

Encyclopedia of Anti-Revisionism On-Line

Obituary: Comrade Tongogara 1942-2023

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Sam Richards added Note: I knew and worked with Comrade Tongogara when he was known as Dannie Morrell. He had come to London in the mid 1960s from Jamaica. Quickly active in the radical scene, he identified with the rising global resistance. He believed in the necessity of organising, if not always the most organised, and his passage between organisations reflected that belief. A founding member of the Black Unity and Freedom Party (BUF), Dannie moved through a number of Marxist-Leninist organisation: in the [Communist Workers' League of Britain \(Marxist-Leninist\)](#) and then upon its demise, joining the [Revolutionary Communist League of Britain](#) in the early 1980s. In the new century, agitation continued in the [George Jackson Socialist League](#): a Maoist group within the Black Community in London maintaining a public presence for Maoism, organising public meetings of commemoration, such as those for George Jackson and Claudia Jones, and campaign meetings, in particular around the case of the imprisoned Black American radical journalist, Mumia Abu-Jamal. Dannie ended his days as a member of the CPGB (ML).

Dannie was a tireless activist and communicator. He sold papers on the streets of London throughout his life, it may have been [Voice of the People](#), *Class Struggle or Proletarian* but it was his resilience and dedication to serve the people and the cause of liberation that sustained a lifetime lived as a communist. He lived and worked in the multi-national communities of north London, and would talk with everyone. An ability that served him well as the last bookshop worker at New Era Books in the 1990s.



LALKAR is sad to announce the death of Comrade Tongogara who breathed his last on 11 May this year. Born Danny Morrell on 6 February 1942, he adopted the name Tongogara after the great Zimbabwean fighter Josiah Tongogara who fought for the liberation of Zimbabwe from the clutches of the racist white minority regime of Rhodesia.

He lived all his life in the North London area of Tottenham, devoting himself to various campaigns for national liberation of the oppressed peoples – from Zimbabwe, South Africa, Mozambique, Angola and Guinea Bissau to the Irish struggle for self-determination and the reunification of Ireland forcibly partitioned with its Six northern counties occupied by British imperialism.

He participated in countless demonstrations and pickets against racial discrimination as well as the racist violence of the state and deaths in police custody. He was a founder member and leading light of the Free Mumia Abu Jamal Campaign, working tirelessly for the release of this courageous Afro-American writer and journalist who has for years been languishing in American dungeons despite having been proved innocent of the crime for which he was charged.

Tongogara celebrated every year the life of Claudia Jones, the distinguished Caribbean-American British communist.

He loved serious study, avidly reading Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Zedong. He regularly attended meetings of the Stalin Society which promotes the achievements of the Soviet Union under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin during three long decades of extraordinary difficulty and exceptional opportunity. He was an ardent admirer of Mao Zedong and the achievements of China under his leadership; a passionate supporter of the liberation struggle of the heroic Vietnamese people against the predatory war waged against Vietnam by US imperialism. His support for Cuban, Nicaraguan and Venezuelan socialism was unwavering.

He was a loyal member of the Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and fairly regularly attended Marxist study classes organised by the Party, always willing to travel all across London to join other comrades selling Proletarian, the Party's organ, as well as the anti-imperialist journal LALKAR.

We had ample opportunity to work with Comrade Tongogara on several campaigns. It was a pleasure to have him by our side during long years of struggle for the liberation of the proletariat and oppressed peoples.

His passing away is not only an occasion to mourn his sad demise but also to celebrate a life well-lived in the cause of the emancipation of the proletariat from the system of exploitation of one human being by another and one nation by another.

With these few words, we say a final farewell to Comrade Tongogara. May his work and example inspire the younger generation of workers.

A Red Salute to Comrade Tongogara!