

# TO TINA OR NOT TO TINA

MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU: TRACK 7

VOICE: TO TINA

VOICE 1: There is *no* alternative!

VOICE: OR NOT TO TINA

VOICE 2: There *is* an alternative!

VOICE: **An audio drama by the Botsotso Ensemble**

MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU -fade into

**Sound of cash register – money jingling**

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is *no* alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

ANNOUNCER 1:

The Covid 19 pandemic has exposed deep fault lines in current human systems of government and production. As we wrestle with the economic and social fallout, we would do well to take an honest look at ourselves before it is too late to stop the sixth extinction of life on our planet.

ANNOUNCER 2:

Human activity has since the Industrial Revolution, two hundred years ago, mainly by extracting and burning fossil fuels ([coal](#), [oil](#), and [natural gas](#)), increased the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is *no* alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

**Sound of cash register – money jingling  
Continues in the background**

ANNOUNCER 1:

By 2018, the [concentrations](#) of CARBON Dioxide and methane had increased by about 45% and 160% respectively as measured since 1750.<sup>[65]</sup>

**Sound of cash register – money jingling  
Continues in the background**

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is *no* alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

ANNOUNCER 2:

These Carbon Dioxide levels are much higher than they have been at any time during the last 800,000 years,

**Sound of cash register – money jingling**

VOICE 1: Don't be a fool! There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: But there must be an alternative!

VOICE 1: Then tell me, what is the alternative?

Voice 2: Open your mind! Let's think!

VOICE 1: Yes, let's think.

SOUND OF RUSHING WATER / SONG FROM ROJAVA

BOY: Mama, I'm hungry. Can I have something to eat, please.

MOTHER: I told you there isn't any.

BOY: I can't believe that, mama. We've never not had food before.

MOTHER: That's true, but the company has cut my hours of work, and we just don't have enough money to live for the month. Apart from food, I don't know if we can pay the rent or your school fees.

BOY: But that's terrible, mama! What are we going to do? We can't just stay hungry for the rest of the week.

MOTHER: My boy, what more can I do? I've borrowed from too many of our family already. And the mashonisas won't give more loans.

BOY: Well, let's just go out and get some food! Let's go to the shop.

MOTHER: Don't be stubborn! How many times must I tell you I don't have money?

BOY: But mama I'm hungry and so are you.

MOTHER: Yes, I am also hungry.

BOY: So let's get something to eat, mama.

MOTHER: But where? The charity soup kitchen is closed today.

BOY: Then let's go to the shop.

MOTHER: Child, why aren't you listening? (*Shouts*) We don't have any money.

BOY: But let's just go to the shop and ask, mama! And if they won't give us any, we just take. Yes, let's just go and take food from the shop!

MOTHER: Don't be silly, my boy. That's stealing, that's against the law. We can't just walk into the shop and take things.

BOY: But we are hungry, mama., we will starve!

MOTHER: You're right – we will starve but we can't steal. If we do, we will go to jail.

BOY: But we will get food there, won't we, mama? They give prisoners food, don't they mama?

MOTHER: Yes, prisoners do get food but otherwise jail is a terrible place.

BOY: So what, mama! It will be better than starving.

MOTHER: Quiet now. You're giving me a headache with all this wild talk.

BOY: But I'm hungry! Doesn't the law say people must have food? Are we allowed to starve? Is that fair?

**Sound of cash register – money jingling  
Continues in the background**

ANNOUNCER 1:

**Voice : Food insecurity** has long been an **issue in South Africa**, with 11% of the population (6.5 million people) suffering from hunger in 2019, During the covid 19 lockdown period a survey run by the University of Stellenbosch found that 15% of children had gone hungry in the last week. Adults admitted to having gone hungry 22% of the time”.

CHANT: We want food! We want food! We want food!

MOTHER: It isn't fair but our government prefers to give the rich tax breaks instead of guaranteeing a good basic standard of living for everyone. My boy, the rich control the government. They buy power, they buy influence.

BOY: Yo, this sounds like a nightmare, mama. This is . . . frightening.

MOTHER: Yes, it is my child. We're living in bad times. Everyone's hustling for themselves, scamming, trying to get quick bucks.

BOY: You mean a lot of adults think it's cool to mess around but still earn a lot of money?

MOTHER: Yes, they are shameless.

BOY: *(Slight pause)* But tell me, ma, how does your company think we can live off half your wage? Do they understand that even before the cut it was hard to get by and now . . . *(Stutters)* What . . . what do we do now?

MOTHER: Easy, easy, my boy *(Comforting him)* We will make a plan.

BOY: We will?

MOTHER: Yes. And I think you had the solution to our problem.

BOY: I did? (*Laughing and crying*) What did I say?

MOTHER: You've already forgotten? (*Change of tone; excited*) Well, you said we should just go to a shop and take what food we need.

BOY: Yes. So?

MOTHER: You were absolutely right – it's a crime that we don't have enough to eat. I'm prepared to work but I'm not given the chance. Now it's time I woke up. (*Slight pause*) My son, let's do it. Let's go to Maponya Mall to one of the big food shops. They certainly make good profits.

BOY: You really mean we can go . . . *shoplifting*?

MOTHER: Ag, that's a word the rich use. Am I to blame that to feed my child and myself I have to take necessary steps? Why should we lie down and die to please others?

BOY: Wow! That's brilliant, ma! You really got it. We can take that big green bag. It will hold more than enough. Let's go!

#### **MUSIC: THUMA MINA: FADES INTO VOICE**

MOTHER: (*In a sad voice*) I don't think the bosses or the politicians ever wonder if I can live decently on my wage. And that's why the three richest billionaires on Earth are all racing to put a man on the planet Mars. Yes, my son, that's what the jokers are doing while we're starving.

BOY: (*Softly*) Mama, what does the word "solidarity" mean?

#### **SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS. SOUND OF VOICES TALKING GROWS LOUDER**

MOTHER: Shh, someone's coming. Let's be quiet and hear what they have to say? Yo, we are really becoming criminals . . .

#### **VOICES RISE – FADE**

MACK: Look, I think you are wrong. The question isn't whether everyone is having a good time – it's whether *I'm* having a good time. And whatever you say, some brothers and sisters are still in the hunt, we're still doing good.

MPHO: Yes, and what are you hunting, brother?

MACK: Well, you know. We want the goods.

MPHO: Oh, really. And what *are* the goods?

MACK: Well, it's like . . . all the signs of SUCCESS.

MPHO: And what are those *signs*, brother?

MACK: Don't play dumb, gal. It's the . . .

MPHO: Big house, big car, big bonus, big celebrity . . .

MACK: Hey, slow down, sister, I don't buy that bougie crap.

MPHO: Then what *do* you buy, brother? Small house, small car, small . . .

MACK: Whoa, you getting carried away sister! No ma'am, I'm no stupid that just wants the outside shine of wealth and power. No, sister, I want the real thing.

MPHO: And what is that, brother?

MACK: Why, the love and respect of my fellow brothers and sisters.

MPHO: Well, you aren't going to get that by paying your workers below a poverty wage, dumping toxic waste from your factory in our rivers and oceans, neglecting your kids and screwing around and . . .

MACK: No, no, no! You're making me out to be a skelm just because I'm doing exactly what everyone else is doing!

MPHO: Yes, you aren't alone. Plenty others got your itch for quick bucks and bullshit but that isn't a reason to let you off the hook.

MACK: Sister, now hear me, and hear me loud and clear – when it's dog eats dog, I'll be damned if I'm gonna be the dog that gets eaten. When the opportunity comes to feast, only a fool isn't going to hurry and be first at the table.

MPHO: True, only a fool is going to go to his brother and sister and make a pig of himself. He's never going to know when to stop gutsing. Yes, *gutsing* while his sister and brother are scratching around under the table looking for crumbs – and if they find anything, they'll be lucky. That's what a fool does – makes his brother and sister go hungry and curse the day they got him for family.

MACK: Hayibo! You've got a nasty tongue on you sister! Who are you to stop the money revolution! We capitalists are making a big pie for everybody!

MPHO: For everybody? Liar! Your money revolution is bringing big trouble to the whole damn planet! You heard of global heating, right?

**Sound of cash register – money jingling: Continues in the background**

ANNOUNCER 1: Carbon Dioxide, methane and water vapour are called greenhouse gases. They keep our planet livable by holding onto some of Earth's heat energy so that it doesn't all escape into space. This heat trapping is known as the greenhouse effect. Just as too little greenhouse gas makes Earth too cold, too much greenhouse gas makes Earth too warm.

MPHO: Fact is, if we carry on burning fossil fuels like we're doing, we'll soon be staring at the end of the world as we know it.

MACK: (*Shouts*) That's panic mongering! (*Drops volume. Very agitated*) We've always had pandemics, and water shortages and power shortages, and no jobs, and not enough food for

everyone. That's the way's things are, and you better accept it. Such a shame there's always *sour* people who just see bad in everything.

MPHO: Brother, from what I see around me right now, and what I'm getting from the media, most of us are bustin' our asses to keep heads above water.

MACK: Propaganda written by losers! The world has never been a better place for so many of us humans. We're going on for eight billion. You hear that? Eight billion of us sitting pretty on Mother Earth, and eight hundred million of us is right here in Mama Afrika. We're doing damn well when you consider that just one hundred years ago, we were barely 2 billion.

MPHO: Yo, that's a bunch of a humans, alright.

MACK: Lucky for us Earth has got what we need. We can just keep digging and pumping away.

MPHO: You don't think there are going be *consequences*?

MACK: Hell, no. If things change, that's natural. Mother Nature doesn't give us advance notice. Just be prepared. It's the survival of the strongest.

**Sound of cash register – money jingling  
Continues in the background**

ANNOUNCER 2: An increase in the atmospheric concentrations of **greenhouse gases** produces a **warming effect**. From 1990 to 2015, the total **warming effect** from **greenhouse gases** added by humans to the Earth's atmosphere increased by 37 percent. As a consequence of this rise in temprature, the glaciers and ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica have started to melt. The water this meltdown brings into our oceans will cause global sea levels to rise. This in turn will flood many cities and cause immense damage all over the world.

MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU

VOICE 1: Help, I can't breathe!

VOICE 2: Help I'm drowning!

**MUSIC: EXTRACT FROM FIRE STORM: LION OF JUDAH VERSE**

MPHO: But what about other creatures? Do we leave 'em any space?

MACK: Well, maybe *some* space, but they must pay their way – wild life tourism, trophy hunting – you know, bring in bucks for us humans.

MPHO: So they got no right to live except as a means for some of us to profit?

MACK: Sister – nothing for nothing. Something wanna live on this planet, gotta serve a purpose for us.

MPHO: Hayibo, that's very arrogant!

MACK: That's the way God intended – otherwise he would not have given us this power. So who are you to cast doubt?

**MUSIC: EXTRACT FROM FIRE STORM: LAST VERSE**

**Sound of cash register – money jingling: continues in the background**

ANNOUNCER 1: As the earth's temperature rises, we are getting more severe droughts, floods, cyclones, storms, tsunamis and earthquakes. As a result, sea levels will rise endangering many millions living on the coast.

ANNOUNCER 2: All this will threaten life on earth over the next hundred years until this planet does not have enough oxygen to sustain us.

**SOUND OF RUNNING WATER**

ZWELI: (*Always slightly hysterical*) Good morning, doctor, thank you for seeing me at such short notice but I really am in a bad way.

PSYCHOLOGIST: (*Sober, down to earth*) Not a problem, always happy to help if I can.

ZWELI: Well, you see, doctor, I've been very depressed for a few years now.

PSYCHOLOGIST: That long.

ZWELI: Yes, it's been quite a few years and it's getting worse.

PSYCHOLOGIST: I'm sorry to hear that. And what do you think is the cause?

ZWELI: The thing is . . . I'm embarrassed to talk about.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Oh, don't worry. I can understand that if it's something very intimate, very private. But anyway . . . (*Little chuckle*) . . . you're actually looking quite calm.

ZWELI: (*Shouts*) For God's sake, I'm desperate!

PSYCHOLOGIST: (*Worried*) Hold on there, hold on, you just keep talking, tell me all about your problems, we'll get to the bottom of this in good time.

ZWELI: I can't take this pressure anymore. It's killing me!

PSYCHOLOGIST: Why? Are you in debt, bankrupt, homeless, jobless, carless, friendless, loveless?

ZWELI: Wo, wo, stop! All of that, but those are not the reasons.

PSYCHOLOGIST: I actually missed something?

ZWELI: (*Screams*) Ahhhhh! Why, O why, O why . . . are we being so greedy, so short-sighted, so destructive? Why are we doing this to ourselves and the whole bloody planet?! Why?!

PSYCHOLOGIST: Sorry . . . doing exactly what, my friend?

ZWELI: The loss of forests . . .

VOICE 1: The loss of fish.

VOICE 2: The loss of bees.

VOICE 3: The damming of rivers.

VOICE 4: The mountains of plastic in the oceans.

ZWELI: Then there's all the corruption. As my last therapist, Geoff Hairype, used to say, the *poli-tuck-ins* are grunting and gorging in the trough as if they know enough is *never* enough.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Poli-tuck-ins . . . that's very clever. But if you had their power wouldn't you also exploit it?

ZWELI: I hope not.

PSYCHOLOGIST: That's a weak answer.

ZWELI: Maybe but it's the best I can give.

ANNOUNCER 1: The previous five extinctions had occurred over the last 450 million years, due mainly to meteorites and volcanic eruptions. The sixth extinction, however, has to do with human beings. Our refusal to change our energy supply fast enough because the profit motive still drives our economic life, is going to cost the planet dearly.

ZWELI: And, doctor, that's why I have trouble facing my children. Even though I tell them about these things, they must think I'm a fraud – someone who talks big but doesn't do anything,

#### VOICES OUTSIDE/SOUNDS OF SCUFFLING

PSYCHOLOGIST: Nurse, what is going on here?

NURSE: Doctor, I'm so sorry but this person won't listen to me. She insists on seeing you now.

SERITI: Hello, doctor and, of course, you Zweli. Sorry to break in like this but I'm Seriti from Lesotho. I was in the waiting room and couldn't help overhearing your conversation. But I hope you will forgive my eavesdropping when you hear about a solution to your problem, Zweli.

ZWELI: I am sorry doctor, but I am not in the habit of being made a fool of by strangers.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Yes, I agree. Ms . . . Seriti, please understand that I am in the middle of a consultation with a patient and cannot be disturbed in this manner.

SERITI: But, sir, hear me out. Let me tell you about the Land of Rojava, the land of dreams and realities, of war and death, and of endurance in the face of betrayal. Let me inspire you!

ZWELI: Sister, nice try. Very soft sell. But I don't need stories. I need facts. I need to be convinced.

SERITI: Oh, you will be – if you open your heart and mind to love and logic.

MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU: FADES INTO:

ANNOUNCER: And this, dear listeners, brings us to the end of the first episode in the series TO TINA . . .

VOICE 1: There is *no* alternative!

ANNOUNCER: OR NOT TO TINA

VOICE 2: There *is* an alternative!

ANNOUNCER: In the next episode we hear more about two very different yet connected responses to war and inequality, Rojava, a small region in the north of Syria, and Zimbabwe, a larger country in southern Africa. Stay tuned, get woke!

THUMA MINA  
FADE

## EPISODE 2

VOICE: **TO TINA**

VOICE 1: There is *no* alternative!

VOICE: **OR NOT TO TINA**

VOICE 2: There *is* an alternative!

VOICE: **An audio drama by the Botsotso Ensemble**

MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU

**Sound of cash register – money jingling; FADES INTO:**

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is no alternative!

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VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

ANNOUNCER 3: We are in Johannesburg. Struggle stalwart, Zweli's depression has reached breaking point; he is visiting a psychologist when Seriti, a stranger from Lesotho, bursts into the consulting room and offers to cure him.

SERITI: Oh, I'm so pleased I overheard you, comrade! It's to be expected that you are be sick. But it's not your usual depression. What you a e suffering from is capitalism!

PSYCHOLOGIST: Don't be simple-minded! The man would be sick no matter what system we live in.

ZWELI: Don't speak for me, doc. Let the lady have her say.

SERITI: Thank you, my brother. Let me just say that I have. . .

PSYCHOLOGIST: No, no, you can't just walk in and take over! I'm the boss here!

SERITI: Doctor, that's exactly the problem – we live in a world run by bosses, and bosses mostly don't know what they're doing. I have just come back from Rojava. In that part of northern Syria, people are doing very well phasing out bosses while co-operatives take over.

**MUSIC: KURDISH SONG: FADE INTO:**

ANNOUNCER1: In the last few years, Kurdish civilians in Syria, including women, have in self-defence taken up arms against Islamic extremists, against the brutal Syrian government and against invading forces from Turkey. But very few know that in the north-east region, named Rojava, these same Kurdish fighters are part of a social revolution, and that this revolution is as liberating and far-reaching as any in history.

ZWELI: Yes, I've been following the story of Rojava but it's so difficult to know what's true and what's propaganda.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Exactly! There's been an ongoing war in Syria for years now. Who can believe anything the different sides say? Each claims to be in the right while the slaughter goes on.

SERITI: Yes, but at the same time, if you check what each side says against the evidence of bloggers and journalists on the ground, you will find that the Kurds of Syria are well respected and do not make themselves out to be perfect. How could they in such conditions!

ZWELI: Yes, despite the difficulties, fighting a butcher like Bashir al Assad wasn't a bad idea. After all, it was part of a whole series of popular uprisings against dictatorships in the Middle East.

SERITI: No, it wasn't a bad idea, but armed struggle isn't easy when other well-armed countries like:

VOICE 1: Iran.

VOICE 2: Russia.

VOICE 1: America.

VOICE 2: Israel.

VOICE 1: Turkey and terrorist groups like ISIS.

SERITI: Get involved and hijack the struggle.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Well, what did they expect? Once you start an armed rebellion against a government, you must expect trouble. Much better to rely on mass mobilization and civil disobedience.

ZWELI: Spoken like a true revolutionary! But what happens if the rulers are so brutal that, in order to keep power, they are prepared to slaughter civilians?

SERITI: And that's exactly what happened! Assad's soldiers and pilots have murdered over half a million people. And brutal Jihadist forces and Turkey have also caused tens of thousands of deaths.

PSYCHOLOGIST: That's horrible but as you can see, anyone who thinks getting rid of central government is a step in the right direction is a dangerous dreamer.

ZWELI: Hang on, doc, would you like to live under a dictatorship where you have no access to justice?

PSYCHOLOGIST: No, I wouldn't. I certainly didn't like living under apartheid so why would I want to live under a corrupt regime anywhere else?

SERITI: Ok, that's clear, so your problem is with the means used to challenge the government?

PSYCHOLOGIST: That's right. Fighting violence with violence seldom brings improvement.

SERITI: Oh, come on! Don't distort! The Kurds aren't guilty of 'violence'. In Rojava, civilians took up arms to defend themselves because no one else would. And the fighters included women for a very simple reason.

**KURDISH MUSIC: FADE INTO:**

ANNOUNCER 1: In the wider Middle East, the female body is one of the most important battlegrounds between modernizers and reactionaries. Today, in Syria, this fight is to death.

WOMAN'S VOICE: "The gangs of ISIS want the woman to be a slave. They don't consider us as human beings but only as objects to serve men and to satisfy his specific needs. They sell us as if we are animals".

ANNOUNCER 2: The girl I speak with is 20 year old, Nupelda. She serves on the front line in a mobile company of the Women's Protection Units (YPJ). This is the army of women in the autonomous administration of Rojava which fights, side by side, with men.

**KURDISH MUSIC: FADE INTO:**

SERITI: So there you have it! Women are fighting because men have gone mad.

PSYCHOLOGIST: But oppression of women isn't just found in the Middle East.

SERITI: Definitely not! Here at home we also have constant violence. And it's not just because of religion.

ZWELI: Yes, I must admit that we men have a long history of domination. We have treated women badly.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Come on, most men are not that bad! I know a few who respect equality.

ZWELI: Like me?

SERITI: I hope so. But I would first have to check with your partner.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Do you have partner?

ZWELI: Yes, I do. Nobantu and I have been together for seven years.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Do you have children?

ZWELI: Two girls.

SERITI: Lucky you!

PSYCHOLOGIST: And how do the two of you manage things?

ZWELI: We share the housework and looking after the kids.

SERITI: A model marriage!

ZWELI: Actually, we aren't married. We don't believe in all this formal rubbish.

PSYCHOLOGIST: But what if things change and you separate – or if you die? Have you at least written out a will? There are so many legal issues that will cause problems for the children.

ZWELI: Hmm, you've raised a good point. I do need to organize a will. But otherwise, we'll deal with things as they come.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Dear me, that's very short sighted. (*Laughs*) But then, nothing matters to you, Zweli. You are depressed and sick of the world.

ZWELI: Yes, I am depressed, and believe me, I don't want to live like this.

SERITI: To tell the truth, I also have my 'ups and downs'.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Don't confuse moods with depression. Depression is something much deeper. Life seems a waste of time. Nothing has value or gives you enjoyment. And other people, no matter who they are, seem boring and stupid. Ja, depression is a serious sickness and it takes lives.

ZWELI: It's the daily bombardment of news about corruption that drags me down. I feel terribly angry and frustrated at this waste. It dominates my thoughts and I get angry and emotional.

SERITI: But, comrade, to be angered by corruption is a healthy response. Be very angry! When I read about some of these bastards and the millions they're stealing, I imagine revolutionary justice. (*Bitter laugh*) The firing squad.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Hey, don't go overboard! Of course, they must be punished if they broke the law. But don't make them out to be monsters. They're re just like you and me except they got tempted and sold themselves. And that's human nature.

ZWELI: Doctor, you are playing with the truth. Thieving politicians are not just run of the mill guys who sort of *innocently* decide to take advantage of 'opportunities'. They are our leadership, they are in special positions of trust. This is too much! Their example encourages people to think only of themselves and screw others.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Ok, let's say, I agree. We are a rotten and very slack society. We talk ourselves to a standstill and implement very little. In short, Mzansi is on the way down and things will get worse if something isn't done fast.

ZWELI: (*Shouting out*) You see, you understand! You know exactly what I'm going through! I know there's corruption all over the world, but in our position, we really can't afford it.

SERITI: Say it again, brother!

PSYCHOLOGIST: But don't just look at government managers and politicians. Look at the big corporate bosses, the financial managers, the lawyers and doctors. The massive wages and bonusses, the frauds that cause companies to crash.

SERITI: Yes, there's a list as long as the fire pool at Nkandla . . .

#### THE VOICES ARE VERY DRAMATIC

VOICE 1: Steinhof;

VOICE 2: Sasol

VOICE 3: KPMG.

VOICE 1: Tongaat-Hulett.

VOICE 2: Bosasa.

VOICE 3: McKinsey.

VOICE 1: The construction cartel.

VOICE 2: The bread cartel, the cement cartel.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Yes, quite a list. And their argument will be that if you live in a corrupt society, then only a fool doesn't take advantage.

ZWELI: It makes my blood run cold to think that people really believe that.

SERITI: And it makes mine boil.

PSYCHOLOGIST: But why do you think we can become better at working together and sharing? The reality shows this is a dream.

ZWELI: Doctor, how can you not be depressed with this type of thinking?

PSYCHOLOGIST: To be honest, it doesn't make me happy. I would prefer to see less violence and poverty. But how can we conquer all our nasty human failings?

ZWELI: What the religious call our *sinful nature*.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Personally, I won't call it that. But the fact is, all your revolutions for freedom and justice have soon fallen ended badly. Doesn't this show abuse of power is incurable?

SERITI: But that's not true. There have been many steps forward. And right now there is an example of a cure. And its name is Rojava.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Oh, my gosh, not back to that again.

#### **KURDISH MUSIC: FADES INTO:**

ANNOUNCER 1: In 1918, at the end of the First World War, the Ottoman Empire which had ruled the Middle East and Turkey for over four hundred years, collapsed. Most Kurds hoped they would be given their own state by the countries who had won the war. But this did not happen, and they were left divided and weak, once again, victims of heavy cultural and economic discrimination.

#### **KURDISH MUSIC: FADES INTO:**

ANNOUNCER 2: Turkey, Iraq, Iran and Syria were all controlled by kings or dictators who enforced state or private capitalist rule, but the Kurds keep struggling to be recognised. And this experience of the violence of strong central states made them see how important it is to break down that authority and localise power.

#### **KURDISH MUSIC: FADE**

PSYCHOLOGIST: Come on, let's get serious! So you do away with a strong central state, and what do you have? A few village workshops, some small-scale agricultural co-ops and an army with women combat soldiers. Is that your paradise?

SERITI: Yo, doctor, you are a serious victim of conditioning.

ZWELI: Yes, you are stuck at a permanent red light when it comes to anything new or hopeful. Small is also beautiful. We don't need skyscrapers or massive shopping malls or superhighways to lead good lives – especially when they cause so much damage to our nerves and to the environment.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Don't be unpractical! We already have billions of people living in massive cities. How are you going to change that? Expel everyone into the countryside like they tried in Cambodia? That led to mass murder.

SERITI: Slow down, doc! No one is suggesting emptying out the cities. But because of the effects of global heating, more production will have to be done at a local level. We will also have to carefully select what to produce based on what's available and doesn't further harm the environment.

ZWELI: Yes, the Rojava revolution may have come about because of the civil war in Syria, but its deeper roots are in the whole system that's causing my depression.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Rojava, Rojava! Is that all you can talk about! Our guest, Ms Seriti, certainly has a way of hijacking medical consultations. Just think of it – here I am dealing with a sick man and you have the nerve to barge in and take over. You lefties are so damn arrogant!

ZWELI: Don't lose your temper, doc. You'll have more opportunity to deal with us in my next consultation.

PSYCHOLOGIST: *(Sarcastically)* And I suppose in that one, I will accept all your arguments rather than confirm that I'm an idiot?

SERITI: *(Chuckling)* Hey, doc, you're stressed out. But to help you calm down, I suggest you do more reading about Rojava. For a start, check the booklet by ILRIG, it's on their website. Bye for now, it's been a pleasure!

ZWELI: Sala kahle, doc, Till next time. Happy reading!

### **Kurdish music**

VOICE 1: *(Shouting)* There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: *(Shouting)* There *is* an alternative!

VOICE 1: *(Shouting)* There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: *(Shouting)* There *is* an alternative!

### **SOUND OF RIVER RUNNING THIS REMAINS IN BACKGROUND DURING THIS DIALOGUE**

ANNOUNCER 1: And now, we move to the banks of the great Limpopo river. It is a moonless night. A tense Edward Munzori and his daughter, Tsitsi are lying down, waiting in the bushes on the Zimbabwean side.

DAUGHTER: Father, are you sure this is the right thing to do? The river is running strongly. We'll be swept away.

FATHER: No, we won't. We'll take it slowly.

DAUGHTER: No, father, we'll drown. And who will that help?

FATHER: Don't worry, I have crossed here before. In any case, we have no choice but to try. Your mother and sister are depending on us.

DAUGHTER: Exactly – so we must be smart and not act foolishly.

**MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU/THOMAS MAPFUMO: CHIMURENGA: FADE INTO:**

ANNOUNCER 2: 85% of Zimbabweans do not have formal jobs.

ANNOUNCER 3: 60% of Zimbabweans do not have electricity,

ANNOUNCER 1: 33% do not have access to a flush toilet,

ANNOUNCER 2: 20% do not have access to safe drinking water.

DAUGHTER: Father, if I die on the way to Johannesburg, will you take my body home?

FATHER: Quiet, Tsitsi, don't be so negative! We are going to get across and change our lives. The only weapon we have against our masters is endurance. For now, we must survive their greed and neglect and support ourselves as best we can.

DAUGHTER: Yes, there is a new war, a new chimurenga. Survival – how sad.

FATHER: What do you mean?

DAUGHTER: Just look at where you are today and where you hoped to be.

ANNOUNCER 1: After losing his job at a Bulawayo textile factory which closed down in 2005, Edward Munzori had crossed the border illegally and found casual work in Johannesburg. For ten years he had sent groceries and a range of other articles back home, so when he was arrested in a police raid and deported, he was devastated.

ANNOUNCER 2: Conditions in Zimbabwe remain worse than in South Africa. Mugabe's overthrow by the military had not improved life and political repression was as harsh as ever. To add to this, South Africa and the African Union have done nothing to help those who wish to build democracy and respect for human rights.

FATHER: Come Tsitsi, let's get moving. We don't want to leave it too late. There are many dangers ahead.

DAUGHTER: Alright, father, but I am really scared. You hear so many stories about *amagumaguma* and what they do to people like us.

FATHER: Yes, we will have to watch out for these thugs. But have no fear – I've brought a kierie.

DAUGHTER: Don't be ridiculous, father. A kierie? I've brought a gun.

### HEAVY GUN FIRE

DAUGHTER: Oh, my God!

FATHER: That must be a South African border patrol. But don't panic – most times they're just looking for bribes.

DAUGHTER: Yes, that's the root of the problem – whether its politicians, government officials or businesspeople, everyone is looking for bribes.

FATHER: Yes, my daughter, it is very bitter to see how the leadership on both sides of the Limpopo has abandoned the working people.

DAUGHTER: Then why are we going there? I know you think we will find work like you did in the past but I'm not so sure that is the right way for me as a young person. Maybe I must stay at home and fight for change.

FATHER: Fight those thieves? That might get you killed. I cannot let you take that chance.

DAUGHTER: But father, that is cowardly! If we want change, we must stand up. Power is a hungry snake but what choice do we have?

### MUSIC: THOMAS MAPFUMO CHIMURENGA: FADE INTO:

ANNOUNCER 1: Rather than challenge the artificial and conflict-provoking borders set by the old colonial powers, the leaders of independent Africa have fought to maintain them. This has resulted in civil wars and economic imbalances that provoke widespread migration for both political and economic reasons.

DAUGHTER: Father, once we are in Jozi, where are we going to stay?

FATHER: We'll stay with uncle Standfast in Yeoville. He's looking forward to seeing you after all these years. But it's not going to be easy. I am just praying the job he's got lined up for you hasn't been taken.

DAUGHTER: Well, I'm not sitting around doing nothing.

FATHER: That's for sure. We're not going to the famous Republic for a holiday. *(Laughs)* Oh, no, but let no one say that we're taking food out of the mouths of South African babies, or hijacking love from their women, or stealing their jobs. These borders only serve the interests of those at the top who control the whole pie. *(Shouts)* Pansi borders, pansi! Free elections and free movement across southern Africa!

DAUGHTER: Yo, quiet, dad. I see the patrol ahead of us. There seem to be quite a few of them. I hope this turns out alright.

FATHER: Yes, it will. Enough talk already. It's time to move. Follow me. We'll cross by those rocks. Phambiri nomzabalazo wabasebenzi, phambiri!

**SOUND OF RIVER RUNNING BECOMES LOUDER**

ANNOUNCER: And so Edward and his daughter crossed the border under the eyes of South African soldiers. They walked to the main road and caught a taxi to Musina and from there to Jozi. What happened to them in this great African city is another story, but you can be sure they faced hardship even as they made every effort to help their family. To find out, join us soon for the third and final episode in our drama:

VOICE: **TINA**

VOICE 1: There is *no* alternative!

VOICE: **OR NOT TO TINA**

VOICE 2: There *is* an alternative!

VOICE: **Rojava! A social revolution that shows a way forward!**

**MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU: fades into**

**Sound of cash register – money jingling; FADES INTO:**

## EPISODE 3

**MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU: fades into**

**VOICE: TO TINA**

VOICE 1: There is *no* alternative!

**VOICE: OR NOT TO TINA**

VOICE 2: There *is* an alternative!

**VOICE: An audio drama by the Botsotso Ensemble**

**MUSIC: JIMMY DLUDLU: fades into**

**Sound of cash register – money jingling; FADES INTO:**

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

**Sound of cash register – money jingling; FADES INTO:**

VOICE 3: It's not depression! It's capitalism!

VOICE 4: It's not depression! It's capitalism!

### **POLICE SIREN**

MANAGER: Yes, officer, we caught this woman and her son shoplifting. This bag was full of food.

POLICE OFFICER: A pretty full bag, too. Must come to a few hundred rand, right?

MANAGER: It's actually over a thousand. There is so much theft these days even big companies like us are struggling. And, man, these people don't even try and hide what they're doing.

POLICE OFFICER: Real skelms, hey.

BOY: That's not true. We aren't criminals. We're just hungry.

POLICE OFFICER: Quiet, boy! You're just another school dropout looking for nyaope.

MOTHER: No, he isn't a drop out. He's my son and he's with me because I lost my job and we don't have any money.

MANAGER: Really? So this store must now support you?

SON: How else are we supposed to survive?

MANAGER: My boy, I have a business to run. I'm not the government. I'm not here to solve problems caused by their messed up policies.

POLICE OFFICER: You criticizing the government?

MANAGER: And why not? The government's policies have caused people to think they can do what they like.

MOTHER: Exactly! Look at the bosses. I criticize the government for allowing bosses to fire people so easily.

MANAGER: Madam, do you know what problems I have with my staff? Half of them are off sick, and the other half are either stealing or slacking off.

POLICE OFFICER: Hey, mister, I don't like the way you're talking. Don't tell me everyone here is a thief.

MOTHER: You see, this is his attitude, officer. The man is a racist. If we were white, he would never act like this.

SON: Exactly. He wouldn't have called the police.

POLICE OFFICER: (*Laughs*) You think he only called us to arrest you because he's a racist? Do you think black or Indian shopkeepers would let you walk out with a bag of groceries and not pay? Hey, wena, you are making fools of yourselves. You must think deep, lady.

MANAGER: Yes, think deep to get out of your deep hole.

MOTHER: I didn't dig it – your system did the work and now I'm the one who is stuck.

POLICE OFFICER: Then don't steal.

MOTHER: But the bosses *steal* when they don't pay us properly for the work we do. And with all the tax money we pay, the government should give people enough for a ladder so we can climb out of the hole you have put us in.

POLICE OFFICER: Yes, it's like that story about feeding a starving man by giving him a fishing rod so he can learn to catch food for himself.

SON: So where is our fishing rod?

MANAGER: You can't expect government to give you everything on a plate. You have to do things for yourself.

MOTHER: And you do everything for yourself? No, you don't. You employ people to help you run this store. You wouldn't manage alone.

SON: Yes, we need each other.

POLICE OFFICER: Then why come and steal from this shop?

MOTHER: Hey, we didn't steal. We are hungry!

SON: And that's because my mom lost her job. She didn't resign – she was retrenched.

MOTHER: I used to work for a big company and long before covid, they had already put me on short time and tried to casualise my job. Many bosses are using covid as an excuse to cut back on jobs.

MANAGER: Maybe, but then the government does nothing to pick up the economy. Its's all talk and no action.

MOTHER: That's true, so as workers we get hit from all sides – exploiting bosses *and* a corrupt government.

POLICE OFFICER: What you going to do about it? Try and steal from another shop?

SON: You are very stubborn on this stealing, Officer. Let us say that you are now the one to get retrenched and you run out of money for your family. What are you going to do?

POLICE OFFICER: I'll start my own business.

MOTHER: But what if you didn't have any savings because you were earning so little? Should the rest of us let you starve? Is that ubuntu?

MANAGER: I don't mind you practicing your ubuntu or whatever you want to call it, but don't try and come to my shore again. If I see you, I'll call security to kick you out.

SON: You see, he is a racist.

POLICE OFFICER: But you people must go and make a plan.

MOTHER: I still don't see that us taking basic foodstuffs is wrong. It is not just the ones without jobs who have to come up with solutions. Our whole society must make a plan. Everyone should be able to work and earn a living.

SON: Dead right, ma. But as I speak, my hungry stomach is still waiting. And how much longer will I have to wait? I need your answer Mister Manager.

MANAGER: This is enough talk. I must get back to work and you people must get moving. You know what you have to do, officer.

POLICE OFFICER: Yes, sir. It's an open and shut case.

MOTHER: So you're arresting us?

POLICE OFFICER: What do you think?

SON: Hey, wena, you are too cruel.

MANAGER: No, no, it's not cruel, my boy. We have to have law and order otherwise the system won't work.

SON: You hear that, ma? He's just part of the *system*, and he likes it!

MANAGER: Do you know how many hungry people there are in this country? Can my company feed all of you?

MOTHER: On your own, no. But it should never be the responsibility of *one* company. This is something the whole country must be involved in. It's the whole system that must change.

POLICE OFFICER: You getting clever, hey? How you going to change this system? By shoplifting? Now kak of betaal.

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) There is no alternative!

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

CHANT: Rojava! Rojava! Rojava! (Chant continues in background to following dialogue 😊)

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

MOTHER: What is this Rojava? What does it have to do with hunger?

SON: With jobs?

MOTHER: With women's rights?

POLICE OFFICER: With me taking you off to jail? Kom, Woza, you chancers. Time to teach you a lesson.

**TOYI-TOYI – FADE INTO  
KURDISH MUSIC: fade into:**

ANNOUNCER 1: The two million people of *Rojava*, a mainly *Kurdish* region in north-east *Syria*, have effectively governed and defended themselves since 2014. This resulted from the weakening of central state authority during the civil war provoked by the dictator *Bashar al Assad* and the invasion of Islamic fundamentalists and other forces from *Iraq*, *Iran* and *Turkey*.

**TOYI-TOYI – FADE INTO  
KURDISH MUSIC: fade into:**

ANNOUNCER 2: The *Rojavan* Movement of *Democratic Society*', explains, "We want direct democracy and we reject the nation state. We want all citizens to get organized and be actively in government. We start from the smallest entity, the *Commune*, at neighbourhood level. Then we have the local assembly composed of representatives of the different *Communes*. The next level is municipal councils made up of representatives of local assemblies."

**THUMA MINA**

ANNOUNCER 1: And now to continue with this discussion, we move to Doctor Kekana's consulting room in Jozi where she is engaged with a patient, Zweli Mabotja, but Seriti Klaasen, a young activist from Lesotho has overheard their conversation, and is now proposing a cure for Zweli's depression.

**SONG: IMAGINE – JOHN LENNON: FADE INTO**

PSYCHOLOGIST: Seriti, let me tell you that this Rojava of yours is bound to fail like all such experiments. The different groups who live there are able to survive at the moment because their needs are simple – they are mainly trying to survive a war. But once the war is over, they will again need to be part of a bigger, more centralised state in order to have a decent standard of living.

SERITI: No, you are wrong. A centralised state always involves domination by a small minority. The desire of this class for great wealth drives government. Of course, the results for the majority of people are terrible and that's why we must break the power of the few over the many.

ZWELI: I hear you sister. You know, I'm an old activist. During the struggle against apartheid, right here in our own townships, we built structures that were similar to the communes in Rojava. They were called civics.

SERITI: Yes, I'm a new generation but I've heard about them. It was a powerful step forward.

ZWELI: It was a very hard period, but residents decided on their own how to organise their neighbourhoods regarding political demands as well as campaigns for basic services and housing and other local needs. Decisions really were the result of genuine discussion followed by collective action.

SERITI: I also heard that what made it easier, was that people participated as residents – not as members of a political party.

ZWELI: Yes, that's right. The important thing was that the majority should benefit and that no one should be left behind.

SERITI: And is it true that because many trade unions wanted to bring all workers together, they supported particular policies to benefit workers but left members to decide which party they would vote for in elections?

ZWELI: Yes, comrade, that openness and respect for democracy gave people hope for a new way of living.

**TOYI-TOYI – FADE INTO**

**SONG: IMAGINE – JOHN LENNON: FADE INTO**

PSYCHOLOGIST: My friends, you are dreamers! What happened to those street committees? Where are those broad-based trade unions? Why have they disappeared?

SERITI: Actually, there's a straightforward answer to that. The leadership . . .

PSYCHOLOGIST: Exactly! After 1994 the very leadership of the liberation movements you supported so faithfully during the Struggle, either disbanded or co-opted these structures. Even worse, the leaders of the civics and the trade unions quietly went along with this in return for plum jobs in government or in Big Business. So there you have it.

ZWELI: Calm down, doc. There are always traitors. Don't judge all people by the corrupt few.

PSYCHOLOGIST: But they are not a few – and they are not the first. We really should have learnt something from other African and Middle Eastern countries where this had already happened

ZWELI: That's obvious. But access to power meant access to money, and a lot of money.

SERITI: And these bigshots only pretended to be against the old colonial system while they faithfully keep it alive.

**DO WE NEED ANOTHER LESSON: AKH: fade  
TOYI-TOYI – FADE INTO**

ANNOUNCER 1: People in Rojava know from their bitter experience of Assad's dictatorship that power corrupts. As a result, when they took control away from the Syrian state in 2014, they gave people at local level the right to run things like sanitation, security, distribution of electricity and water, women's rights and education. This does not block wider regional consultation on delivery of services and economic planning but ensures that local interests and wishes are always taken into account.

**SONG: IMAGINE – JOHN LENNON: FADE INTO**

PSYCHOLOGIST: You know, the ruling class justifies its behaviour with many tricks. And even though our media is full of information about their corruption, the majority of workers still vote for these bad guys.

SERITI: And the reason is that it's not enough to just expose corruption. You must give coverage to alternatives. And in our case, the mass media fail to do so. They all support the capitalist system.

ZWELI: But to be fair, Seriti, we ourselves are also to blame. These days trade unions hardly have education programs or campaigns – and this goes back well before Covid. And the new civics that are coming up are still very small and they don't have resources.

PSYCHOLOGIST: They certainly don't! If they were more effective, one would hope service delivery would improve and incompetent councillors would get voted out.

SERITI: But doc, things won't stay that way forever. What looks like a hopeless situation can be an opportunity for real change. Just look at Rojava.

PSYCHOLOGIST: You guys are jokers! You admit local worker organizations are weak, and yet you want a Rojava-style revolution in Mzansi!

SERITI: Ok, but that makes it even more necessary for building organization.

ZWELI: Seconded, comrade! Unity, maximum unity! But genuine, not fly by night stuff! To be honest, a key problem are the divisions among those who claim to be socialist.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Divisions based on power mongering or on basic principles?

ZWELI: Both. And this is not something new. In fact, the great Russian revolution collapsed because of a lack of respect for worker control. One hundred years, the Bolshevik party in Soviet Russia attacked and killed thousands of sailors at the Kronstadt naval base. The sailors had fought for the revolution, but now after victory, they were seeing worker control being taken away by the

party. What's worse, is that the Bolsheviks refused to even discuss this with them. They just sent an ultimatum: drop your demands and return to work or be shot down. That same year 1921, the Bolsheviks broke a wave of strikes in the cities and basically banned free trade unions.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Ah, what a sad example of a revolution eating its children!

ZWELI: Yes, it was a tragedy. And that's why we must so careful to limit power.

SERITI: In Rojava they have done that to a greater extent than anywhere else.

**SONG: IMAGINE – JOHN LENNON: FADE INTO**

ANNOUNCER 2: Small-sized businesses still do exist, but these are required to be based on meeting peoples' needs and are accountable to the communes. This controls profit making and keeps prices affordable. Every co-operative makes its own decisions but is also accountable to the commune. The rules of work are decided by majority vote.

**SONG: IMAGINE – JOHN LENNON: FADE INTO**

ANNOUNCER 1: Some co-operatives elect a coordinating committee to coordinate the day by day operations. However, in such cases, to guard against the emergence of a privileged class, these committee members are paid the same as everyone, are recallable and are subject to the democratic will.

PSYCHOLOGIST: My friends, that all sounds good in theory, but we humans are a strange bunch. We like to argue for the sake of arguing, we like to push ourselves forward and get attention. And what happens when some people work harder than others and still get paid the same as those who are lazy?

SERITI: Hey, doc, we aren't talking fairyland! The general meeting has to be realistic and honest in setting targets and in laying out what happens if people don't meet them.

ZWELI: Yes, and that takes maturity. People must be open to criticism.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Obviously, Zweli, but criticism usually makes people defensive. In most cases, we go into a shell to protect our self-image and fight to not lose face. And sometimes criticism comes from political agendas or personal jealousy. There are also other power issues – especially when it comes to men criticizing women's performance.

SERITI: Now we're talking! And funny how the position of women is usually a key indicator as to how free everyone is.

ZWELI: And that's the beauty of Rojava.

**NO WOMAN NO CRY: BOB MARLEY: FADE INTO**

ANNOUNCER 2: Beyond the commune system, there are women-only councils. These are federated through the Kongra Star, a women's organization. All women involved in social, political and militia work are members.

**RESPECT – ARETHA FRANKLIN: Fade into**

ANNOUNCER 1: Political education is at the centre of Kongra Star's work. Twice a month, members visit every neighbourhood in Rojava to educate people on the agenda of the revolution. Training courses on how the communes and councils function are provided.

### **GOOD BLACK WOMAN – BRENDA FASSIE: Fade into**

ANNOUNCER 2: Kongra Star is also involved in establishing women's co-operatives and runs peace committees in neighbourhoods throughout Rojava. These act essentially as democratic women's courts and they deal with cases of domestic and gender based violence, forced marriages, the non-payment of child support as well as under-age marriages.

### **SOUND OF SIREN, RUSHING FEET**

PSYCHOLOGIST: What's going on? Sounds like a riot.

SERITI: Yes, there's police action. I wonder who they're after.

ZWELI: Probably a smash and grab. There a lot of nyaope addicts out there as well as the hungry.

### **VERY LOUD VOICES**

FATHER: (*Knocking and calling out*) Let me in, please! Just for a few minutes. I can't stay outside, it's dangerous. Please, just till they pass.

### **DOOR OPENS/ FOOTSTEPS**

PSYCHOLOGIST: Who are you? What is going on?

FATHER: (*Breathing heavily*) It's a police raid.

PSYCHOLOGIST: But why are you running away?

FATHER: It's for . . . eh . . . to check papers . . . of migrants.

SERITI: Oh, my God! They're still doing this!

FATHER: Yes, I was lucky to get through the first two roadblocks.

PSYCHOLOGIST: And you're illegal?

ZWELI: Obviously, doc, otherwise he wouldn't be looking for shelter.

PSYCHOLOGIST: I'm sorry . . . but I don't feel comfortable helping people who are breaking the law. You can't just flood into a country because there's a dictatorship at home.

FATHER: Believe me, ma'am, we haven't run away for nothing. There's no work and the army is lawless.

ZWELI: Yes, it's a terrible situation.

PSYCHOLOGIST: And who's to blame for that?

SERITI: Ag, don't pretend you don't know. But South Africa isn't blameless.

FATHER: No, you aren't though we, Zimbabweans, have to take most of the responsibility.

ZWELI: What about the British? They and the Americans are spear-heading the sanctions that are killing the country.

FATHER: Sanctions are a problem, but not the most important. In any case, they are there because of Zanu/PF.

ZWELI: Yes, they're a corrupt bunch like so many in our ruling party.

PSYCHOLOGIST: Exactly, so you can't look to the ANC to discipline ZANU/PF, and that being the case, who else can force change? (*Laughs*) Must we hire mercenaries to go in and clean them out.

SERITI: (*Sarcastically*) Yes, I can just see an invasion working. But what we can do, together with Zimbabweans in South Africa, is organise more support for democratic movements there. We can't give up!

PSYCHOLOGIST: Then why haven't we done this up?

ZWELI: It's the weakness of our own worker movement. And that, doctor, is why I came to see you. (*Shouts*) I can't take it! I can't watch the stupidity of so-called leaders of the working class! It's killing me!

SERITI: But you must organize! Elect new leaders! I've been telling you about Rojava for the last half an hour. Were your ears blocked?

ZWELI: (*Agitated then almost tearful*) No, comrade, I've been listening. And I was feeling inspired until this comrade came in. And when he told us why he's running from the police, I just felt hopeless again. That hard world outside just broke me down again.

FATHER: Hey, I'm sorry, my brother. I didn't mean to take you down, but I had to find a safe place. Those cops are quick on the trigger. And right now, there's a fresh outbreak of an old virus that makes them super itchy.

PSYCHOLOGIST: And what's the name of this old/new virus?

FATHER: Sisi . . . it's called CRISIS: (*In a rising voice*) Social crisis, political crisis, economic crisis. Yes, it's more dangerous than this covid – and you know we can't play around with that one.

SERITI: And you left out one other crisis, my brother. You men must stop giving us women a hard time. You must stop all these attacks, this abuse. Come right! Look at the example of Rojava. There women and men stand together against male violence.

**RESPECT – ARETHA FRANKLIN: Fade into**

**KURDISH MUSIC: FADE INTO  
TOYI-TOYI – FADE INTO**

ANNOUNCER 1: And so, Rojava, a small region in northern Syria, has become an important example of revolutionary change. Not since the anarchist revolt in Spain in the 1930's, when workers and peasants united to throw off the rule of a corrupt religious and landowning class, has such a mass-based movement for direct democracy created a new reality.

VOICE 2: (*Shouting*) There *is* an alternative!

VOICE 1: (*Shouting*) Wake up, Mzansi! There *is* an alternative!

**Sound of cash register – money jingling; FADES INTO:**

**KURDISH MUSIC: FADE INTO**

**TOYI-TOYI**