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July 22nd 2008

**Media Release**

**EMANCIPATION CELEBRATIONS 2008: KWAME TURE MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES**

**Book Launch: *Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones* by Dr. Carole Boyce Davies**

The Emancipation Support Committee in collaboration with NALIS and the Centre for Gender and Development Studies is pleased to announce the launch of ***Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones*** by Trinidad born author Dr. Carole Boyce Davies. The book will be reviewed by famous Garvey scholar and researcher Dr Tony Martin, as part of this year's Kwame Ture Memorial Lecture Series at the AVRoom, NALIS, Port of Spain on Thursday July 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 at 7.00pm. Admission Free.

***Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones***, is an assessment of the activism, writing, and legacy of Claudia Jones (1915-1964), a pioneering Afro-Caribbean radical intellectual, dedicated communist, and feminist. Claudia Cumberbatch Jones was born in Trinidad, and moved to New York, where she lived for some thirty years. She was active in the Communist Party from her early twenties onward. In the early 1950s, she wrote a well-known column, "Half the World," for the "Daily Worker," and as the U.S. government intensified its efforts to prosecute communists, Jones was not excluded.

She served nearly a year in a U.S. prison before being deported and was given asylum in Great Britain in 1955. There she founded "The West Indian Gazette and Afro-Asian Caribbean News" and the Caribbean Carnival, an annual London festival that continues today as the Notting Hill Carnival.

Author, Dr Carole Boyce Davies, is Professor of Africana Studies, English and Comparative Literature at Cornell University. She is an active researcher and has published numerous books on black women's writing and on African Diaspora studies including *Out of the Kumbia: Caribbean Women and Literature* (1990) and *Decolonizing the Academy: African Diaspora Studies* (2003), among others.

According to Mr. Tracy Wilson, executive member of the Emancipation Support Committee, "this book adds another chapter in the unfolding drama of African-Caribbean women whose work impacted a generation of international activists, scholars and ideologues. It is a fitting sequel to the work of Amy Ashwood Garvey." *Left of Karl Marx: The Political Life of Black Communist Claudia Jones* is a brand new book, which has already been listed on the Essence magazine Bestsellers List for July 2008.

Dr Rhoda Reddock will reflect on the historical significance of the life of Claudia Jones and Dr Tony Martin, a former Professor of African Studies at Wellesley College will review the book. He is also an author and has compiled and edited several books, including his latest work, *Amy Ashwood Garvey: Pan-Africanist, Feminist and Mrs. Marcus Garvey #1 Or a Tale of Two Amies*, which was launched at last year's Kwame Ture Memorial Public Lecture Series.

The Emancipation Support Committee remains committed to the education and empowerment of Africans locally and internationally.

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