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**1000 Guineans rallied in New York at the United Nations to protest killings and rape in Guinea on 28 September during peaceful demonstration against the government.**

On December 8th, a cold but sunny Tuesday, more than 1000 Guineans and friends came out to protest killings and rapes of unarmed civilians in Guinea. Speakers at the rally in front of the United Nations included former New York City Mayor David Dinkins, Diallo and Norman Siegal. The organizer of Guinea Alliance, Jennifer Swift-Morgan, spoke to applause, saying that on this day, she is a Guinean and everyone else is a Guinean because all gathered together were appalled at the 158 murders and dozens of rapes in Guinea during a peaceful rally on September 28, 2009 in Conakry. Ms Swift-Morgan is a lawyer and lived in Guinea for 10 years, starting as



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a Peace Corps volunteer.

The September 28 Coalition for Justice and Democracy in Guinea delivered a memo to the Secretary General demanding that the international Commission of Inquiry investigate and prosecute the crimes, that the UN work with ECOWAS and the African Union towards an elected democratic government..

Speakers from the United African Congress included its President Sidique Wai, its Executive Director Mr Spencer Chiimbwe, Mali community leader Mr Nabi Niambele, and M J o T A Publisher Dr Susanna J Dodgson. All expressed outrage at the atrocities, and great hopes and prayers for peace across Africa.



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*Mr Spencer Chimbwe speaking in front of the United Nations on December 8, 2009. With African and American activists and journalists, he was addressing a rally of 1000 Guineans and friends of Guinea who were protesting the killings and rapes of peaceful Guineans in Conakry, Guinea on 28 September 2009.*

## No Military Solution to the Conflict Pandemic in Guinea Conakry

It is alarmingly becoming a trend in African circles of political power for the military to abuse the ideals of democracy. While the military and other followers showcase their political muscle in a quest to seize power, the lands of Guinea Conakry remain soiled with the innocent blood of civilians, mostly women and children.

In a quest to urge the international community to put a stop to the conflict pandemic in Guinea Conakry, the Guineans in the Diaspora gathered in front of the United Nations on December 8, 2009 to chant slogans that were symbolic of negating the military junta. Further, they articulated a number of reasons as to why the situation in Guinea is getting to untold complexities that are entangled in the cobweb of intra ethnic and tribal misunderstandings.

The one million dollar question is whether the United Nations will at this stage, address the fragmented ideas resulting from local and tribal misunderstanding that are alluded to the Guinea conflict. Further, will the United Nations address the internal politics of symbolism where human rights abusers have been made into heroic figures by the local people? There are obvious answers to these practical questions. However, as one of the speakers at the rally that was organized by the Guinea community residing in the United States, I am not in support of

Page 18 Africa Reporters www.africareporters.com Community Newspaper for America Volume 1 Issue 2 October 20th 2009

**Africa Reporters Salutes Leadership in New York City**

These ethnic press were invited to listen to Mr. Thompson talk about his endorsement, and why he wants to be Mayor. Below, members of African communities were invited to Mayor Michael Bloomberg's campaign headquarters to support for his bid for reelection as Mayor of New York for a third term. Three times African supporters came out, first to talk about how Mr. Bloomberg had responded to our needs, second to listen to his plan for ethnic communities and third to endorse him.

Top right, campaign staff Mr. Musa Idriss and Mr. Huseini Niambele in Harlem-right, Commissioner of Community Affairs Eric. Nishi Parviz (Iran).

Upper left, Mr. Huseini Niambele (Malij) talks about the Mayor's immediate response to a fatal fire that claimed 18 lives in his community in 2007, and his response to a fire that burned down a mosque in September 2009. Lower left, Mr. Wal, and below, Ms. Tina Manifa (Nigeria), Publisher of Afro-Eurasia magazine, speaks about their delight at the response of the Mayor's office to requests for African communities to be included in discussions that impact

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bringing the internal tribal fault lines in front of the United Nations to be fixed by its Secretary General Banki Moon.

My recommendations to this situation will not only apply to Guinea Conakry but to every African country that seeks to use the international platform such as the United Nations to articulate their concerns. The first thing that needs to be put into practical consideration is that there is no military solution to the problem in Guinea. We are in a new generation and we have past gone the times when military might replaced consensual reasoning, when tribal identities were synonymous with the walls of power, when blood was exchanged with oil and humans were trafficked for money.

The tribal broken pieces in Guinea Conakry are making it difficult for the African Union and the United Nations to define their point of entry in installing a durable intervention. There should be more focus on resolving the underlying causes to the Guinea situation before the Guinea people turn to the international community.

Finally, it is in the best interest of the international community that the rule of law is upheld and innocent lives are preserved in any violent and political entropy. It is of pivotal importance therefore that while the Guinea people approach the international community, they rally for one cause and one cause only, no military solution to the Guinea problem and they are smart enough to address the internal tribal divide that has led to a fragile humanitarian watershed in the country.



*By Spencer Chiimbwe*

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