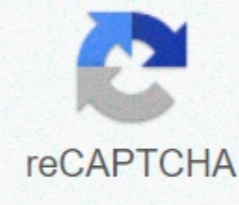




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## Ofunshi oba koso

As part of Honduran Women's Day, the ODECO Community Ethnic Development Organization held an important conference in which we were able to discuss the theme of Women and Spirituality given by the Babalawo Ofunshy Oba Koso, who visits us from the United States of America. This masterful event was attended by female members of human rights organizations, trustee representatives, pastoral Católica Garífuna, Office of Genero Municipal, Municipal Ethnic Unit, CONVIDA, Garífuna Dance Groups, affiliates, activists, social workers and directors of the ODECO. Ofunshi Oba Koso, a traditional spiritual healer or shaman known as Babalawo of the Yoruba religious tradition, was born in Cuba and educated from an early age with traditional teachers Lucumí and Yoruba. It offers a unique perspective on African spirituality through its vast knowledge of Afro-Cuban syncretic religious practices such as Santería (Lucumi), Palo Monte, as well as Ifá, as practiced in West Africa today. His traditional wisdom and knowledge are widely respected, and his advice is sought not only in the religious sphere, but also in the social and political sphere. In addition to his work as a spiritual guide, he also actively participates in global movements to improve the lives and conditions of Africans and Afro-descendants around the world. Baba Ofunshi had the honor of being a member of the International Coordination Committee and panelist of the First World Summit of Afro-Descendants in Honduras (August 2011). During the conference, the topics covered examined the role that women play in the family and thus in society, self-esteem, nomenity, which are all related to spirituality, the participants expressed their motivation and commitment to take actions aimed at supporting the various areas in which they are part, and to establish their commitment to continue to participate in the various activities promoted by ODECO and to be part of the Group of Female Employees of the institution, so you have a new meeting to form this important space for and for women. Our thanks to the participants for their availability and interest in strengthening their knowledge on various topics. The battle continues.... Thank you for joining the Voices That Silence Silence... XXVII YEAR OF FOUNDATION OF ODECO Afro-Descendants Rights in America: The Perspective of Transnational Activists in the U.S. and the WOLA Region: Advocacy for Human Rights in the Americas Washington Office on Latin America 1666 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20009 Friday 2020-12-11, (9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. EST) (Image: Mikey Cordero / Defend Puerto Rico Featuring: James Early, Activist and Board Member Institute for Policy Studies, Washington, D.C., United States Zakiya Carr Johnson, Social Inclusion and Diversity Expert ODARA Solutions, LLC, Atlanta, Georgia, United States Carlos Quesada, Executive Director and Founder The International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights, Washington, D.C., United States Agripina Hurtado Caicedo, coordinator of the Committee to Combat Racism, Xenophobia, and All Forms of Discrimination Public Services International (PSI), Cali, Colombia Deyni Terry Abreu, Attorney Racial Unity Alliance (Alianza Unidad Racial), Havana, Cuba Helmer Quiñones Mendoza, Afro-descendant philosopher Afro-Colombian Peace Council (Consejo de Paz Afro-Colombiano, CONPA), Bogotá, Colombia Ofunshi Oba Koso, Babalawo/Shaman and Human Rights Activist Yoruba Cuba Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota, United States Darryl Chappell, President and CEO The Darryl Chappell Foundation, Washington, D.C., United States In May 2020, the video of George Floyd's unjust death at the hands of a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota was widely circulated, as the world faced the unprecedented COVID-19 health crisis. Outrage over the death of Floyd and that of many other African-Americans at the hands of police sparked protests in the United States. The health crisis, its economic impact and the limited capacity of countries to respond fully revealed how structural inequalities, racism and the economic order can have serious consequences for Afro descendants in the region. While such inequalities are historic, the many crises led to conversations about racism, police brutality and the state of human rights for Afro descendants. Racism and abuse have long been in America, but don't get the same level of global control. The American Black Lives Matter movement and its anti-racist efforts became the vanguard of discussions on these issues. While worldwide lesser known, numerous resistance and civil rights movements in America are working to advance African-rights, fight racism, and push for justice and equality. These transnational networks, woven over the years, offer mutual solidarity between peoples of the African diaspora in the region. In March 2019, WOLA organised a one-day conference to create the rights of Afro-descendants from a regional perspective. During that engagement, activists and academics investigated these issues in the context of the UN International Decade on Afro descendants. Join WOLA on December 11 at 9:00 a.m EST, if we continue this conversation the developments affecting the African diaspora in the US and region over the past year. Darryl Chappell, President and CEO of the Darryl Chappell Foundation, will discuss this upcoming who have worked across borders for decades on the rights of Afro-descendants in the United States and throughout America. Click here for more information and to sign up. Baki Z. Porter, Rox Anderson and Chaim Budenosky Christie Marie Owens, Mack the Barber and Samuel Babatunde Ero-Phillips Indigenous Roots Arts Center Kari Tauring and Kurt Seaberg Kieran Myles-Andrés Tverbakk and Johanna Keller Flores Ofunshi Oba Koso Ofunshi Oba Koso is a traditional healer and spiritual diviner known as a Babalawo from the Yoruba religious tradition. Ofunshi, trained from an early age by both Lucumi and traditional Yoruba masters, brings a unique perspective of African spirituality through his vast knowledge of Afro-Cuban syncretic religious practices such as Santería (Lucumi) and Palo Monte, as well as Ifá as it is practiced today in West Africa. His wisdom and traditional knowledge are widely respected, and his counsel is sought not only in the religious realm, but also in social and political arenas. In addition to his work as a spiritual guide for many, he is also actively involved in global movements to improve the lives and conditions of Africans and African descendants. Currently, Ofunshi is director of Outreach for Project Congo Global Voice, a year-long campaign to build a solidarity network to address the ongoing crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other resource-operated regions. His previous activities include serving as a member of the International Coordinating Committee and panelist for the First World Summit of Afro-Descendants held in Honduras (August 2011), presenting a paper on spirituality and tradition at the International Assembly of Writers and Poets of African, Indigenous and Sino Descent in Costa Rica (October 2011), and serving as a delegate to the United Nations for the High-Level General Assembly meeting on the 10th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action ( September 2011). Baba Ofunshi holds a degree in cultural analysis and promotion from the University of Havana, where he also earned undergraduate certificates in Public Relations and Marketing, and a graduate level certificate in social anthropology and religious studies. Dr. August Nimtz August H. Nimtz, Professor of Political Science and African American and African Studies and Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Minnesota, 1327 Social Sciences Building, 267 19th Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55455. Author of Lenin's Electoral Strategy Rene Thompson Rene Thompson is a professional Latin dancer for 27 years, 20 of those years as an instructor and choreographer. He began his career in Cuba in 1973 with a small role as an actor in the popular 4 the Abril under the direction of Tito Junco. Many other amateur theatres and dance companies helped him develop his artistic vocation. Early 1980s hunters discovered Rene's versatility and soon he became a great Afro-Cuban dancer, performing with several well-known choreographers, directors and dance companies and further developing a hip unique style. 1986 brought him into the work f of the night shows in the most prestigious clubs in Cuba, such as Tropicana. His energetic and charming dance caught the attention of many famous choreographers and directors from all over the world. Rene has performed traditional Afro-Cuban and popular Latin dance around the world and in many music videos and movies featuring popular American and international artists including Will Smith, John Leguizamo, Gloria Estefan and the Miami Sound Machine. Born and educated in Cuba, Rene brings a wealth of knowledge of music and dance and culture to his audience. He teaches Cuban salsa, cha cha cha, rumba, mambo and other traditional Cuban rhythms and always encompasses the heart of the Cuban style that has its foundations in Africa and Spain, as well as his homeland Cuba. Rene has been honored for his informative and insightful lectures and delightful demonstrations about the rich history of his Afro-Cuban roots throughout: the Federal Executive Board, USDA, Harrington Foundation, and Minneapolis Community College. Dr. Melisa Rivière Minnesota Yoruba Cuba Association; Executive Secretary Anthropologist Melisa Rivière earned her doctorate in 2010 as a MacArthur fellow at the University of Minnesota. Her research has focused on the globalization of hip-hop, civil rights, and popular youth culture movements in Cuba and Puerto Rico. She has published parts of her research in scientific journals and popular cultural journals and received several awards for her multimedia ethnographic works. She is currently developing new research into music censorship and the innovation mechanisms of underground rap recording studios throughout Latin America. Her educational approach is aimed at developing critical thinkers who can contribute to their respective academic and larger communities, while also boosting students' creative trading skills; motivate the student multiple intelligences. Dr. Rivière was academic director for SIT Study Abroad and taught as an adjunct faculty at Hamline University, currently teaching at the Institute for Global Studies at the University of Minnesota. Minnesota.

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