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**To:** United Nations 2<sup>nd</sup> Session Permanent Forum for Peoples of African Descent; New York City

**Re:** Mass Incarceration, Reparations, and Reporative Justice; Civil Society Testimony

My name is Tomiko Shine and I'm a Cultural Anthropologist and Founding Director of *Aging People in Prison Human Rights Campaign*. We advocate and mitigate for the release of aging people of African descent incarcerated in US prisons for 30, 40, 50, 60 years and more. We paradigm these specific prisoners as the descendants of the enslaved Africans that were forcibly kidnapped, traded, and imported to North America centuries ago from Mother Africa. There is an estimated 2 million people incarcerated in US prisons of which half are black people of African descent.

We at APP-HRC see our work of releasing these prisoners as reparations. The Reparations Movement is about repairing for the loss of resources to people of African descent across the globe, thus mass incarceration of peoples of African descent is a reflection and extension of the continuation of the human resources stolen from Mother Africa centuries ago by North America. This continuation of stolen human resources from African descended communities over the centuries under the era and infrastructure of White Supremacy is packaged as what's called today the criminal justice system. This institution created under White Supremacy and built on the foundation of slave plantation management has decimated black families of African descent in North America. Author, Sociologist, and Reporative Researcher Tasseli McKay's recently released groundbreaking book '*Stolen Wealth Hidden Power Making the Case of Reparations for Mass Incarceration*' speaks to this systematic destruction over the last four decades using quantitative and qualitative research of over two thousand families impacted by the U.S. criminal justice system.

In McKay's book; *Stolen Wealth Hidden Power*.... she speaks to the economic costs and harms to black families in particular black women with family members continuously recycled through the U.S. criminal justice system. In numbers her research revealed in the last four decades for black women to maintain communications through visits, telephone calls, and mail to adult family members have spent at least \$104 billion dollars on behalf of incarcerated family members. Of that '\$39.5 billion was made on behalf of black prisoners.' The research over the last four decades reveals the costs and harms to

black families in particular black women with family members incarcerated in regards to the physical, emotional, and traumatic devastation. This trauma is revealed in incidents of heart attacks, strokes, etc. And mental illness such as depression, anxiety, etc. thus the health care costs and loss productivity to adult women total approximately \$1.93 trillion dollars of that \$312 billion dollars is borne by black women. In regards to the economic losses and harms for the continued removal, separation, and incarceration of black men from families over the last four decades it totals up to an economic loss to the black family and community of \$434 billion dollars. According to McKay's research the total owed to black families/peoples for mass incarceration over the last four decades is \$13.9 trillion dollars.

We are only speaking about one single institution; the Criminal Justice System/Prison Industrial Complex and the economic loss and harm caused to the black family and women over a mere four decades. Thus, this historical slave/colonial legacy of the theft of black/African bodies human resources comes to an end today and these human resources will be released and returned to their families and communities.

Hence, we issue a call to the black lands in the Caribbean and Africa that you will no longer engage in any trade, import/export and the extraction of natural, mineral, etc. resources from the black lands to the US. This is to cease and desist until the US begins a release plan of actions to and with African and Caribbean leaders to return the human resources; Mother Africa's children.

#### **Our Recommendations:**

- First-The immediate release of aging prisoners whose families/friends/supporters who have been advocating for years for their release and are ready to received them and provide continued life support.
- Two- According to the report by the organization Worth Rises there are over 4,000 vendors/private companies profiting off the continued exploitation of black bodies within the prison industrial complex. We make a call that peoples of African descent in North America will no longer exchange any monies or doing any business with any of these companies until these companies/vendors divest from the prison industrial complex.
- Third- The only trade talks taken place in the implementation of this Plan of Return will be the imports/the children of Mother Africa returning to their homelands of their choice the Caribbean and Mother Africa. **Thus, we want the immediate release of Imam Jamil Al Amin H Rap Brown and Mumia Abu Jamal returned to their homeland of Mother Africa or the Caribbean.**

In 2023 and at this time in historiography *Mother Africa is the future once again*. But this time the children of Mother Africa will not be left to eat dry bread for centuries or slaved out to build generational wealth and economy for other nations and their descendants.

I give this testimony on behalf of the many children of Mother Africa that are languishing behind prison walls. I give this testimony to our ancestors and warriors that fought for us and had the hammer of incarceration come down upon them to break their bodies, minds, and spirits; *Malcolm X El Hajj Malik Shabazz-North America, Martin Luther King-North America, Winnie and Nelson Mandela-South Africa, Marcus Garvey-Jamaica, Safiya Bukhari-North America, Fannie Lou Hammer-North America, and George Jackson-North America*. This testimony is sealed and delivered. Thank you for the invitation to me/us to come into this international human rights space today.