



THE UNIVERSITY
OF THE
WEST INDIES

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES'

Office of the Vice Chancellor
Institute for Gender and Development Studies
Department of Government, Mona Campus

Present the Public Forum



The Assassination of Walter Rodney in Guyana: Reflections on the Commission of Inquiry Report

June 15, 2016

5:00pm

The University of the West Indies
Regional Headquarters
Kingston, Jamaica

SAVE THE DATE

Dr. Walter A. Rodney

23 March 1942 – 13 June 1980

"For the only great [people] among the unfree
and the oppressed are those who struggle
to destroy the oppressor."

- How Europe Underdeveloped Africa

About Walter Rodney

Dr. Walter Anthony Rodney was a noted international scholar who was trained at the University of the West Indies. Born in Guyana on March 23, 1942, Rodney received a scholarship to the UWI, received a first class degree and proceeded to do his Doctoral work at the University of London, School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS). After completing his PhD he taught in Jamaica and Tanzania before returning to Guyana in 1974. His book, *How Europe Underdeveloped Africa* remains a classic in colonial and post-colonial politics and economics. His writings on the questions of self-mobilization and the emancipation of working peoples had distinguished him in an era when the energies of the peoples of the Caribbean were directed towards conceptualizing a new society.

Walter Rodney was killed on June 13, 1980. In the 36 years after his passing there were numerous calls for an independent commission of inquiry into his killing. In 2014, the government of Guyana instituted a Commission of Inquiry. The Commission of Inquiry was comprised of three eminent Caribbean jurists (Barbados' Richard Cheltenham, Trinidad & Tobago's Seenath Jairam and Jamaica's Jacqueline Samuels-Brown). After listening to evidence from scores of witnesses, the Commission concluded that the Guyanese State had been directly involved in Rodney's assassination by a bomb on June 13, 1980

About the Public Forum

Thirty six years after the assassination on June 13, 1980, the University of the West Indies (UWI) – Office of the Vice Chancellor, Department of Government, Institute for Gender & Development Studies – in collaboration with the *Walter Rodney Foundation* and the *Justice for Walter Rodney Committee*, will host a discussion on the findings of the Commission of Inquiry at the Regional Headquarters on June 15 2016 from 5-8 pm. This discussion will seek to grasp the lessons that have been learnt from the Commission of Inquiry.

The Forum will seek to achieve the following outcomes:

- public education on Walter Rodney himself as many young people have no idea about the man and his work
- public education on the work of the COI and the Report
- exposure to the ideas and philosophies of the Rodney Family as espoused by the Walter Rodney Foundation

In addition it is expected that there will be

- the search for a new environment of healing to expose state sponsored murders and an end to murders with impunity
- an understanding from Dr. Patricia Rodney, Walter Rodney's widow, on what the family thinks of the report and possibly next steps (if their expectations were not fulfilled)
- an understanding of the role of the Justice for Walter Rodney Committee, its view on the report and its next steps after the report is released

The Forum will be moderated by Rodney Scholar, Professor Rupert Lewis. Speakers will include Vice Chancellor, Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Dr. Patricia Rodney (Walter Rodney Foundation), Mr. Richard Small, Q.C, Professor Horace Campbell (Syracuse University & Justice for Walter Rodney Committee - JWRC), and journalist and member of the JWRC, Mr. Wazir Mohammed, as well as Mr. Andrew Pilgrim, lawyer for the Rodney family. The Planning Committee is chaired by Professor Verene Shepherd.

For more information, please call 876-927-1913.