

Civil rights

Each society, even in this where we live today, with the ideology that it preaches it is its self source of conflicts based on of social, religious and ethical principles.

How? Through its norms, traditions, and values, which are not in common for all its members, through economic differentiation and class structure, through reorganization of the political system...? Breaking of human rights exists in every society, and state's duty is to protect them from that. In the democratic societies exists the term "legal state" which indicates the level of connection of the state and the law.

By the help of law the state arranges not just the legal affairs between subjects / citizens, but also the legal affairs inside its organization, as well as the legal affairs between the state and its citizens, who become citizens in this way. "The basic message of the Anglo-Saxon law ...is about that *the basic human right exists even before the world genesis of the national authority* and that is why the state should not encroach upon human's rights". Basic theme which should worry the legal state is the reign of the law, which is expressed through the respect of the human *civil rights*.

Civil rights are protecting the person from the arbitrariness of the state and from other people. We can count just the basic civil rights, (which are being guaranteed from the state itself): life right, freedom and personal sacredness, liberty of motion and choice of the place of living, liberty of the thought, and creed, right of legal, independent and public court, and the right of defense with presumption of innocence until the contrary is proved, privacy of correspondence and every other kind of communication, freedom of informing and election rights, right of leave the country, to sever the citizenship, right of privacy, liberty of press, dignity, reputation...Social rights are defining the obligation of the state to enable the minimal resources for survival (social help, health protection, strike, and syndicate's organization), while in cultural rights are right for education, cultural values...

All this are civil rights and are part of people lives in the democratic countries.

Can one subculture fight for improvement of civil rights, at least at its own country? Normally that can. That is happening by entering in the system and by education of theirs own employees, who will be able to be introduced with the laws prescribed by the state and will use them for their own purposes. Otherwise, we will have a situation where we are going to look for our rights, but will never know what they are like. The American professor Tricia Rose gives us a great example about that how through hip-hop culture we can ask for rights -"It doesn't matter whether the song is cool or has a killing rhythm with flow...You smoke pod? Are you chilling? By doing that, you don't help the pore people. Do something. Learn the people, teach yourself too. Tell them to ask for their rights, show yourself in the media. Organize funds, give money, charity". Besides that, political activities also should be informed and to work with them on the field of social politics. Which subjects about?

There are many to talk about: criminalization of the poor youth, informing and prevention of the population about AIDS, failure of the health system as a part of the civil service, need of employment, and offer for help about social problems... to use every

possible chance of promotion, even in unprofitable campaigns with reason for infiltration in the system.

One of the representatives of the American radical sociology, Wright Mills, is writing that one member of “the white strong” (that’s the name for the middle class) “always belongs to someone: to the corporation, the army, the government”. These are independent and helpless people which are moving where ever the wind blows. That is how one of the most recently used words in hip-hop is “political leadership” by asking for a commitment of the young people in creation of politics, something that wasn’t interesting for the people from ghettos in the past. One person to be trained for political leadership, charisma and authority is what hip-hop is trying to achieve.

On the question why is joining to the system so important, I will give you one explanation that is taken from Ricanstruction. According to them, everything is politics-the hungry children, Social Help Institution, religion; basketball courts...And if there is somebody who hasn’t figure this out, then something is wrong with him.

When will we turn back to the strategy for better life, we could find more ways where through hip-hop we can intervene in the sphere of civil society.

Teaching at high- schools, and universities about the themes that we talked before, is the base of quality education for young people about perspectives of the urban life. The same role, just in bigger sizes, can be prescribed to the rap music. With some of it styles (social, political rap) have swung all America and have made Afro-Americans richer for a mass of rights. When that rights were hurt (for example, Rodnie King) who in 1992 was brutally beaten by the LAPD, then they didn’t turn to the jury or lawyers, but to the rap artists, who put that in their songs and spread it through the whole world, by doing a big pressure over the authority.

Music has become so mush powerful factor of influence that “If Carl Marks was alive nowadays he wouldn’t be publishing pamphlets but rap albums”. His ideas will be presented on the windows of the music stores and he will be debating about music conferences.

What we need is organization. Hip-hop only like music is out of function, it must be a combined movement (cultural, political, and economical) for realization of its purposes. That is happening only through unprofitable organizations (establishing a program for free breakfast, plan for decreasing of ethnical and race intolerance), and rarely through political movements.

Normally, this process is hard. Even in high developed countries there is a cheap labor; nonqualified workers can not easy organize themselves, there is hidden social segregation in schools, that provides the same high positions to be reproduced on generation line without having the opportunity for new values even if by law in the society is functioning natural mechanism for individual social mobility where everyone can get to the position by his own ability and education.

Unfortunately, that is often happening in urban suburbs that belong to financial mighty people, and they are appearing only for exploitation of financial funds for their own purposes.

But also there are organizations which seem to lose their way of realization of program destinations, even though; they want to achieve that on their own way. I’m talking about organizations that have lost there selves between bureaucratic systems of

work, hoping that from that position will be able better to realize their concepts like fighters for human rights.

But we can find a big problem about this issue- how to protect the citizens who have violation rights when we don't go out to streets? How will we find out about those situations when we know that very often not educated people are confronting with that and they don't know where to address because our offices are in the center of the city and the members are always on seminars or in some others office.

This is where hip-hop enters. It is one of the most rare culture phenomenons which is born on the streets and that fact even after long time sociologists, political scientists and other scientists, started to use it to expand the idea for sociological development as well as between the members of the discriminated parts, because before that there wasn't a way to perform that in the system of that population. So, the seats of the new movements are on the right places and they are directly introduced to violation of some rights guaranteed with law on every person. Exactly through rap music, the way of dressing, and behavior, social workers can approach to young people and help them in their qualification for entrance in the real world. A lot of those social workers are members of hip-hop culture and live in the so-called bad parts of the city. That is only part of the exceptional contribute that hip-hop culture has given to the global development of the movements of human rights.

The real war about civil rights is on the streets, not in the institutions.

Underground on surface
("Del underground a la superficie")

You cannot find a better sentence for enunciation of the present state in which hip-hop is getting place. What is happening when an underground movement is rising to the surface? Does it have bad or good consequences on the movement?

These questions could be seen by the both extreme sides.

On the one hand, are those scientists and explorers who represent the opinion that one social movement must be spread on every possible way in purpose to make the possibility of getting a larger number of people who will be able to get to know with it. Namely, each of that movements exists for a purpose, contains messages and ideals, serious calling for the population (or a part of it) which is affected on some important parts of their lives. If we stick to the so-called underground attitudes for not commercialization, we come up to a situation when we are consciously destroying the potential of that movement. It is not on the media, not in the politics, on the streets... then why the movement exists at all? Its purpose was to contribute a bigger number of people in order to change something in the system, wasn't it? How will they achieve it if nobody knows about them?

A little more complicated is the attitude on the other side, which is represented by the regular (common) devotees of the movement. They are scared that the movement will change it's direction with the process of commercialization. Their speculation goes towards the fact that underground is financial instable institution, which is true. By the infiltration of new dominant forces in the movement, the position is drastically changed. He is coming up to the surface, but at the price of his ideals. If the entrance of "foreign" forces is permitted, then also a dropping the strings of your hands is permitted. Simpler, if you want to expand your movement on more issues, you will have to make contact with institutions and organizations which have financial and other relation with important lobby groups. Those institutions will not help you unless they take part of the share. That's how they introduce you to the media, which means that people is watching them, politicians are listening them and when you awake you'll see that somebody else is leading the movement for you. That is a science fiction for hip hoppers and when it will happen nothing will be the same any more. That is the thing this group is afraid of.

There is a third opinion: that the movement can be populated without commercialization. Is that really possible? Let's have hip-hop for example. Is hip-hop taking place on the surface as a part of the mass culture without changing his ideology from the time when hip-hop appeared?

Not very often is happening, underground to rise to the surface. That are movements which aim is not a glory, but accomplishing some purposes, wishes and ideals from life, satisfaction on a different way from the way that official culture is promoting. That is not something bad, like conservatives are trying to show us because it is not stimulating destruction of the social regime. Namely, in anthropological theories it is said about two processes, two ways of society moving - evolution and revolution.

Evolution is realized during the longer period of time in a quiet way, while revolution exists for a short time and is consist of turbulent events. Hip-hop is an evolutional process, though somewhat is a revolutionary movement (term revolution is symbolically expressed in his platform).To look for a revolution is case only in

non-democratic societies with authoritative and absolutistic regimes, but hip-hop never appeared there. His growth was happening in social situations which needed a new energy for supporting the development of cultural principles that only society made them for its own purpose and could not push them till the end. But always “every individual who is trying to develop and spread social innovations is considered as a dangerous”. Each new social invention asks for a change of our moral outlooks, which is hard to accept even in societies where tradition isn't so deep-rooted in every day life.

Hip-hop, as we said before, is a rare case for some subculture, underground movement to become a mainstream. That happened with big exploitation of hip-hop music by the media tycoons which saw the possibility for a big profit with packing and selling this product as a style (musical, fashionable). To make a fashion out of ripped wide trousers, basketball grounds, drinking in the park, is an effort which deserves a respect. What is really odd is that hip hoppers have accepted this commercialization knowing that this culture will not succeed like a social movement. It is a fact that producers like Sony Music, politicians, and businessman took hip-hop to a higher level. What are we supposed to be interested in is the question what is the benefit for hip-hop like a culture with that overturn of cultural scene?

It is very hard to find an answer to this question. Besides negative effects, it won't be fair if we forget the positive ones. The same people that had commercialized this phenomenon for its own purposes, had made his enlarge through all over the world, giving the opportunity to be introduced to the population. A million of young people all over the world to discover in it thanks to its mainstream influence.

Also, a lot of rap performers got out from the ghetto with their music. That happens when one subculture will get confirmative dimensions. Still I will say that hip-hop culture has lost more than has got. I'm talking about a seriousness that has been given a few years ago. Only in that way hip-hop could enter in history, anthropology, sociology textbooks. Today we have a situation, when we talk about hip-hop we mean about rap music only.

Did the movement lose his direction? Hmm...we can say that's right. There was an opinion that underground will always be unpopular movement and every attempt to change that will be a failure. But it is not always like that. Official culture wants us to play by hers rule, and she will change that whenever she wants, as she wants.

Hip-hop is moving towards to? That is the main question. Some predictions indicate to the worse, that rap music will change that much that it will be end for whole hip-hop culture. Some of them are in more optimistically mood, saying that hip-hop will take over the whole world.