

BREAKING THE SILENCE BEATING THE DRUM

2009 Commemoration
of the International Day
of Remembrance of the
Victims of Slavery and
the Transatlantic
Slave Trade

Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade - 2009 Calendar of Events

Tuesday, 24 March

1:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Documentary Films Screenings

Introduced by Eric Falt, Director, Outreach Division
(OD), Department of Public Information (DPI)

1: 15 p.m. “Scattered Africa: Faces and Voices of the African Diaspora”. (USA, 2008) 52 min. During the centuries of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, an estimated 100 million African people were torn from their homelands. Cultural anthropologist and filmmaker Dr. Sheila S. Walker takes viewers across the Americas, to Argentina, Uruguay and the United States, exploring past and current contributions that African people made to American culture. Q&A with Mr. Georges Collinet, who is featured in the film. For more information, please contact temkin@un.org

2:45 p.m. “Black Atlantic: On the Orixas Route” (Brazil, 2001) 55 min. The waters of the Atlantic brought the slaves from Africa to Brazil, their bodies in chains but their souls inexorably tied to mother Africa. This Brazilian-made film takes us to both shores, to show how spiritual life, dance and song came with the captive people and took root in the new soil. Among the many traditions were the language and gods of Yoruba and Jejes from the Republic of Benin. When a group of freed slaves returned to Africa to rediscover their roots they were looked upon as outsiders. They became tradespeople - tailors, accountants and builders- and they actually brought Portuguese culture to Africa. Today, when Brazilians revisit Africa, they teach the Africans the culture that these descendants of slaves keep alive in Brazil. The documentary is a testimony to some of the ironies of the Diaspora. Q&A with the director, Renato Barbieri. For more information, please contact temkin@un.org

4:15 p.m. “Merritt College: Home of the Black Panthers”, (USA, 2008) 62 min. Narrated by Congresswoman Barbara Lee, this film chronicles the birth of the Black Panther Party at Merritt College in Oakland during the politically, socially and economically turbulent times of the late 1960. This story is told through rare interviews with original party members and other key players – who were Merritt students at the time – and features original artwork from the many Black Panther Party publications as well as rarely seen photos – and focuses on the positive achievements of the Panthers movement and its legacy, not of violence but of what it learned and what it left behind. Q&A with the director, Jeffrey Heyman (USA), Executive Director, Marketing, Public Relations and Communications, Peralta Community College District. For more information, please contact temkin@un.org

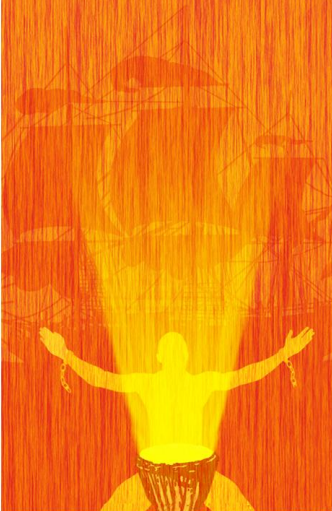
6:00 pm – 6: 45 pm

“Drums” Exhibit – Inauguration

Introduced and moderated by Kiyo Akasaka, Under-
Secretary-General, DPI

Opening by Asha Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary-General
Statement by the Head of the Cameroon Delegation

Sponsored by Cameroon, this one month exhibit is organized with the support of DPI, in collaboration with the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, CARICOM and the African Union. It is envisaged that the Deputy Secretary-General will officially open the exhibit. The exhibit will highlight the historical perspective and socio-cultural impact of drums throughout the Slave Trade and beyond, from Africa to the Americas. The



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opening of the exhibit will be followed by a reception at the Delegates' Dining Room. For more information, please contact: arnesen@un.org

Wednesday, 25 March

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Student Videoconference

**Introduced by Ramu Damodaran, Deputy Director,
OD/DPI**

**Moderated by Yvonne Acosta, Chief, Education Outreach,
OD/DPI**

The Education Outreach Cluster will organize a Student Video Conference at United Nations Headquarters to mark the observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade. In preparation for the observance and for the student video conference, the UN Cyberschoolbus team will develop an educational guide on the theme of the conference and link it to the site developed by DPI for the commemoration. The video conference will include schools in the United States that are part of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project (ASPnet) Network (that involves schools from around the world that have participated in programmes and research projects on slavery and the Slave Trade) and schools in the Caribbean invited by the organization Amistad America. Students from schools in New York city will gather at UN Headquarters to connect with students gathered at videoconference sites for the event. At the close of the Student Video Conference, the New York City students will attend the Special Noon Drumming Event at UN Headquarters which will also be viewed by students from the other video conference sites. For more information, please contact acostay@un.org and yotive@un.org

12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Special Noon Drumming Event

**Introduced and moderated by Kiyo Akasaka, USG, DPI
Statements by Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General
Miguel d'Escoto Brockman, President of the GA
African Representative
CARICOM Representative**

Symbolic launch by the Secretary-General of commemorative events in New York, in the presence of the President of the General Assembly and ambassadors of all Member States. Musicians, drummers, steel bands and schools will participate. The UNESCO Director General will hold a similar event in Paris. Elsewhere in the world, similar events are being organized at noon local time by DPI and other partners to commemorate the International Day. For more information, please contact: brandt@un.org

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

Press conference

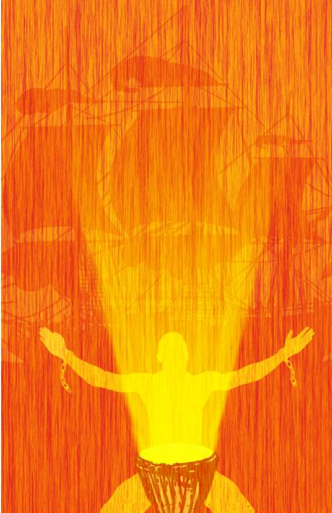
**Chaired by Kiyo Akasaka, Under-Secretary-General, DPI
With artists Akon and Peter Buffett, Salif Keita, Gilberto
Gil and Emmeline Michel (TBC)**

7:15 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Cultural Evening & Concert - General Assembly Hall

Concert moderated by CCH Pounder and Eric Falt

A first of its kind **cultural evening and concert** entitled “**Breaking the Silence, Beating the Drum**” will form the centerpiece of the commemoration with a chorus of celebrities and dignitaries representing the global community collectively celebrating the resilience of the human spirit and victory over adversity. Confirmed artists and celebrities: Akon (Senegal/USA) & Peter Buffett (USA); Mezzo-Soprano Audrey Babcock (USA); Soprano Angela Brown (USA); The Blind Boys of Alabama (USA);



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Izaline Calister (Curacao/The Netherlands); Toumani Diabaté (Mali); Danny Glover (USA); Gilberto Gil (Brazil); Bill T. Jones (USA); Sarah Jones (USA); Salif Keita (Mali) and his Band; Ladysmith Black Mambazo (South Africa); Emeline Michel (Haiti); The Marley Brothers (Jamaica); CCH Pounder (Guyana/USA/Senegal); Stephanie Benson (Ghana); Phylcia Rashad (USA); Tenor Noah Stewart (USA); Randy Weston (USA) and his Quintet; Choreographer Gabri Christa (Curacao/The Netherlands) and ten award winning dancers of various nationalities in a piece dedicated to the Middle Passage. Other invited celebrities will be present in the Hall. **Pre-taped testimonials** from Nelson Mandela and Muhammad Ali; For more information, please contact: nkolo@un.org

Thursday, 26 March

10:15 a.m. - 12.15 p.m.

DPI/NGO Briefing - Panel Discussion on the “Legacy of the Slave Trade on Modern Society”

Introduced and moderated by Eric Falt

Participants:

Sylviane A. Diouf, Ph.D. (Senegal), Author of several books on slavery, Curator of Digital Collections, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Jeffrey Heyman (USA), Executive Director, Marketing, Public Relations and Communications, Peralta Community College District.

Jean Claude Martineau (Haiti), poet and historian.

Ngugi wa Thiong'o (Kenya), Author and distinguished Professor of English and Comparative Literature, University of California; and

Derek Walcott (St Lucia), Nobel Prize.

For more information, please contact: sainte@un.org

01:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Special Book Event

Introduced and moderated by Ramu Damodaran

Deputy Director, Outreach Division

The event at the UN Bookshop will focus on slavery; Aimé Césaire; Drums; and global nomads. Meet the author / book signing with Derek Walcott, Ngugi wa Thiong'o and Sylviane Diouf. One online publication/social network will participate in this special event. For more information, please contact: woodthorpe@un.org

[9 March update]

