

STATEMENT BY THE BLACK TRADE UNIONISTS SOLIDARITY MOVEMENT ON GRENADA

The Black Trade Unionists Solidarity Movement totally condemns the invasion of Grenada by forces of the United States of America, Jamaica, Barbados, Dominica, St Vincent, St Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda. This act of treachery by Black countries is particularly repugnant in view of the racist policies of the United States of America.

We also condemn these 6 Black countries for renegeing on the agreement of the Caricom countries that there should be no military intervention in Grenada. These countries were party to this agreement but went behind the backs of the Caricom countries to conclude a dirty deal with the USA.

We believe that these countries have been panicked by the success of the Grenadian Revolution in providing basic rights like free education, healthcare and employment to its citizens. At the same time, they have consistently denied these rights to their own citizens whilst corruption in all these Governments is widespread, encouraged by the USA and the multinational companies.

We believe that this act of betrayal of Black People will not be forgotten and we call on citizens of these 6 countries to take steps to remove their Heads of Government.

We also condemn the Thatcher Government for complicity in United States racism and imperialism in invading a small Black country. We note that this Government failed to heed the clear warnings of the invasion just as it failed to heed the warnings of the French intention to prevent Black Britons from entering France. We believe that the British Government allowed the invasion to proceed on the basis that a puppet quisling Government would be installed in Grenada to do the bidding of the USA and Britain.

We believe that the invasion by the USA follows the American Government's policies of denying Blacks their rights in the USA. It is also clear, however, that America intends to try and dominate all the non-white peoples of the world as well as those peoples who have rejected Capitalism. Grenada has proven that the revolutionary ideas of 110,000 people could shake to its very roots a nation of 200 million people to such an extent, that it was forced to abandon any pretence of morality or legality and resort to the use of naked force and brutality against the revolutionary ideas of the People's Revolutionary Government under Maurice Bishop.

We further condemn those responsible for the execution of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, Ministers Jacqueline Creft, Unison Whiteman, Larry Bain, Trade Union leaders Vince Noel and Fitzroy Bain, and the other ordinary Grenadian citizens who sought to free their Leader.

We believe that these executioners will be dealt with in due course but their atrocities must not be allowed to cloud the issue of the invasion of a sovereign state.

We mourn the loss of Cuban and Grenadian lives in their heroic struggle against enormous odds and congratulate the people of revolutionary Cuba for their support in building the revolution. We believe that no amount of guns will destroy the gains of the revolution and that the revolutionary struggle will continue in Grenada.

We reaffirm that the peoples of Grenada, Cuba, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Surinam and the other countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America and the rest of world have an absolute right to self-determination without the intervention of the USA.

We believe that Black people in particular should learn the lessons of Grenada so as to turn this tragic episode of our history into one which unites all Black people throughout the world.

We therefore demand the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from the state of Grenada.

We demand that the USA pays compensation to the Grenada Government and to the citizens of Grenada for destroying their beautiful country and killing its people.

We demand the setting up of an International Labour Movement Committee of Inquiry, including Black people in the labour movement, to investigate the events of the past few weeks in Grenada and outside of Grenada.

The Black Trade Unionists Solidarity Movement pledges itself to fight alongside the New Jewel Movement and any other organisation which will support the above demands. In furtherance of this the BTUSM will:

1. Give financial, political and any other support to Grenada through the NJM.
2. Authorise BTUSM members to issue statements in line with this policy.
3. Support and organise demonstrations and pickets in support of Grenada.
4. Raise the issue within the Labour Movement urgently.
5. Contact Black organisations in the USA to enlist their support.

The Black Trade Unionists Solidarity Movement
30 October 1983.

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