The Unfinished Task of National Liberation

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Abstract: Reflecting on the process of national liberation as a struggle against neo-colonialism, Kinuthia Ndung’u draws from Kinyatti’s example and looks at the role of revolutionary petty bourgeois intellectuals and students in the struggle against neo-colonial oppression. In today’s Kenya this is a reminder to intellectuals and students that it is their duty to give ideological guidance to the ongoing class debate (hustlers-dynasty) and other struggles everywhere they find themselves.

The book, *Kenya: A Prison Notebook*, is a reminder of how the dream of freedom for the majority was turned into a nightmare of oppression by our neo-colonial state, a case of failed independence. It is a story of immense courage and self-discipline in the struggle. And today, years after independence, national liberation as a historical process remains on the agenda - a reminder that our national liberation is a struggle against neo-colonialism.

We draw great lessons from Comrade Kinyatti on the dialectical unity of theory and practice. Comrade Kinyatti also makes clear the noble duty of revolutionary petty bourgeois intellectuals and students in the struggle against neo-colonial oppression. A duty to escalate the prevailing conditions not only through political education and use of propaganda but also through active organisation. Comrade SS writes to comrade Kinyatti in prison that “the regime could not defeat an organised people, that a people united could never be defeated.” Written 25 years ago, this book is today a reminder to intellectuals and students that it is their duty to give ideological guidance to the ongoing class debate (hustlers-dynasty) everywhere they find themselves.

It is a reminder of our unfinished task, a reminder that it is not yet uhuru. It is an encouragement to struggles for autonomous political space at the university, independence of the Parliament and Judiciary, struggles against police brutality, struggles against democracy of the 1% and other contradictions inherent in our neo-colonial state. Comrade Maina Wa Kinyatti gives strength to the students of historic processes to provide theoretical tools with which to understand and interpret reality and transform society towards a socialist future.

Kinyatti and his comrades exhibit great courage, commitment, perseverance and readiness to die for their conviction if need be, among other qualities of great revolutionaries. They are courageous enough to be role models to us and others engaged in ongoing and future struggles to create a new humanity in our nation.

*Victoria e certa!*
Maina being released from prison. Used on the cover of this issue.