INTRODUCTION

This issue of CAFA is devoted to a chronology of the struggles which African students have waged between 1985 and 1993, primarily in response to the Structural Adjustment Program (SAP) to which their countries and academic institutions have been submitted.

This chronology is a testimony of the passion and energy African students have devoted to preserving their academic freedom. The hundreds of dead students, the thousands arrested and tortured, the many more who have demonstrated and gone on strike in the face of violent repression, between 1985 and 1993, teach us that the struggle for access to knowledge is not passé in Africa. It also confirms our claim that the major forces threatening academic freedom in Africa in the 1980s and 1990s have been the Structural Adjustment Programs which the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have imposed on African governments and economies.

In country after country, student demonstration after demonstration, in its slogans, flyers, position papers the African student movement has shown a remarkable homogeneity of demands. “NO to starving and studying,” “NO to tuition fees,” “NO to cuts in books and stationery,” “NO to the elimination of grants and allowances,” “NO to Structural Adjustment, to corrupt leaders, and to the recolonization of Africa,” are slogans that have unified African students in the SAP era to a degree unprecedented since the anti-colonial struggle.

This chronology is by no means complete. Not only are many “invisible” struggles absent from this report, but absent as well are the struggles of students in South Africa, to which we plan to dedicate a future issue. An account of the African student movement is also not complete without the inclusion of the struggles of teachers—who increasingly have joined with their students to demand that African universities not be dismantled. In this case too we refer to future issues of CAFA for a fuller account. We are opening up an archive for material concerning the African university student movement and will periodically update this chronology. If you have any items that you think belong in the archive please send it to us.

We thank the student organizations and colleagues in Africa who have helped us to compile this issue. We also thank Steve Askins, Dennis Brutus, Dan Coughlin, Julius Ihonvbere, and Jon Kraus for their help.

Finally we would like to thank Africa Network for citing CAFA in its “Kwanza Honors List: 1992.”
A Chronology of African University Student Struggles: 1985-1993

1985

FEBRUARY
Nairobi University, Kenya. Students boycotted classes starting from Feb. 5 to protest the unjustified decision by the academic authorities to expel three student leaders and deprive five others of their scholarships. The police fired tear gas to disperse the more than 2000 students who had gathered at an outdoor prayer meeting. At least one student was arrested, thirty were hospitalized and one died. Nairobi University was closed on Feb. 12. [ARB, 3/1; CAFA #4]

Khartoum University, Sudan. Students supporting President Numeiry clashed with student opponents on campus Feb. 17. The university was closed for an indefinite time. [ARB, 3/1]

Faculty of Economic Sciences at Tunis, University of Tunisia, Tunisia. Twenty-five students began a general strike Feb. 26 to demand the reinstatement of the June exams session which had been canceled following a series of strikes and class boycotts. [ARB, 3/1]

MARCH
Mbamza Ngumba University and Muhuzi Mal University, Zaire. University students criticized on Mar. 11 the cuts in the higher education budget adopted by the government in compliance with the International Monetary Fund's Structural Adjustment Program (SAP). Mobuto announced that he was considering privatizing some higher education institutions. At Mbunda, in Equator province, university officials clashed with the security forces at the funeral of one of their number, whom they believed to have been killed by the authorities. [ARB, 4/15]

JUNE
University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria. Police invaded the university's campus on the evening of June 6 to break up a secret meeting of the banned National Association of Nigerian Students which was to discuss the government's plan to introduce tuition fees. The next morning police broke into the dormitories, dragging students out and beating them with rifle butts. The students resisted the assault and more than 400 were arrested. (CAFA Archive)

NOVEMBER
Brazzaville, Congo. Secondary school students demonstrated Nov. 11 to protest the government's decision to hold a competition for students graduating from secondary school and wishing to qualify for a grant for university education. The planned competition was part of the government's austerity effort. According to witnesses the army shot blanks into the air while some pupils wereransacking cars and shops. [ARB, 12/15]

1986

JANUARY
University of Tunis, Tunisia. Students struck Jan. 2-3 to commemorate the anniversary of the bloody riots of Jan. 3, 1984, which erupted in response to the government's decision to double the price of bread. [ARB, 2/1]

FEBRUARY-MARCH
Kenyatta University, Kenya. Students began to boycott classes after it was announced that teachers' salaries throughout the nation would not be increased. Many students moved out of the campus and blocked the main road to central Kenya. A bonfire was made and motorists who attempted to pass were pelted with stones. The university was closed indefinitely and the students were ordered off campus. Feb. 28-Mar. 13. [ARB, 4/1; THES 4/86]

MAY
Ahmedo Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Nigeria. About twenty students and bystanders at ABU were massacred by security forces after staging peaceful protests against government policies. More students were killed in the ensuing days at the Kaduna Polytechnic, the University of Benin and the University of Lagos. [CAFA #3]

JUNE
Egerton College, Kenya. 1,400 agriculture students refused to sit for exams June 9 in solidarity with seven students who had been arrested on incitement charges. The administration closed the institution for two weeks and barred 25 students from returning. When the college reopened the rest of the students refused to attend classes in solidarity with their colleagues. Egerton's authorities caved in and allowed the suspended students back. [THES, 6/86]

DECEMBER
National University of Madagascar, Madagascar. About 200 students staged a demonstration Dec. 9 in the city center to protest a reform imposing stricter limits on the number of times students could retake their exams. [ARB, 2/15]

1987

JANUARY
University of Dakar, Senegal. Students boycotted lectures on Jan. 22 for twenty-four hours, and refused to pay the entrance fee to the university refectory, to protest the deteriorating standards in food and lodgings and the delay in the payment of their grants. Student demonstrators and police clashed on campus. Several people were wounded. [ARB, 4/1; CAFA, 4/9/87; WA, 4/9]

APRIL
University of Madagascar, Antananarivo, Madagascar. Less than 25 percent of enrolled students turned up for classes on April 27 to protest the detention of some of their colleagues. On April 29 about a dozen students were arrested for attempting to block the return to classes. On May 7, security forces arrested Aime Francis, a top student leader, claiming that he was wearing an automatic pistol. [ARB, 6/15]

Abbreviations of sources
AR............. Africa Report
AC............. African Concord
AG............. African Guardian
ARB............. Africa Research Bulletin: Social and Political Series
AW............. News from Africa Watch
CAFA............ Committee for Academic Freedom in Africa Newsletter
CHE............. Chronicle of Higher Education.
CDHR............. Committee for the Defense of Human Rights (Nigeria), 1992
Annual Report
CIAF............. Committee for International Academic Freedom
IPS............. Inter Press Service
MF............. Mozambique
NW............. Newswatch (Nigeria)
NYT............. The New York Times
THES............. Times Higher Education Supplement
UDASA........ University of Dar es Salaam Academic Staff Association Newsletter
WA............. West Africa

Leone. The two universities and the teacher training college of Sierra Leone were closed after a three-weeks students' strike called to demand an increase in the meal subsidy to match rising prices. The students demanded that their food allowance of 11 leones a day (about 30 cents) be at least doubled, claiming that it could not cover three meals. The students told the government that they refused "to starve and study." But the government responded that it was being forced to cut public expenditure as part of an IMF-sanctioned economic adjustment program and that their education was a privilege rather than a right. The government also accused the students of carrying out violent acts. On Jan. 29 demonstrators ran through the streets of Freetown, Bo and Kenema, destroying, burning and pillaging public buildings and private houses (mostly belonging to the Lebanese colony). The police arrested ten students in Bo. As news of their arrest spread through the Bo township, other students came out and threatened to attack the police station where their colleagues were being held, if the latter were not released. The police released the students. [ARB, 3/15; AR, March-April]

FEBRUARY
National University of Madagascar, Madagascar. Students and security forces clashed on Feb. 2. The students were protesting measures prohibiting them from repeating years passed by the government of President Didier Ratsiraka. In response to the government's slogan "Bad students, here is the door," the striking students wrote on their banners, "Bad leaders, here is the door." After a week of clashes, three people had died, several were wounded and about ten were arrested. [ARB, 3/15]

MARCH
University of Cape Coast, University of Ghana, and University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. Students demonstrated Mar. 6 against the government decision to withdraw food subsidies in university tertiary institutions. The measure was adopted as part of a planned educational reform (MBF and World Bank-inspired) intended to place higher education on a cost-sharing basis. The demonstration climaxed a week of mourning, during which students wore red wrist-bands. The demonstrators said their rights should be balanced, and that education was "their inalienable right" and they placed posters in strategic positions stating:"education for every Ghanaian." They also addressed the human rights situation in the country and demanded an end to detentions without trial and the economic recovery program. "The president of the National Union of Ghanaian Students stated that "independence is meaningless and will elude us if it is not linked to our right to free education." [ARB, 4/1; AC, 4/9/87; WA, 4/9]

Page 2

Page 3
University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. The government ordered the closure of the university May 8 after the students refused to follow the Senate's advice and return to class. The students had boycotted classes in support of the former National Union of Ghana Students' Secretary General Kazumba Crenwell. He was being held by security forces for suspected involvement in drug trafficking. [ARB, 6/15]

JUNE

Egerton University College, Kenya. 140 students were suspended indefinitely for picketing and boycotting lectures. The protest took place last weekend when students marched from their campus located at Njoro to nearby Nakuru town, the provincial capital, to complain to the government authorities about assessment methods. [THEES, 7/10]

NOVEMBER

University of Khartoum, Sudan. Students began the occupation of university buildings on Nov. 12 and the administration closed the university on Nov. 19. The student union, dominated by Islamists, demanded that the chancellor abolish the regulation governing student conduct. The Islamist students were the most highly organized group in the university, despite their limited number; thus, they were able to exploit existing student grievances in the university and country-wide. The students' demonstrations were directed at a steep currency devaluation and at hefty price rises, imposed after agreements with the IMF and World Bank for an economic adjustment program. About 15,000 demonstrators marched through Khartoum in October denouncing the IMF. [THEES, 12/14]

Nairobi University, Kenya, Students and police clashed Nov. 15 after seven newly-elected student union leaders were arrested on the night of Nov. 14. Students were chained and tear gassed and four foreign journalists were kicked, punched and beaten with rifle butts. On the next day the Nairobi University Students' Organization was banned and the university closed. Since 1970 the university has been closed 17 times. [CAFA #4]

DECEMBER

Egerton University College, Kenya. 664 students were sent home for three consecutive days. The students were demanding that those who failed their second-year examinations be allowed to proceed to sitting for further tests. The students also demanded that the curriculum at Egerton conform to that at the department of agriculture at the main campus in Nairobi. [THEES, 12/25]

1988

JANUARY

Dakar University, Senegal. Students began a year-long campaign protesting the lack of housing, classroom space and a lack of adequate food. The Doux government eventually committed CPA 2bn to rehabilitate secondary school and university infrastructure, and CPA 10bn to build five new universities and an increase in the monthly student allowance. [WA, 1/16]

FEBRUARY

University of Khartoum, Sudan. "The president of the student union...warned that students will demonstrate...if the university imposes tuition or fees outside free room and board...He commented after university officials in the Sudan reacted positively to a letter in a World Bank policy report that at least some financial responsibility for higher education in African countries should be shifted to students and parents." [CHI, 2/10/88]

APRIL

Riots in the districts of the Nigerian University System. Nigerian students demonstrated throughout the country against the fuel price increase demanded by the IMF-inspired Structural Adjustment Plan. Riots and confrontations with the police spread across most of the nation's campuses. The Inspector-General of Police Gambo described the protests as "premeditated and eptoned in a most professional manner." [WA, 5/28/88, 1/16/89]

JUNE

University of Ghana and Cape Coast, Ghana. Students demanded a three-year immediate implementation of 51 cedis and boycotted examinations to oppose the government's intention of abolishing the allowance. The university authorities alleged that the students required 250 cedis a day. However, the government pressured ahead with the cut, having signed agreements with the World Bank, and in December 1988 announced a new loans and scholarships scheme as the first step in ending free higher education. [WA, 1/16/89]

AUGUST

University of Liberia, Liberia. Authorities suspended classes Aug. 20 and ordered all students to leave the campus after students refused to obey a presidential order to halt political activities at all educational institutions around the nation. [AR, 9/15]

SEPTEMBER

University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe. Riot police used clubs, tear gas and water cannons to block a demonstration organized by the University of Zimbabwe and Harare Polytechnic Student Representative Council to protest the government's failure to follow through on short-term and long-term initiatives proposed by students. Riot police blocked students trying to march into downtown Harare wearing t-shirts declaring "national looters must go" and "Capitalism is No Option." Nearly 500 students were arrested during the demonstration. Most were quickly released, but at least 15 faced charges under a law used by the Ian Smith government to suppress black protest. [ACAS #30]

1989

JANUARY

University of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe. Students began a strike on Jan. 9 to protest the non-payment of their grants for several months and the government's failure to stop paying them altogether in 1989 as part of an IMF/World Bank Structural Adjustment Program. The government threatened to dismiss all the students who would not return to work on Jan. 23, but the campus was deserted in response. [ARB, 2/25]

Hehai University, Nanking, China. The Nanking branch of the Chinese Students' Union in China urged the government to remove all of 1,500 African students Jan. 18 claiming that African students face chronic racial discrimination and police brutality in the country. They also said that Chinese authorities orchestrated a Christmas Eve incident at Nanking's Hehai University campus, which led to fighting, and to four days of demonstrations by the African students. [ARB, 2/25]

University of Botswana. The university was closed Jan. 23 after a four-day boycott by students demanding higher grants and better conditions. They also protested the government's demand that they sign a declaration prohibiting them from striking. [ARB, 2/25]

FEBRUARY

University of Lubumbashi, Zaire. Security forces killed a still unidentified number of students who were killed at the university in demonstrations following the discovery of the body of a student not far from a military camp. [AR, 3/1; UDASA]

APRIL

University of Cotonom, Benin. A teachers' strike began throughout the country on April 6. The teachers demanded the payment of four months' salary arrears, the withdrawal of the government's aid to a school construction scheme, 50 percent reduction in their salaries (introduced following an agreement between Benin and the IMF), the unconditional liberation of all teachers, pupils and students held during the strike, and the rehabilitation of 401 teachers dismissed in March for striking. Cotonom University was paralyzed for six months by striking students demanding several months' arrears in grant payments. [ARB, 6/15]

MAY

Universities of Lagos, Ibadan, and Benin, Nigeria. Beginning at the University of Benin on May 26, university students across Nigeria demonstrated in support of the IMF/World Bank-inspired Structural Adjustment Policies adopted by the government. The demonstrations often left the campuses and took to the streets in their own social protest. At least six people were killed by troops and police. The government was forced to concede a welfare program called the "SAP Relief Package," the establishment of a mass transit scheme, the People's Bank, and a review of the minimum wage. [ARB, 6/15; NW, 6/12]

JULY

University of Cotonom, Benin. Students went on strike July 5 demanding several months' arrears in grant payments. The students organized a nationwide teachers strike that began on April 5. The teachers' demanded the payment of four months' salary arrears and the withdrawal of the 50 percent reduction in their salaries introduced following an agreement between Benin's government and the IMF. [ARB, 6/15]

OCTOBER

University of Zimbabwe. The university was closed for three weeks after students protested against the government's economic performance in the previous year, "which has been marked by corruption in high places and unhappiness in the urban areas from an inflationary economy and rising unemployment. One of the police raids on the campus was to break up a seminar called by the students to discuss corruption within the Government." [NYT, 11/16/89]

"Many students could not immediately comprehend that a few hours of relatively mild and intermittent campus disorder had led to the indefinite closure of one of Africa's most successful and prestigious universities. The only known injuries were 33 students who had the night jumping out of a window to escape the police, and VC Karandas's official Mercedes-Benz 230E—dissipated by campus radicals as the epitome of elitism—which was partially burned by students protesting the arrest of two campus leaders." [ACAS #30]

Makerere University, Uganda. Students began boycotting classes Oct. 30 to protest a government decision in August to withdraw allowances for books, travel and other expenses. The government closed the university Nov. 10. [ARB, 11/15]

NOVEMBER

University of Zimbabwe. The University temporarily re-opened the new campus, which had been closed in February in response to student demands that the government would oppose the new law that gave the government draconian powers over the university. Students were also furious about plans to make them pay 25 percent of their fees in the next year. [THEES, 11/20]

DECEMBER

University of Zitouna, Tunisia. The Tunisian General Union of Students called on students to participate in a "campaign with the theology students to protest the transfer of the theology faculty to "insalubrious premises." [AR, 1/15/90]

1990

JANUARY

The Higher School for Technical Education (ENSET), Tiera Veterinary Institute, the Universities of Bab-Eouroosar, Tizi-Ouzou, and M'Sila, Algeria. Students across all of the country demonstrated Jan. 11-14 against the reduction in their grants, and for an improvement in the quality of university education and better access to employment at the end of their studies. About 50 people were injured in a clash between ENSET students and the police. Meanwhile in Tiera a student was hospitalized after clashes with Islamic protesters opposed to the presence of a woman in the training room of the national jouda team. [ARB, 2/15]

FEBRUARY

Technical College of Tunis, Nabeul University, Faculties in Sfax, Sousse, Kairouan and Gabes, Tunisia. Students connected to the Tunisian General Union of Students (UGTE) occupied buildings and faculties throughout the country to demand the abolition of police stations on campus premises and the reinstatement of four UGTE members expelled from the university. [AR, 3/1]
1991

MARCH
University of Zambia, Lusaka. Students were ordered to leave the campus Mar. 18 by heavily armed paramilitary and riot police. Some students said that this closure was prompted by a planned strike by university teachers called to demand the reinstatement of the university press production manager, who had been suspended for publishing articles in support of multiparty democracy. [ARAB/HRA]

SEPTEMBER
Maseno University College, Kenya. The college was closed Apr. 9 after three days of rioting by students. [ARAB, 5/1]

National University of Benin. Students went on strike Apr. 16 demanding the payment of all grant arrears and improvements in their living and working conditions. One student was wounded in clashes with the police. The university was closed down on April 30. [ARAB, 5/1]

University of Tunisia, Tunis. Police raided the university and clashed with Moslem students staging a political protest. Students in turn attacked security posts on the campus. The main Islamic student unions, the UOTE, was banned at the end of March. [ARAB, 6/1]

University of Zimbabwe. Students began a class boycott Apr. 20 which lasted several weeks to protest the New University Amendment Bill which gave draconian powers to government officials over students and faculty. [CAPA #2]

MAY
Technical Institute for Applied Sciences, Kinshasa, Zaire. Police May 17 killed two students and injured twenty others. The Secretary of State for Education, Mme. Issiaka ("Mother Courage") was injured in the demonstration. [ARAB, 6/1]

University of Jos, Yaba College of Technology (Lagos), Nigeria. Students demonstrated in Jos in support of the National Association of Nigerian Students' (NANS) ultimatum to the government concerning the need to solve the economic crisis facing the nation. NANS demanded the reinstatement of students who had been arrested at a number of campuses, the unbinding of student unions on several campuses, reforms in university administration, and an increase in student bursary allowances. 13 students were arrested during the demonstration, facing charges of rioting.

1992

JUNE
University of Cote d'Ivoire at Yopougon, Cote d'Ivoire. The government banned FESCI, the autonomous students union, after security forces intercepted a FESCI conference that was discussing allegations that four students had been killed by troops stationed on campus. June 21. [ARAB, 7/1]

Moi University in Eldoret, Kenya. Students began a protest June 30 against a revision of the loan scheme requiring them to pay fees in the coming academic year, thereby reducing their money allowances. Riot police killed one student and several others were injured in clashes with riot police. The university was subsequently closed. [ARAB, 7/15]

OCTOBER
Nigeria Kaduna State. Secondary school students demonstrated against the high cost of WAEC examination fees and the introduction by the state government of a compulsory 450 naira fee to buy its textbooks. The West African Examination Council explained that the rise of its exam fees was due to increased cost of printing question papers and of freight charges. [AC 12/7]

DECEMBER
University of Dakar, Senegal. Students began a two-month strike Dec. 17 for a nine percent wage increase. The strike demanded better living and studying conditions. The university and the government agreed to strike ended on Feb. 12, 1992 after the government agreed to strike ended on Feb. 12, 1992 after the government agreed to the demands of university officials. The government offered a 9% increase and the students agreed to accept the offer. The government offered a 9% increase and the students agreed to accept the offer.

MAY
University of Zimbabwe. After a meeting called to protest
against the reduced value of grants, which inflation had shrunk to poverty levels, several thousands students attempted to march to Harare and to confront the government. Paramilitary riot squads sealed the campus exit and fired tear gas at the students, who retaliated by pelting them with stones. The rioting continued for two days and spread to Bulawayo, where students occupied the police station. The students, incensed by the controversial, “non-socialist” World Bank program of economic recreation agreed to by Mugabe, mocked the government by singing re-worded songs from the guerrilla war of the 1970s. [THES, 5/1992]

MAY

University of Ibadan and Lagos, Nigeria. Students at Ibadan began on May 9 against the implementation of the Structural Adjustment Program, which they accused of being responsible for the deterioration of campus facilities and education programs. A few days later also in Lagos began to protest, this time against the doubling of the price of public transport. The police responded by shooting at the demonstrators, wounding at least five students. [CABA #3; Appendix 1]

JUNE

University of Zimbabwe. The University of Zimbabwe expelled its 10,000 students and abolished the Students Representative Council following a month of class boycotts and sometimes violent demonstrations called to demand higher grants and better living conditions. The academic authorities decided that the students would have to leave the campus and repay in order to be readmitted. They also made it clear that the time the students might not be taken into account for examinations. The students had demanded higher grants, saying a 25 percent increase had been swallowed by a jump in fees. Soharchik commented that the government seemed to have won the latest round of its long war against the students at the University of Zimbabwe, but with poverty certain to increase under the Structural Adjustment Program, the government could only win a temporary reprieve. [ARB, 6/10-30]

JULY

Niger. Students occupied the mayor’s office July 10 and the prefecture in N’Kotri (400km east of Niamey) to protest the four-month delay in the payment of their grants. On the same day, Niger students studying in Nigeria invaded their embassy in Lagos and their consulate in Kano demanding that the Government pay their registration fees at Nigerian Universities, as originally promised. Adjustment Plan, the government could only win a temporary reprieve. [THES, 8/16-16, AG 8/17]

The Polytechnic of Calabar, Nigeria. The Polytechnic called indefinitely following protests by students protesting the non-payment of the 1991-1992 bursaries. Two people, a student and a bystander, were killed in the riot, apparently by stray bullets after the police were called in. [WA 9/7-3]

1993

JANUARY

Afdin Ababa University, Ethiopia. At least one student was killed and several injured in violent clashes with security forces during a demonstration demanding the halting of the referendum on Eritrean independence. [ARB, 1/1-31]

University of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Several thousand students protested Jan. 20 against cuts in university grants and demanded the payment of further demonstrations. [ARB, 1/1-31]

University of Yaounde, Cameroon. On Jan. 20 a group of student sent to a building housing the Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences. The previous day, President Biya had signed a series of decree, increasing university fees to CFA francs 50,000 per year. Ascend students to campus reports, the students claimed that they would embark on an indefinite strike action, as soon as the government would implement its “cost-saving plan” requiring them to pay school fees. [ARB, 1/1-31]

FEBRUARY

Kathougou Polytechnic Institute, Mali. Students at the polytechnic set alight both the campus building and the regional government’s residence in protest against a cut in their grants. [ARB, 2/1-28]

MARCH

University of Benin, Benin. Students at a general assembly Mar. 13 decided to continue their strike (began in early February) called to demand “greater justice in the distribution of grants.” [ARB, 3/1-31]

National School of Engineers, Mali. Several hundred students and pupils attacked the national radio station, the Communications Ministry, and the National School of Engineers on Mar. 15 as it was part of an ongoing campaign, began Oct. 1992, aimed at obtaining better working conditions and grants. [ARB, 3/1-31]

University of Abidjan at Adjame-Abobo, Cote’ d’Ivoire. Two-thirds of the 3,000 students registered at Adjame-Abobo, one of Abidjan’s two universities, began a strike Mar. 15 to demand the implementation of their educational program and an improvement in their grants levels and housing conditions. They were demanding that all their students be given grants and places in university residences. Only medical and pharmacucal students followed the strike, with chemistry, biology and geology students continuing to attend classes. [ARB, 3/1-31]

University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana. Students boycotted classes and demonstrations for an increase in student loans on Mar. 23. Police invaded the campus and beat and shot several students. The students occupied the police station and the campus was closed. [ARB, 5/21-31; Appendix 3]

APRIL

Bamako, Mali. President Konare announced Apr. 9 the resignation of his government four days after an upsurge of violent demonstrations by students and people who violent demonstrations in Bamako by students and pupils who invaded public buildings, including the National Assembly. Through their actions the demonstrators had wanted to attack the “heart” of the state, which they saw as responsible for the problem. According to range and 45 had been their lack of prospects. One person died and 45 had been the wounded, including twenty from the security forces, in the April 5th incidents. [ARB, 4/21-30]

University of Yaounde, Cameroon. A second year law student at the University of Yaounde Kimga, died when a fire gutted his student dormitory on June 21. Eighty-two students were injured in the blaze. [ARB, 6/23-31]

VERSAL 200$ tuition fee. As part of its cost recovery program, the Cameroon government introduced this fee on university students. The university’s actions have been criticized by many as too taxing and too hastily implemented. “How can government suddenly ask us to pay fees for university students when they have just reduced our salaries and when farmers have not been paid for the last three seasons?” asked one parent. Authorities set April 30 as the deadline for payment and those failing to pay will not be allowed to sit for mid-year examinations until July. University authorities dismissed 18 students for involvement in radical activities including organizing opposition to the payment of the tuition fees. The expelled students have also been hounded, from study at any Cameroon university for life. [IPS, 4/28 & 29]

N’Djamen, Chad, and Embassy of Chad, Algeria. Police used tear gas on Apr. 28 to disperse a demonstration in N’Djamen by students calling for an increase in grants. On May 3, Chadian students in Algiers took over the premises of the Chadian Embassy and held the ambassador hostage. The students were protesting the “failure of the Chadian authorities to satisfy their demands.” [ARB, 5/3-31]

MAY

Edouard Mondlane University, Mozambique. A number of students went on strike May 21-27 demanding that the university management increase their scholarship grants, improve transport to and from the university campus, reduce fees and improve the campus facilities and the quality of teaching. [M, June]

WAYS TO HELP CAFA

• Become a member or a sponsor (membership is $25 a year);

• Establish a chapter of CAFA at your institution;

• Contribute to our newsletter;

• Gather, circulate, publish relevant information in academic and non-academic journals, newsletters, student papers;

• Organize workshops;

• Help make CAFA visible at academic conferences.
The following is a facsimile of a flyer the Publicity Bureau of the National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) issued in May 1992.

TIME FOR ACTION

THE GAME IS UP!

IBB MUST GO NOW!!

NATIONAL CONFERENCE NOW!!!

REASONS

• SARS is a Crime to Mankind
• Nigerians now Beggers
• Nigerians now Desist
• Nigerians now Illegal Aliens
• Nigerians now Prostitute
• Nigerians now Eat from Dustbins
• Nigerians now Dying
• Nigerians now Political Wanderers
• Disease now Live with US
• Inflation now Live with US
• We Can’t Clothe Ourselves
• Our Country is being Sold Out
• Privatized and Commercialized
• Retrenchment Everywhere
• Unemployment Everywhere
• Debt is Here
• No Petrol, No Kroons, No Food
• Resist Now!

IBB Says: Economy must Die before a solution becomes available-

Haha! Dare to Struggle - Dare to Win.

CAFA at the
African Studies Association
Annual Meeting, Dec. 4-7, 1993
Westin Hotel, Boston

"Academic Freedom after Structural Adjustment," Sunday, Dec. 5, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Also, the Association of Concerned Africa Scholars (ACAS) is sponsoring a roundtable on "The Changing Research Environment in Africa: The Ethic, Politics and Consequences of Work in Africa" on Saturday, Dec. 4, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
percentage of "white collar" parents in the world. [World Bank (1986): p. 62]. This chronology confirms what we deduce from the acknowledgments section of many university dissertations, where graduating students thank dozens of people, sometimes entire villages, for the material and spiritual support they received through their school years: the education of African students is much more the result of a collective endeavor, than the dispensation of a rich parent.

Similarly this chronology belies the image the World Bank has portrayed of the African campuses as places where no education is taking place. [World Bank (1989); Saint (1992)] While nobody can deny that African students have been deprived of the most basic educational materials in the wake of SAP, any reader of this chronology must conclude that much social knowledge is being produced on these campuses. There is much about the global power structure and distribution of wealth that a student learns when s/he must risk death, and take on no less than the WB and IMF in order to obtain even the most modest forms of support enabling him or her to continue their studies.

Bibliography


Who is CAFA and What Do We Stand For?

The Committee For Academic Freedom in Africa (CAFA) consists of people teaching and studying in North America who are concerned with the increasing violations of academic freedom that are taking place in African universities and who believe that it is crucial that we support the struggles our African colleagues are conducting to assert and preserve their rights.

The formation of CAFA is inspired by the Kampala Declaration on Intellectual Freedom and Social Responsibility (November 29, 1990) and by the World University Service Lima Declaration of 1988, which states (Clause 16):

All institutions of higher education shall provide solidarity to other such institutions and individual members of their academic communities when they are subject to persecution. Such solidarity may be moral or material, and should include refuge and employment or education for the victims of persecution.

CAFA's objectives include:

- informing our colleagues about the current situation on African campuses;
- setting up an urgent action network to respond promptly to emergency situations;
- mobilizing our unions and other academic organizations so that we can put pressure on African academic authorities and governments;
- organizing delegations that will make direct contact with teachers and students and their organizations in Africa.

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