

Interviewee name:

Khafra Kambon (formerly Dave Darbeau)

Interviewer name:

Avah Atherton

Date of Interview:

7th September 2024

Location of Interview:

Home of Khafra & Asha Kambon

Carenage,

Trinidad and Tobago

Short biography of interviewee:

Khafra Kambon is a human rights advocate who began his activism as a young student at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus in the late 1960s. Working alongside Makandal Daaga (formerly Geddes Granger), they supported the efforts of several major trade unions in their struggle for economic parity. As executive members of the UWI's Student Guild, they dedicated their time to meeting with community members around Trinidad and Tobago to share their ideologies regarding the plight of African people around the world. Kambon formed the National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) alongside Makandal Daaga and remained a key figure to Afro-Trinidadians even after his separation from the organisation when he founded the Emancipation Support Committee of Trinidad and Tobago.

Short summary of interview:

Kambon emphasizes the role of university students and trade unions in mobilizing the public, forming alliances with radical trade union leaders, and organizing protests. He recounts several key moments, including the strikes, demonstrations, and the pivotal march on February 26, 1970, which culminated in a takeover of the Royal Bank of Canada and the Catholic Cathedral in Port of Spain. Kambon reflects on the significant impact of these events in awakening political consciousness and unity among the African and Indian communities, despite attempts by the government to suppress the movement. Kambon was eventually imprisoned during the State of Emergency, but he highlights the lasting influence of the movement on racial and political discourse in Trinidad and Tobago.

Interview keywords:

Trinidad,Tobago, Revolution,1970 Revolution, February Revolution,1970 Black Power Revolution, Social Justice Movement, Caribbean, Social Justice, Trinidad and Tobago, National Joint Action Committee, Black Power Movement, Black Power Revolution

Recorder technical information:

Zoom H4n Pro, Wav 16bit 44.1khz, Stereo

Total no. of tracks:

2

Total Duration (HH:MM:SS):

02:36:44

Ref. No.: OH202403

Wav files ref.: OH202403KK, OH202403KK1

Recording notes:

Interruptions include Asha Kambon (wife) and stove timer

Release notes:

Permission granted to use copies of newspaper clippings stored in his private archive and copy of archival footage from 26th February 1970 short video featuring Kambon on Canadian national television programme.

Additional material:

Photograph of the interviewee in his home; copies of newspaper clippings, copy of family photograph with Kwame Ture

Sensitive subjects:

None