Statement on the Passing of Chokwe Lumumba, Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi

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We offer our condolences to the family of Jackson Mayor Chokwe Lumumba and the citizens of Jackson, Mississippi. You lost your father and your mayor, but the world lost a leader. We offer a special condolence to his daughter, Rukia, who was a 2006 graduate of the Howard University School of Law.

I first met Chokwe through the Black Political Assembly when I was in graduate school. I always admired his dedication to the advancement of black people. Whether in his role as an attorney, Republic of New Africa official, city councilman or mayor, he was known for being a fighter for what he perceived to be just causes. Based on his initial months in the mayor’s office, he was already making a positive difference in Jackson.

Like Dr. Ronald Walters, Mayor Lumumba supported reparations for black people through engagement with the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (NCOBRA), speeches and writings. Like Dr. Walters, he was an activist who was able to garner support and respect, even from those who did have the same political beliefs. We hope that the zeal and dedication he brought to his work has inspired a generation to young people to continue political engagement and the fight for justice.