

Integration in Sweden



Jason Diakité receiving his award from Ragni Lantz

This Years Martin Luther King Award went to Sweden's most most popular hip-hop artist ... Timbuktu!

The statement issued by the MLK Award Committee's public relations department reads:

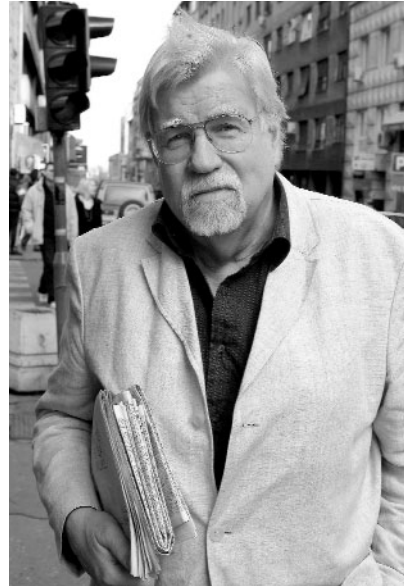
*"The Martin Luther King Award for 2010 goes to Jason Diakité, also known as **Timbuktu**, for music and text that not only reveals hypocrisy and intolerance, but also builds bridges between people of different origins, ages and cultures. Jason is a role model of personal commitment against injustice, discrimination and narrow-mindedness. With his music he reaches out to many, in particularly the young, with a positive message that is really needed in our time."*

The award is awarded to "a person who is residing in Sweden who acts in the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King. That is to say, in an extraordinary way of working for peace, freedom, human rights, equality, nonviolence, against racism and discrimination or otherwise by his actions honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The Martin Luther King Award in Sweden is awarded annually by the Swedish Martin Luther King Award Committee, which was founded by Joe Frans, a Ghana-born former Swedish Parliamentarian. This year's award was sponsored by the following organizations: Afrosvenskarnas Riksförbund, Bild, Broderskap tro & politik, Centrum mot Rasism, Dagen, Kilpatrick Stockton, Kyrkans Tidning, Kristna Fredsrörelsen, Svenska Baptistsamfundet and Sändaren.

Source: www.martinlutherking.se

Björn Kumm Writes on Haiti



Famed Swedish Journalist **Björn Kumm** provides some insights and history on **Haiti on page 2**. Mr. Kumm is widely known for his photographs of Che Guevara after his assassination in Bolivia in 1967.



Jason Diakité flanked by two previous award winners: Margareta Ingelstam (2008), Lian H Sakhong (2007).

Winter Events and Public Holidays in 2010

January 6: 13 Days after Christmas.
February 14: Valentines Day and Spring Break when public schools are closed for a week. March: No holidays. April 2: Good Friday, followed by Easter on April 4th.



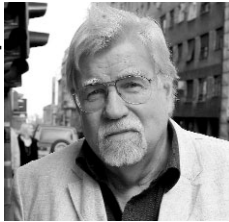
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THE TRAGEDY OF TOUSSAINT L'OUVERTURE

By BJÖRN KUMM



While the mass graves are being filled up in Haiti and international opinion devotes some fleeting moments of attention to this unhappy nation, all we hear about is misery, poverty, corruption, chaos. This of course was to be expected. Haiti is seen as simply another "failed state" one can only feel sorry for and which will need international intervention. Few people remember - if they ever knew - that Haiti has a glorious past. It was the people of Haiti who two hundred years ago made the first serious attempt to turn the lofty principles of the French into palpable reality.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century, Haiti, in those days Saint Domingue, was France's richest colony. Haiti's sugar-plantations and Haiti's African slaves provided the economic backbone also of revolutionary France. After the fall of the Bastille, both Haiti's white slave-owners and emancipated Haitian mulattoes sent representatives to the revolutionary convention in Paris. Haiti's slave and plantation owners were relieved that the French monarchy and French commercial controls had collapsed which opened up an interesting new market in neighboring United States. Haiti's mulattoes were enthralled by French revolutionary principles. A Haitian mulatto leader, Lacombe, insisted that freedom, brotherhood and equality were principles which ought to be observed also in Haiti. He was immediately hanged by irate French slave owners.

Haiti's popular majority, hundreds of thousands of African slaves, sent no representatives to revolutionary Paris. Instead they organized themselves, using the cover of voodoo sessions, which were tolerated by French plantation owners who thought their slaves were merely gathering to dance and worship their African gods. But, says the foremost historian of the Haitian revolution, Trinidadian author C.L.R. James, Haiti's slaves were already a modern proletariat, collectivized by their work on

the big plantations. And they too heard the rumors from France and the signals of the revolution.

The first Haitian slave rebellion took place in the month of August 1791. Twelve thousand slaves in the northern parts of Saint Domingue rose up, ransacked the plantations and hanged their oppressors from the nearest palm trees. And this is where Toussaint L'Ouverture, Haiti's revolutionary leader, enters world history. He was a literate, black supervisor on a plantation where his French master seems to have been fairly tolerant and was protected by Toussaint against rebellious slaves. For a while Toussaint was seen as a benign Uncle Tom, but he had read his Julius Caesar and realized that the slaves needed military organization. He raised a black army and had the satisfaction of defeating two European invasions, first the troops sent out by revolutionary France to quell the slave rebellion, after that one hundred thousand British soldiers, dispatched by prime minister William Pitt the younger. The invaders were thoroughly beaten by Haiti's African defenders and by yellow fever.

In France, especially the Jacobins showed a great deal of sympathy for revolutionary Haiti, and in 1793 slavery was

banned. However, after assuming power, the First Consul, Napoléon Bonaparte, decided to reintroduce slavery and, as he put it, "rip the epaulettes off the shoulders of the Negroes". Napoléon sent new invasion forces. Haiti did survive as an independent nation but was under perpetual pressure from France, England, the United States and Spain.

Toussaint L'Ouverture died in a French dungeon.

Haiti, it could truly be said, drew the ultimate consequences of the French revolution. In the United States and in France freedom was born for white people. In Haiti freedom was born for everybody. (Cont'd. on page 7)

2006 Stats on Haiti:	
Population (2006).....	8,304,504
GDP per capita 2006 (Purchasing Power Parity, US\$).....	1,800
GDP 2006 (Purchasing Power Parity, US\$ billions).....	14.6
Unemployment.....	60%
Average annual growth 1991-97	
Population (%)	2.1
Labor force (%)	1.8
Total Area.....	10,714 sq. mi.
Urban population (% of total population)	33
Life expectancy at birth: (years).....	64
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births).....	71
Malnutrition (% of children under 5)	28
Access to safe water (% of population)	39
Illiteracy (% of population age 15+).....	54.

How Foreign Students Can Work in Sweden

Foreign students can now work in Sweden year-round. Check with the local labour office for exact details. Meanwhile, take note of the following:

Civil registration. If you move to Sweden and intend living here for at least one year, you normally have to be registered as a resident. The Tax Authority can tell you more about the rules of civil registration in Sweden.

National Registration Numbers. Every person registered as a resident in Sweden is allotted a national registration number. This number is composed by the tax authority at the time of registration.

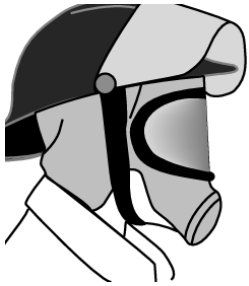
Social Security. The rights of EU/EEA citizens to social benefits and their liability for social security contributions are governed by the EU rules and the EEA Agreement. Citizens of non-EU/EEA countries come under the Nordic Social Security Convention. Social security charges payable in Sweden are normally paid by the employer, but the basic health insurance contribution and the general funding charge

for cash unemployment benefits are paid by the employee and are deducted at source, together with preliminary tax.

Tax liability / Less than six months

If you stay in Sweden for less than six months, your tax liability is limited. This means that you only have to pay tax on certain kinds of income originating in Sweden and not on income received, for example, in your country of domicile. Taxable earned income is subjected either to special income tax for persons domiciled abroad (SINK) or special income tax for artists, athletes etc. domiciled abroad (LSI). **Six months or more.** Your tax liability in Sweden depends on how long you stay here. If you stay in Sweden for a continuous period of six months or more, your tax liability will normally be considered unlimited. This means that you are fiscally equated with persons domiciled in Sweden. You will then be liable for tax on all income acquired in Sweden and abroad.

For more information: Contact your local Employment Office if you want to work in Sweden.



How to Fight Colds and the Flu in Sweden

NOTE: NONE OF THIS IS MEDICAL ADVICE, BUT HEED IT AND YOU MIGHT STAY HEALTHY.

WINTERS IN SWEDEN can be harsh and very cold for people from warmer climates. That is why the advice for the winter months is: 1) DRESS WARMLY

- wear wool clothing, warm jackets and coats, sweaters, wool socks, gloves and use a scarf around your neck. Above all, wear a decent winter coat, preferably one that covers your knees and legs. 2) VITAMINS SUCH AS E, AND C (oranges, tangerines, grapefruits and other juices) help your resistance to colds. Ask for them at your health food store or local super market. 3) ECHINACEA. At the first sign of a cold, take some Echinacea +. Ask for this miracle home-remedy at your local health-food store. Some grocery stores also carry it. It really works at the first sign of a cold if you take it as prescribed. 4) COLD AIR. Avoid unnecessary drafts, like the window being open on cold nights. Below freezing air blowing into a window brings only one thing into a room: cold air. 5) SNEEZES. AVOID SNEEZING PEOPLE. Try to avoid facing people who are sneezing. It may appear rude, but try not to shake their hands (in fact, washing hands regularly helps avoid transmitting cold bacteria. But then you know that, right?), and face the other direction when in a crowded room or elevator with them. 6) COUGH MEDICINES AND SYRUPS - should be taken if you have a cough that persists. Health food stores carry some good ones, and the personnel understand

English if you speak slowly and demonstrate that you have a cough - which should be easy if you have a cold. 7) HOT CHICKEN SOUP. It may sound ridiculous, but getting a friend to make you some hot chicken soup which you can regularly take during your cold really works. It's a miracle, to say the least, so keep some hot chicken soup around. It will do you good. 8) THE DOCTOR. When all these precautions fail (and they will if you run around in sandals, shorts and a tee shirt during the winter), go see a doctor if the cough is really bad, and don't wait too long to do so. Get plenty of rest. xxxx

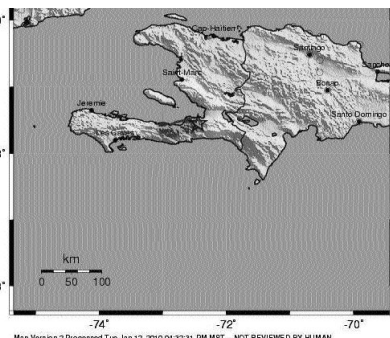
Why We Publish in English



Though Swedish is clearly the first language of Lund (after all, we are in Sweden), English has always been the lingua franca of the Swedish academic community. This is why The English International Association of Lund publishes this newsletter with tips and information for you in English until you know enough Swedish to read Swedish newspapers. If you have an article (pro-bono only, please.) or opinion that you would like to share with others, send an inquiry at englintern@hotmail.com. We publish articles in Swedish or English and have a website: www.thelundian.com

(Haiti, cont'd.)

But why did everything later go wrong? C.L.R. James in his marvellous *The Black Jacobins*, published in 1938, suggests that Toussaint L'Ouverture in fact remained too much of a loyal French citizen. He wanted the formerly enslaved Haitians to become exemplary Frenchmen. He wanted to show the world that black men could build a civilized state. French should be spoken as correctly in Port au Prince as in Paris. And he intervened brutally against his own followers, who began wondering if they would have to go on slaving for French plantation owners, white and mulattoes, who had been invited back to Haiti by Toussaint L'Ouverture.



C.L.R. James sadly concludes that Toussaint L'Ouverture, Haiti's revolutionary leader, was in fact a Black Jacobin, a Caribbean Robespierre, radical but authoritarian, not inclined to listen to his people. Instead of mobilizing the population of Haiti to claim their rights, Toussaint first of all wished to be accepted by the contemporary international establishment and be seen as a reliable upholder of the colonial economy. After Toussaint, the leaders of Haiti turned out to be less respectful - concerning the ruthless Dessalines C.L.R. James famously comments: "His ties to French civilization were of the slenderest". But they successfully fought Napoleon's forces and in 1804 declared independence. However, in order to be accepted by what has sometimes been called the civilized world, independent Haiti had to pay damages to France and to the white slave-owners who had already made gigantic profits from France's

richest colony. In order to pay, Haiti had to borrow enormous sums from French banks. Haiti remained in the hock for more than a hundred years, with sad consequences for the Haitian economy. The final payment to France was made in 1947.

We now hear Barack Obama talk about the common history that joins Haiti with the United States. Am I the only one who sees a certain resemblance between Toussaint L'Ouverture, struggling for respectability, and the current US president who is so overly respectful in his relations with Wall Street and other rulers of the world? I suggest Obama, in addition to Eduardo Galeano's *The open veins of Latin America*, handed to him by Hugo Chavez a few months ago, should also read C.L.R. James *The Black Jacobins* to remind him how lofty ideals were once translated into reality.

Björn Kumm is a journalist living in Malmö, Sweden. He can be reached at kumm@telia.com

Good Books to Read...

HAITI 2004

Av Peter Hallward, Med förord av Björn Kumm, Celanders förlag. www.celanders.se

Damming the Flood,

Peter Hallward (2008). Info: www.versobooks.com

Not Even in Your Dreams

A Story About Children, Parents and Dreams. M. A. Diakité, Available at: www.trafford.com/07-1773.

Afrikansvenska Röster, Red. Kolade Stephens.

Notis forlag. www.notisforlag.se



Passings ...

George Jones Carnegie (born George Arthur Jones), passed away on January 3, 2010 here in Lund (Sweden). He was born in Pittsburgh, PA (USA) in 1935, and had served briefly in the US Navy. He lived in Los Angeles where he worked in a local civil rights organisation and participated in the March to Selma, Alabama in 1965.

Following a brief accident at a factory in Sacramento, he decided to move to France to join the ranks of other African American writers and painters who were there at the time. In a rented car, he made a wrong turn on his way to Paris, but it was the wrong turn changed his life forever. Arriving in Copenhagen, he met a man who invited him to Lund, Sweden, and when he arrived it became his new hometown.

George became a self-defined poet, a painter and a dedicated worker at Tetra Pak and Vipeholms hospital where he was well appreciated. He retired, and continued painting and writing poetry. He published five small books of poetry and also did some sculpturing, but there have been only two exhibitions of his free-style of painting. He had a remarkable gift with words and his poetry was appreciated by all who read it. One of his long dreams was to dedicate his artworks to the world's children free of charge.

George was the epitome of a free-spirited person. He was a profile in Lund for 40 years whose daily appearances in Mårtenstorget were characterized by his unique style of clothing, and an entertaining discussion about your horoscope. George had a good sense of humour, was honest, straightforward and full of fantasy. He will be missed by those who knew him on his good days.

Stanley Cummings
Madubuko Diakité
Elaine Bosak



WIN A TRIP TO COPENHAGEN

Write a brief article and take photos about how and why you like Lund. If selected, your story will win you a trip to Copenhagen. Info: The Editor: thelundian@hotmail.com .

På Lätt Svenska

Avgifter, 8 januari 2010

Studieavgifter upp till 90 000 kronor per år. Det blir innebörden för utländska studenter av en proposition i slutet av månaden. Samtidigt presenteras en anmälningsavgift om 1 000 kronor för studenter från länder utanför EU.

Allt fler utländska studenter vill studera i Sverige. Till höstterminen 2009 kom 122 000 ansökningar från utomeuropeiska studenter från länder utanför EU/EES. Det kräver stora resurser för översättning av betygsdokument och kontroll av om de var riktiga. Antalet som faktiskt påbörjar sina studier är betydligt färre, bland annat eftersom en relativt stor andel av dem inte är behöriga till de utbildningar de sökt. 2008 fanns det cirka 7 500 studenter från de här länderna.

Source: staffan.thulin@riksdagen.se

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Respect Swedish Laws...

Regardless of your citizenship, or if you are a student, researcher or a refugee, here are some common-sense things not to do in Sweden. Committing some are a criminal offense that is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both. In some cases you could get deported after being punished. So if you know that you can't do the time - don't do the crime!

Do Not smuggle in or use narcotic drugs. Do not drink and drive. The allowed alcohol in your blood when driving is 0.2 promile. With 1.0 promile you will be sent to prison for drunk driving. Do not drive without a license. Do not litter. Do not use racial, ethnic or homophobic slurs to offend someone. Do not get into physical fights, even if you feel you did not start a confrontation. Do not engage in forced sex, i.e., rape. (This goes for females forcing males, too!) It is also a crime to walk around naked, to urinate or defecate in public in Sweden. Do not engage in forgery or fraud, such as a Pyramid or other confidence game. Do not "buy" an obvious piece of stolen property. If you find someone else's property (like an unlocked bike, a watch or a wallet) the law requires you to take or send it to the local police station. The phone number to the local police station in Lund is 046-16 50 00. P.S. If you do get arrested on suspicion of committing a crime in Sweden, there is NO BAIL. The prosecutor has between one and five days to decide to prosecute because the evidence points to a serious crime - or release you if it doesn't. If evidence supports the suspicions, the local court will order you held for an additional 15 days, after which you will have your first hearing. Further investigation means you will be held till trial. A lawyer will be appointed for you by the court if you cannot afford one. Information about driving in Sweden in English is at: www.vv.se. Check with a lawyer. Most of them speak good English and you'll find them under "Advokat" or "Jurist" in the Swedish Yellow Pages. xxxx

