

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Maulana Karenga

PERSON

Karenga, Maulana

Alternative Names: Maulana Karenga; ; Maulana Ndabezitha Karenga; Ron N. Everett; Ron N. Everett-Karenga; Ron Karenga

Life Dates: July 14, 1941-

Place of Birth: Parsonburg, Maryland, USA

Residence: Los Angeles, CA

Work: Long Beach, CA

Occupations: Community Activist; ;

Biographical Note

Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor of Africana Studies at California State University—Long Beach, was the holder of two Ph.D.'s. Karenga completed his degrees in political science at the United States International University, and in social ethics at the University of Southern California, before being awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Durban, South Africa.

Karenga's fields of teaching and research within Africana/Black Studies included: ancient Egyptian (Maatian) ethics; ancient Yoruba (Ifa) ethics; Africana/Black Studies theory and history; Africana/Black (continental and diasporan) philosophy; African American intellectual history; ethnic relations; and the socio-ethical thought of Malcolm X.

A prolific writer, Karenga authored numerous scholarly articles and books, including: *Maat, The Moral Ideal in Ancient Egypt: A Study in Classical African Ethics*; *Selections From The Husia: Sacred Wisdom of Ancient Egypt*; *The Book of Coming Forth By Day: The Ethics of the Declarations of Innocence*; *Odu Ifa: The Ethical Teachings*; and *Introduction to Black Studies*. Karenga was also one of the creators of the pan-African cultural holiday Kwanzaa, and the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles), as well as the author of the authoritative text, *Kwanzaa: A Celebration of Family, Community and Culture*.

An activist-scholar of national and international recognition, Karenga played a major role in Black political and intellectual culture from the 1960s on. Karenga has, along

with The Organization Us, been instrumental in such movements as Black Power, Black Arts, Black Studies, the Independent Schools, Afrocentricity, Ancient Egyptian Studies, the Million Person Marches, and the Reparations Movement. In addition to his activism, Karenga lectured on the life and struggle of African peoples on major campuses in the United States, Africa, the People's Republic of China, Cuba, Trinidad, Great Britain, and Canada. Karenga served as the chair of The Organization Us; the National Association of Kawaida Organizations; and as the executive director of the African American Cultural Center and the Kawaida Institute of Pan-African Studies.

Karenga has received numerous awards for scholarship and service, including: the C.L.R. James Award for Outstanding Publication of Scholarly Works that Advance the Discipline of Africana and Black Studies; the National Leadership Award for Outstanding Scholarly Achievements in Black Studies from the National Council for Black Studies; the President's Award for Scholarship and Service in the Development of Black Studies from the African Heritage Studies Association; the Diop Exemplary Leadership Award from the Department of African American Studies-Temple University; the Richard Allen Living Legend Award from the African Methodist Episcopal Church; and the Pioneer Award from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and Citizenship Education Fund.

Related Entries

Salisbury High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Los Angeles City College [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

University of California, Los Angeles [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A. & Ph.D.

United States International University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

African American Cultural Center [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Mafundi Institute (Los Angeles, California) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1966 to ?]

California State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1991 to ?]

Organization Us [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Brotherhood Crusade [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Association for the Study of Classical African Civilization [ASCAC] [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

National Black United Front [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

National African American Leadership Summit [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]