

Dems Blasted Gore for Murder in Africa

by Scott Thompson and
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In 1999, Al Gore's racism against Africa cost him a lot of support—as many Democrats and their political allies blasted the then-Vice President for condemning millions of Africans to a horrible, lingering death, by denying them access to generic drugs to treat AIDS/HIV. But then, as now, Gore was more oriented to his friends in the British Empire—Prince Philip, Prince Charles, and the other eco-fascists who cheer as deadly viruses reduce the human population.

That same year, the United Nations reported that every day, 5,500 African men, women, and children were dying from HIV-AIDS infection. This was considerably more than those allegedly “ethnically cleansed” in Kosova, which was given mass-media attention during that time, but the same media was as silent as the grave about HIV-AIDS deaths in Africa, where steps might have been taken to slow the death rate.

Could any human being sit by and permit such a holocaust to occur, if there were a way to stop it? What kind of person would prevent a solution? According to documentation supplied by the AIDS Drugs for Africa Coalition, one man had taken steps to stop Africa—particularly South Africa, where 3-6 million people are already infected with HIV-AIDS—from getting access to low-cost, life-extending generic drugs. That man is then-Vice President Al Gore, Jr.

In June 1999, following a meeting that he attended at the White House on the AIDS crisis in Africa, and on the State Department's campaign to stop South Africa from using generic anti-HIV/AIDS drugs, Steve Love of the Center for the Study of Responsive Law blasted the Vice President: “Al Gore is responsible for this situation, because he is head of the Commission on Binational Relations with South Africa. At the meeting, he said that he had only allowed there to be moderate sanctions imposed against South Africa, because they have a law calling for the production of affordable, generic AIDS treatment drugs, rather than the tough sanctions that have been called for by the drug companies. Jesus Christ, what is Gore talking about!? People are dying in big numbers, and they view people who are infected as already dead, so why give them any treatment? It is terrible and immoral!”

On June 30, 1999, State Rep. Harold James, then head of



UNICEF

Was Al Gore responsible for orphaning these two boys from Botswana, when he moved to prevent the South African government from manufacturing generic anti-AIDS drugs?

the Pennsylvania Legislature's Black Caucus, and one of the most widely known African American leaders in the United States, issued a statement asking, "Will millions die in South Africa because of Al Gore's policies?"

James's statement read in part: "Disturbing reports have come to public attention recently, concerning the apparent role of Vice President Al Gore in denying affordable AIDS medications to . . . South Africa. . . . Why would Al Gore take actions, which would unnecessarily increase the suffering and deaths from AIDS in Africa?"

"In 1997, the government of South Africa passed legislation allowing the domestic production of generic versions of AIDS drugs, and the purchasing of cheaper types of AIDS drugs on the world market. The law also requires a reasonable fee to be paid by domestic producers to the drug companies which hold the patents. The pharmaceutical industry is worried that if South Africa and other Third World countries go ahead with these plans, their ability to charge vastly inflated prices . . . may be undercut. . . ."

On July 21, 1999, Democratic Party ally, now Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), sponsored a House amendment that would have prohibited the U.S. State Department from punishing countries that take action, legal under World Trade Organization rules, to make affordable AIDS drugs available to their populations. The House rejected the measure by a vote of 307-117.

In his statements, Sanders called the AIDS epidemic "one of the great moral challenges of this century." He urged his colleagues, "Get the U.S. government on the right side of this issue and help save millions of lives." Sanders was backed by Democratic Rep. Marion Berry of Arkansas, who asked,

"What good are life-saving drugs if they are not affordable for the people who need them? We should not punish countries for trying to save their citizens' lives."

Genocide

The issue was clear: According to spokesmen for AIDS Drugs for Africa, in 1998 and 1999, Vice President Gore delivered threats to South Africa Deputy President (now President) Thabo Mbeki, that the United States would cut off all U.S. economic aid unless South Africa abandoned plans to manufacture and import cheaper generic drugs to treat HIV/AIDS.

As a result, members of the AIDS Drugs for Africa coalition dogged the Vice President, as he campaigned for the Presidency, shouting slogans such as "Al Gore kills for greed." The latter is a reference to the contributions that were filling Gore's Year 2000 Presidential campaign coffers from large pharmaceutical companies, that were using a multiplicity of means to stop South Africa from implementing a program to produce affordable generic drugs that can arrest the progress of the HIV-AIDS infection, drugs known as protease inhibitors.

The solution was at hand, and Gore blocked it, according to Steve Love:

"It's hard to appreciate the horror of the situation. Millions of South Africans will die because of what Vice President Gore has done."

"South Africa is prepared to pay reasonable royalties," Love added: "And, the conditions that South Africa has offered meet those of the WTO [World Trade Organization]. One out of every five young South Africans is infected by HIV/AIDS and will die. But, Vice President Gore has kowtowed to the pharmaceutical companies, so that he can raise campaign contributions . . . 'genocide' is an appropriate term."

But there was more than concern about patent infringement behind Gore's action. Then, as now, Gore embraced genocide against the Third World under the guise of "ecology." In his praise for Paul and Anne Ehrlich's book *The Population Explosion* (Simon & Schuster, New York, 1990), Gore fully endorsed their demand for radical population-reduction measures in the world's poorest countries. The Ehrlichs argue in their book, that AIDS is merely the latest of numerous pandemic diseases that have resulted from "overpopulation," which, incredibly, they claim exists in Africa, where they believe AIDS originated. Not only did Gore write an endorsement for the Ehrlichs' book jacket, but he fanatically repeated these sentiments in his own 1992 "deep ecology" diatribe, *Earth in the Balance*.

Greed

Today, Al Gore is the manager of a hedge-fund, based in London, where pharmaceutical lobbyist of yesteryear, Peter

Knight, is president of Gore's company, Generation Investments. In 1999, as now, Gore loved the color green—as in money—which flowed from the pharmaceutical giants into his campaign—the very pharmaceuticals that were lobbying for harsh measures against South Africa.

In a June 25, 1999 editorial, the *Washington Post*, came out against South Africa's law allowing the sale and use of generics. It stated: "U.S. pharmaceutical companies see the law—which allows South Africa's Health Minister to bring in less expensive imported AIDS drugs or locally produced generics—as an infringement on their patent protection. They have pushed aggressively for help in Congress and at the White House, even proposing that foreign aid to South Africa be cut off."

According to the "Ouch! Report" No. 25, entitled "Al Gore, AIDS Drugs and Pharmaceutical Money: Gore's Patented Moves," issued that same month, Gore was already starting to rake in his filthy lucre:

"While AZT, for example, can be purchased on the world market for 42 cents for 300 mg, it retails in the U.S. for nearly \$6 a pill," the report stated.

"Despite the fact that the WTO explicitly allows members to take such steps in the face of a national emergency or for public non-commercial use, the U.S. has placed South Africa on a 'watch list' as a free-trade violator and denied it special tariff breaks on its exports. . . .

"The Gore campaign is also well-positioned to reap a bumper crop of pharmaceutical cash. Anthony Podesta, a close friend and top adviser to Gore, is one of the PhRMA's [Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers' Association's] chief lobbyists. His firm was paid \$160,000 by PhRMA to lobby on patent issues, among other matters, between January 1997 and June 1998. He was also retained by Genentech, a major biotech firm with intense interest in protecting its patents, to the tune of \$260,000 for the same period. . . . Peter Knight, Gore's head fundraiser, made \$120,000 lobbying for Schering-Plough, another deep-pocketed drug company, in the first half of 1998. . . .

"These people know who to dial for dollars.

"One last sign that the pharmaceutical industry is warming to Gore: \$11,000 in contributions to Gore 2000 from PhRMA, Pfizer, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Genentech, and Glaxo-Wellcome lobbyists in the first three months of 1999. . . . Most of this money rolled in after consumer and AIDS activists started putting pressure on Gore's office to change his South Africa policy. . . ."

How Many Died?

At a rally on June 28, 1999, in Philadelphia, some 3,000 members of the coalition AIDS Drugs for Africa took part in a protest demonstration against Gore, who was in the city campaigning for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Growing numbers of people had caught on to the fact that it was genocide to deny South Africa, or any other poor country access to the generic HIV-AIDs drugs.

No one can estimate how many died because of this policy. On July 1, 1999, Agence France Presse reported that nearly 3.6 million people in South Africa were infected with the HIV-AIDS virus, according to statistics gathered by the Medical Research Council (MRC), which found that the number of people, at that time, carrying the fatal disease had increased 30-fold since 1990. As of now, it has reportedly increased 55-fold since 1990.

According to the MRC study, the percentage of pregnant women in South Africa infected with HIV rose from 0.76% in 1990, to 22.8% in 1998—an absolutely staggering rate of increase. The MRC findings support government statements that South Africa had—and has—one of the world's fastest-growing HIV epidemics.

Xinhua, the China news agency, reported in 1999, that Nigeria has an estimated 571,036 cases of HIV-AIDS infection, averaging—like South Africa—1,500 new infections daily, according to the National Coordinator of the National AIDS Control Program, Nasir Sani-Gwarzo. An estimated 139,282 Nigerian adults died of AIDS in 1998.

Despite these numbers, Al Gore has never repudiated his genocidal policies, as can be seen by his current activities in promoting his global warming and carbon swap swindles, which will add to the grim total of deaths caused by AIDS/HIV, in Africa and around the world.

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