



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MALCOLM X REMEMBERED THIS WEEK ON “AMERICA’S BLACK FORUM”**

*Malcolm X’s daughter Ilyasah Shabazz and film director Spike Lee discuss the icon’s life and legacy on  
broadcast hosted by Juan Williams*

(Washington, D.C.) This week, **America’s Black Forum** commemorates Black History Month with a look at the life and legacy of Malcolm X. February marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his assassination. “He made us proud of ourselves,” says **NAACP chairman Julian Bond**. “If he didn’t change the material circumstances of Black people, he changed our psychological circumstances.”

**Spike Lee**, director of “*Malcolm X*,” which was released in 1992, says he felt compelled to tell Malcolm’s story because, “I saw the African American experience in Malcolm’s life.” **Lee** continues, “He wanted his life to be an example to people.” Malcolm X’s daughter, **Ilyasah Shabazz**, believes that her father’s work is still relevant. “As long as there are children who are behind bars, as long as there are millions of people being slaughtered in Africa, as long as we still do not have an economic base, it’s good that we not only talk about him, but implement his philosophies.”

**Juan Williams** questioned whether it was difficult for Malcolm X’s children to grow up in his shadow. “Growing up, I fought the expectations of others. It was overwhelming,” affirms **Shabazz**. “My sister said to me, you don’t have to pass the test to be Malcolm’s daughter, you already are.” On the question of whether Malcolm X was a civil rights leader, **syndicated columnist Deborah Mathis** responds, “He was not part of what would be considered the conventional movement at the time, but he certainly was a civil rights leader.” **Spike Lee** questions, “Why does it have to be either / or? It wasn’t Malcolm versus Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They were working to find common ground.” **Chicago Tribune editor, Roland Martin** cautions, “You should not confine Malcolm X to a civil rights box. He was international.”

**America’s Black Forum** is an Emmy Award-winning, nationally syndicated television news show with an African American perspective. **Juan Williams** hosts this week’s episode, with commentators **Deborah Mathis** and **Julian Bond**. Check local listings for exact air times and dates.

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