and it isn't. Black people were not given the shortest month of the year to celebrate their legacy. Dr. Carter G. Woodson choose a time for Black people to honor, acknowledge, learn and be proud of their beautiful legacy and culture. That time was Negro History Week, which later became Black History Month and is now commonly referred to as African Heritage Month. There are also many other months and days in which Black people have to celebrate their African culture.

May is African Liberation Month. On May 2nd was the kidnapping & capture of Assata Shakur, Sundiata Acoli & assassination of Zayd Shakur. During this month there is the birthday (May 19th) of the shining Black Prince, El Hajj Malik El Shabazz (Malcolm X). On May 25th 1963 the O.A.U., Organization for African Unity (now known as the African Union) was formed. This day is honored and commemorated every year as African Liberation Day on the last Saturday of the month of May.

August is acknowledged as Black August. During this month the legacy of resistance to white supremacy and slavery is honored. On August 2, 1850 the Underground Railroad was started. August 8th, 1978 the House of the organization MOVE was bombed by the city of Philadelphia. On August 17th the birthday of the Honorable Marcus Garvey is celebrated. The "Nat Turner Rebellion" began on August 21st 1831. August 30th, 1800 marks the anniversary of the rebellion lead by Gabriel Prosser.

There is also the week of Kwanzaa, December 26th – January 1st. At this time, African people world wide practice, celebrate and incorporate the Nguzo Saba (seven principles) into their daily lives. Those principles are: Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work & responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) & Imani (faith).

In addition to the above mentioned days and months, there is also Martin Luther King Day which is January 15th, Juneteenth which is celebrated on June 19th and many more which neither time nor space will allow. These days are all days set aside by Black People for Black People, just as African Heritage Month was.

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Black Peoples' holy days do not have to be acknowledged or supported by mainstream America in order for them to have significance. This is why a "Black History Month" had to be created in the first place. White America did not (and still does not) want to recognize the contributions of African People. White America celebrates its history and culture throughout the entire year; this is why there is no "white history month". St. Patrick's Day, Valentines Day, Columbus Day and Presidents' Day are all aspects of European culture.

Mainstream America cannot define for African People when or how we will celebrate our heritage. African People have a great and mighty legacy that is honored and celebrated throughout the year. These moments must be used to mobilize and organize Black People toward self-determination, self-respect, self-defense and FULL AND COMPLETE REPARATIONS. One cannot expect white America to recognize, support or endorse our culture. As the great poet Gil Scott Heron Stated, "The revolution will not be televised."

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