

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER AND THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER HOST FORUM ON AFRICA IN PREVIEW OF LIVE 8

Philadelphia, PA (June 29, 2005) – On the eve of Live 8 concerts, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* will sponsor an event titled *Forum on Africa: Troubled Continent—A Live 8 Preview Event* at the National Constitution Center. A panel of experts will look at the dire problems besetting Africa and ways to solve them. The event begins at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, July 1, and is FREE. Reservations are required at 215-409-6700.

The forum comes at a time of heightened awareness of the perilous condition of Africa's people, its land and its economies, and is timed to coincide with the Live 8 event and the G-8 summit meeting next month in Scotland.

The event will be moderated by Chris Satullo, head of The Inquirer's Editorial Board, and Carolyn Davis, member of The Inquirer's Editorial Board. Her recent work includes a series of first-hand reports on the civil war in Uganda and its effects on the nation's children. The panelists are a diverse group of experts, including Jamie Drummond, Michael Radu, Cesar Chelala, Imani Countess, Oliver Franklin, John Kidane, and Eric Edi.

Jamie Drummond is executive director of DATA (Debt, AIDS, Trade in Africa), which he co-founded in 2002 with Bono, the lead singer of U2, and others to raise awareness about the crises swamping Africa. Drummond and DATA work closely with Bob Geldof, organizer of Live Aid and Live8, and helped persuade British Prime Minister Tony Blair to make Africa and development the centerpiece of this year's G8 Summit.

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ADD ONE/LIVE 8 FORUM

Michael Radu is a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia, the author or editor of eight books on international affairs -- three of them about Africa -- and a former lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa. He was a National Peace Fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace; and he has monitored elections worldwide.

Cesar Chelala is an international public health care consultant to agencies such as the World Health Organization and the United Nations and a much-published op-ed writer. A winner of the Overseas Press Club of America award for his writing on human rights, he has carried out health-related missions in more than 45 countries worldwide, including Cape Verde, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia, Angola, Mozambique, and Ghana.

Imani Countess is coordinator of the American Friends Service Committee Africa Program, whose Life Over Debt campaign works to increase awareness of Africa's debt and advocates for its cancellation. She has served as outreach director of Shared Interest, a social investment fund that assists South African community development projects, and was a senior fellow of the Africa Policy Information Center (APIC). She also led the Washington Office on Africa, among many other Africa-related posts.

Oliver Franklin, president and CEO of International House since 2003, served as deputy city representative and chief of protocol during the Wilson Goode administration, then moved to the private financial sector where he was a founding partner of RISA Investment Advisers, the first U.S.-registered mutual fund to invest in the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. Last month, in his role as honorary British consul, he organized a Lincoln University seminar on the recent report of the Commission on Africa at the request of Prime Minister Blair.

John Kidane came to Philadelphia in 1980 as a refugee from turmoil in his homeland, Eritrea. He spent the next two decades at the Nationalities Service Center of Philadelphia, working to assist refugees and immigrants in a multitude of capacities.

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ADD TWO/LIVE 8 FORUM

He currently is deputy executive director of the African Cultural Alliance of North America (ACANA), which provides social services to African refugees and immigrants, as well as other residents of Southwest Philadelphia; he also is active in AFRICOM, a coalition of Philadelphia's African community groups.

Eric Edi is an adjunct assistant professor in African American Studies at Temple University. He came from Ivory Coast to the United States as a Fulbright scholar in August 1999 to pursue pan-African studies, focusing on how globalization has affected politics in West Africa. He is president of the Cote D'Ivoire Association of the Delaware Valley.

Located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, the National Constitution Center is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and its relevance to Americans' daily lives. Opened on July 4, 2003, the museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". From June 10 through November 4, the museum is also featuring its first new traveling exhibition, *Lincoln: The Constitution and the Civil War*. The Center is open seven days a week, and admission is \$9 for adults and \$7 for seniors ages 62 and up, children ages 4-12, and active military personnel. Children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. For more information, call 215.409.6600 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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