

As the son of Olof Palme and vice Chairman of the memorial foundation in his name, it is an honor and privilege for me to 'digitally' hand over the diploma for this year's Olof Palme prize.

That the prize goes to Black Lives Matter resonates fantastically well with the life of my father, as you would have understood from the speech of Pierre. That my father became a social democrat and anti-racist came from seeing the injustices in his own country but also from travelling different parts of the world.

Hitch-hiking through the American continent was as formative, as his visits to Eastern Europe and South Asia. He built his career around the fundamentals of anti-colonialism and anti-communism. But he was also **for** something and that can be summarized in: *democracy and social justice, everywhere*. Eventually his own name also travelled the world: the South African bishop and anti-apartheid champion Desmond Tutu said Olof Palme was color blind.

His interest in American politics included a strong interest in the conditions and representation of the African American part of the population.

He read *Black Power* and when Stokely Carmichael came to Stockholm in 1967, he apparently insisted on meeting him. At the time my father was very ill and in

hospital but Charmichael came to visit. I have seen moving pictures of how he kindly lifts up my father so that he can sit up in the hospital bed while they talk.

Personally I remembered when he some 20 years later, in 1984, met Jesse Jackson in New York 1984 and how energized my father was from talking to Jackson.

As we all know, racism and police brutality is a global phenomenon, and I remember how upset my father was when a black friend of mine - and visitor to our family, who wore his hair and guitar as Jimi Hendrix became a victim of police brutality.

Hence, there are many reasons for my very strong conviction: Olof Palme would have loved to be here tonight to talk to you and honor your work.

Congratulations, dear Patrisse.

Joakim Palme