



Sam Mbah, 1963 - 2014

Based on a Brief Sketch Taken From His Website and an Article in *Perspectives on Anarchist Theory* (Spring, 1999) (1999/2024)

Born in 1963 in Enugu, Nigeria, he embraced anarchism shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union while studying at the University of Lagos. Like many radicals, he entered a period of deep political reflection after the breakdown of the Eastern Bloc, one that prompted him to re-examine his previous Marxist commitments and ultimately led him to the anti-statist, anti-capitalist politics that is anarchism. North American publications such as *The Torch* and *Love and Rage* were especially important to this process. He was also in touch with the Black Autonomy Federation and had several articles of his published in their magazine along with the BAF doing a fundraiser to help them purchase a telephone.

Mbah also worked as a Lagos correspondent for Enugu's *Daily Star* newspaper. He is also very active in the Awareness League, an anarchist organisation committed to the libertarian transformation of Nigeria. The Awareness League was active in political education, various social campaigns, and environmental protection. At a high point of about 1,000 members in 15 states during the dictatorship. He also helped run a radio station for the organisation.

Sam co-wrote the influential 1997 book *African Anarchism - History of A Movement*. Later, Sam was an active campaigner for human and environmental rights, and against corruption. For most of his life, he lived in Enugu, in south-eastern Nigeria. Sadly, Sam Mbah died on November 6th 2014, of complications arising from a heart condition.

