

3-MINUTE SUMMARY (FOR INTERPRETERS)

To the Members of the Working Group

At closure of the 2001 U.N. World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, the Durban Declaration declared that the TransAtlantic Slave Trade and Slavery were crimes against humanity and descendants of enslaved peoples were due reparations.

It is 2021, 20 years post-declaration, and reparations have yet to be paid. It is a subject that the United States government ignores and has ignored for decades, despite the consistent struggle for reparations.

As a result of systemic neglect, peoples of African descent continue to suffer third-world conditions and, in some instances, worse than developing countries, within the borders of a first-world nation, the South within the North.

Documented historical events and statistics show systemic environmental pollution in majority-Black communities, subsequent widespread negative health impacts, and state and federal governments and corporations' neglect in mitigating and eradicating the damage to the environment, a neglect from which peoples of African descent have suffered and continue to suffer.

Examples of widespread environmental racism cited were:

1. Cancer Alley, Louisiana
2. Asthma Alley, Bronx, New York
3. Water Crisis, Flint, Michigan
4. Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana

All of these examples show undeniable proof of deliberate inaction and slow response (if any) by city, state, and federal governments and corporations to mitigate such devastating conditions within Black communities, a violation of basic human rights. We have included them in a longer written submission to this session.

Reparations are overdue. Reparations will begin to correct some of these disparities facing Blacks in America. Demands for reparations must be met..., not years later, not after studies, commissions, and so-called academic interpretation, but NOW!

The December 12th Movement International Secretariat hopes that the Working Group and Human Rights Council act now by recommending that the United States repair damages caused by this widespread contamination of communities, of future generations.

Thank you.