



AGAINST ALL ODDS:

MY TRANSITION FROM A YOUNG STREET THUG
TO A SOCIALLY CONSCIOUS, POLITICIZED PRISONER

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South Chicago ABC

Zine Distro

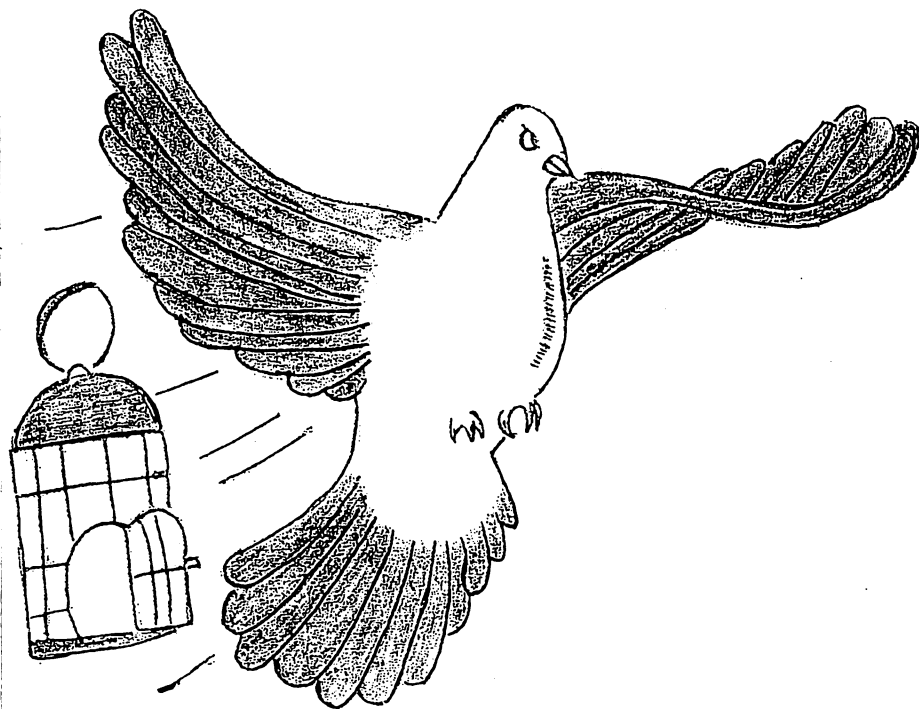
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I KNOW WHY THE CAGED BIRD SINGS

By Uhuru B. Rowe



*Written in memory of the late-great
poet and activist, Maya Angelou

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I know why the caged bird sings. It sings because it is trapped in a life of hell, inside of a tiny cage, unable to move but a few spaces in one direction or the other.

It sings because it is alone, treated with indifference, held captive in an unnatural habitat against its will.

It sings out of pure desperation, hoping that someone or something will hear its cries for help and will come and liberate it from its unjust, inhumane enslavement.

It sings while patiently waiting for its captor to slip up, make a mistake, and leave the cage door ajar...

Then it will escape, fly speedily away, only briefly looking back to behold the misery and torture of isolation and captivity it was fortunate to leave behind.

It will fly to the land where its ancestors dwelled in peace and security, and dance in the fields where its distant cousins socialized freely while collectively foraging for food.

It will warn them of the genocide, terror, and horror that awaits them if they suffer the unfortunate fate of being captured for entertainment, consumption, or capitalist profit.

So, do not be mistaken...

The caged bird is singing songs, not of joy or contentment, but of RAGE and REVOLUTION!

Uhuru is a 39-year-old New Afrikan prisoner activist and writer who has been incarcerated in the state of Virginia for over 20 years. His other zines can be requested from Anthony Rayson at P.O. Box 721, Homewood, IL 60430 or by email at anthonyrayson@hotmail.com.

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