



EFF WELCOMES BURKINA FASO GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO CHARGE BLAISE COMPAORE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF THOMAS SANKARA

Wednesday, 14 April, 2021

The EFF welcomes the decision by the Government of Burkina Faso to charge former President, murderer and dictator Blaise Compaore for the assassination of the socialist, pan-Africanist Revolutionary and first President of "Burkina Faso", Thomas Sankara.

In October of 1987, during a meeting Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, assassins reporting to Blaise Compaore isolated and sprayed then President of the Socialist Republic of Burkina Faso, Thomas Sankara with bullets, execution style, leaving him and 12 others dead.

Following this mindless murder and massacre, Blaise Compaore stated on record that Sankara had to be eliminated because he compromised relations with Burkina Faso's former coloniser, France. He then took power and presided over the country's governments for 27 years. Upon taking power, he immediately restored foreign relations with France, returned Burkina Faso to the membership of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

In essence, Blaise Compaore killed Sankara in order to subject the country into the will of colonial and imperialist powers. His coup was a coup against socialism Africa's self-determination. In Sankara he murdered Africa's dream for a socialist, autonomous and self-sufficient continent and people. Africa, according to Blaise Compaore, must always be in service and under the permanent tutelage of colonisers and imperialist institutions.

We therefore welcome the decision for his prosecution, which must equally reveal the role played by France in the assassination of our revolutionary leader. Blaise Compaore must also be charged for the murder of the other 12 people killed soon after the execution of Sankara, who were in attendance at that meeting. The bloodshed of the entire coup must be placed squarely at his hands as a crime against humanity!

The case must be successfully prosecuted also for Mirriam Sankara, who is the widow of Sankara, together with the whole family, and progressive forces across the world pained by the execution of Thomas Sankara to finally find peace and justice.

It does not matter how old is Blaise Compaore, he must be apprehended, taken to account for his murderous plans. He must spend the rest of his old and miserable life in prison for killing the socialist leader of the African continent. He deprived an entire generation of a genuine African leader committed to the total economic emancipation of our people.

Accordingly, we call on President Alassane Ouattara of Ivory Coast to cooperate with Burkina Faso authorities and hand over Blaise Compaore to be trialled along with all who were involved in the murder of Thomas Sankara. No one, anywhere in the continent must protect Blaise Compaore from being held accountable for killing Sankara. The African Union, together with ECOWAS, must impress on Ivory Coast to fully cooperate in this regard. The people of Burkina Faso have all the rights to resolve this matter; no one must refuse a democratic government its democratic right to service justice against its own citizens and for its own citizens.

Finally, the EFF is deeply proud of the people of Burkina Faso who in 2014, in memory of Thomas Sankara led massive demonstrations that led to the peaceful overthrow of Blaise Compaore. Since then, the democratic government of the people has worked hard to ensure its preparedness for the prosecution of the criminal dictator, Blaise Compaore. Now is the time for the people of the world to rejoice when justice is finally served on the enemy that took the people's socialist and pan-Africanist leader away in a brutal and cowardice assassination.

We join in the words of Miriam Sankara: “Long live the Republic and long live Burkina!
The motherland or death, we shall overcome.”

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