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## **Flyer for Kemba Smith Youth Foundation Presentation, "Youth at Risk, Mandatory Drug Sentences and the Next Prison Population."**

Commission for Blacks

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# FREE !!!

## Kemba Smith

The Black Faculty & Staff Association (BFSA) at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, is hosting an audience for the Kemba Smith Youth Foundation. The Foundation, along with the NAACP Youth and College Division, and Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM), are co-sponsoring a first-of-its-kind speaking tour to educate students and parents about the dangers of mandatory drug sentencing laws that threaten America's youth.

Harsh mandatory prison sentences and their use in the war on drugs have been ineffective in reducing drug use or related crime, but very effective in locking up large numbers of young people, especially African-Americans. The Sentencing Project found that one out of every three African-American males between the ages of 20-29 in the entire country, including suburban and rural areas, was under some form of criminal justice supervision in 1994.

These startling statistics underscore the need to warn students and parents about the risks they face for even tangential involvement with people who use or sell drugs. The parents of a former college student who is now behind bars will deliver that warning during a campus and community sponsored event entitled, "**Youth at Risk: Mandatory Drug Sentences and the Next Prison Population.**" Kemba Smith, the daughter of Gus and Odessa Smith, is spending 24.5 years in prison for her peripheral involvement in nonviolent drug offenses.

Come hear Kemba's parents tell their story and find out how you can help.

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 8, 1998, at 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Mt. Olive Baptist Church (1601 Dandridge Avenue)

*Refreshments will be served.*

Co-sponsored by the BFSA, Independent Studies, .