DEDICATION

This issue of the Black Panther, Black Community News Service is respectfully dedicated to those who made the ultimate sacrifice and gave their lives or in other ways made supreme sacrifices in the cause of Afrikan-Amerikkkan national liberation. To our fallen comrades and the survivors, we, the editors, salute you!

WHO ARE WE?

The members of the Black Panther Newspaper Committee are located in many cities and states. We all were members of the Black Panther Party who participated in the formation, organization, and day to day operations of Black Panther Party activities in offices, branches, and chapters across this country. We participated in capacities from Central Committee Members to Rank-and-File Panthers. We fed children, clothed families, opened free health clinics, educated children about their history and the true nature of this society, protected senior citizens and helped to organize our communities.

Because of our uncompromising work to build a strong Afrikan-Amerikkkan nation, we were labeled as the number one threat to U.S. domestic tranquility and were attacked by the local, state, and federal police agencies. Many of us were forced into exile, or underground, or were imprisoned by the U.S. government during its COINTELPRO war to stamp out a rising Afrikan-Amerikkkan national liberation struggle. We saw our offices bombed and burned, comrades framed, imprisoned and murdered, and consoled the families of our friends and loved ones who were killed in illegal attacks on the Panthers and the Afrikan-Amerikkkan community by government agents in an attempt to stop our liberation movement. Many of us have been imprisoned for our political beliefs and activities. Some of us are currently political prisoners and prisoners of war who have been imprisoned for our participation in the Afrikan-Amerikkkan struggle for national liberation for nearly twenty years. We announce to you that we are back!

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

We have come together because of a compelling need we feel to address the critical issues facing the Afrikan-Amerikkkan community. In the cities where we live, the Afrikan-Amerikkkan community is being destroyed by the plagues of drugs, unemployment, poor, inadequate, or non existent...
August 26, 1990

Greetings Comrade:

This is to let you know that as a political prisoner I both support and endorse the restarting of the Black Panther Party Paper. It is needed for the education and organizing of the Black Community against the problems plaguing us as a people. IndshAllah the paper will become a reality.

Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win
All New Washington Political Prisoner

August 21, 1990

REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS AND SOLIDARITY:

I am extremely pleased to learn of this effort to reintroduce and produce the Black Panther Black Community News Service publication. With the reintroduction of the Black Panther Black Community News Service, I am confident of the existence of Political Prisoners of War in the U.S. will again become an important issue in the oppressed communities. I also anticipate the BCNS publication will forge and deepen the level of political consciousness amongst Black people on the condition of their national oppression.

Therefore, I endorse this endeavor with the hope the distribution of this Black Panther publication will resurrect the network of support BCNS-Bureaus across the country, and eventually grow into a nationally recognized Black Community newspaper.

Dare to Struggle, Dare to Win
A. Jallal Bottom
Endorsed on the 19th Anniversary of Comrade George Jackson's assassination

August 21, 1990

Greetings:

I am happy to listen to you and the "races there doing it extremely well. Rec'd your letter requesting that we political prisoners and prisoners of war send letters of endorsement in support of rebuilding the Black Community News Service. I strongly support this effort and I will contact other "races in my area urging them to send in similar letters of support and endorsement.

During election time, the people will know who to vote for, because the party paper will have covered the issues and how they relate to our interest, and with endorsement from the people's newspaper, there can be no doubt about who is and who is not our candidate. The people's newspaper will inform the community about what goes on in the community such as the drug infestation, decent housing, health care, education, family counseling and the like. We can no longer afford, if we ever could, to rely on information put out by sources outside of our community. Take good care and my comradely greetings to the folks out there.

Sincerely
Herman Bell

Bismillah ir Rahman ir Rahim

"Up you mighty Race, you can do what you will!" Peace.

It was really heartwarming to hear of your efforts to rekindle the black Panther Black Community News Service and with CoINTELPRO and opportunist did a real job on the Black community. What one did not do the other managed to do in effectively seeing that the truth of the plight of the Black masses was not told. May Allah the most high bless you all and if at any time can be of service in your effort please call on me.

In struggle and peace

Bashir A. Hameed
Shawangunk Prison
Box 700
Wallkill, N.Y. 12589

Jan. 5, 1991

To the BPNC:

Yes, I want to become involved with whatever struggles you are currently involved with-I am a black woman living in Venice, California and have been struggling for the last 6 years to save our homes here-the police dept along with the city attorney's office and an abatement team from west side police have targeted our apartment. They (the sick) want to make us a beach community and this community was predominantly Black and Hispanic when I moved in. In the last 5 years the rich yuppies have bought up a lot of property and raised the rents beyond the pockets of the poor Blacks here-I live in a government subsidized privately owned apartment complex. I now airm a target but I will continue to stand up for my rights and the right of my people. From Dec. 1988 to June 1990 we had stopped drug traffic in or around our buildings through meeting and the support of the younger Brothers and Sisters who did not understand our struggle. Here is my donation of $20 to further this cause. I will send articles I have written and articles on our tenant organization soon.

Your Sister in Struggle
Regina Hyman
BOYCOTT OF THE COLGATE-PALMOLIVE COMPANY

The decision of the Jersey City Municipal Council to give the Colgate-Palmolive Company a Tax Abatement, is but one more example of its disgraceful, reactionary, backwards and racist thoughts and actions. Realizing Colgates' historical policy of doing business with the racist illegal government of South Africa, such actions of J.C.'s City Council only serves to strengthen the system of apartheid. This system continues daily to oppress, restrict and murder. Colgate and other companies (also city councils who support them) which "shack up" with apartheid are enemies of all people everywhere who are against injustice anywhere.

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KEEP THE PRESSURE ON stores which continue to stock and sell Colgate products. KEEP THE PRESSURE ON Jersey City's Mayor Gerald McCann's coalition of council people. Make them feel uncomfortable about their decision to support racism.

For further information on other companies such as National Westminster Bank which are partners with apartheid, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to:

BCNS
P.O. Box 16330
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

BLACK COMMUNITY NEWS
Continued on page 4

SUBSCRIBE TODAY TO THE BLACK PANTHER
Published quarterly by the Black Panther Newspaper Committee
P.O. Box 519 Berkeley, California 94701-0519

YES! I want to receive the Black Panther, Black Community News Service. Add my name to your growing list of subscribers at the following level of subscriber support.

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- Individual $10/yr
- Organization $50/yr
- Sustainer $25/yr

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BLACK COMMUNITY NEWS Response to Jersey City Police Riot

On Memorial Day 1990, while the community was winding down from a day of cook-outs, family gatherings, and folks just hanging out, masses of youth rose up in rebellion following a riot started by the Jersey City Police Department.

The incident started (according to accounts of independent through grass root organizing.

The coalition also met with Gerald McCann, Mayor (who is the enemy of the poor, working class and people of color), and came away with empty promises and no results. In fact, McCann set up a commission made up of his loyalist on city, county payrolls to investigate the Memorial Day Rebellion.

Also in response to the Memorial Day rebellion, on June 13, 1990, the All People's Congress organized a march and motorcade to city hall against police brutality and racism. Over 300 people gathered on Martin Luther King Drive and Myrtle Ave., (the heart of the New African Community) and proceeded along a 3 1/2 mile route to City Hall. With militant chants and strong discipline, the marchers converged on City Hall, there John Jones (spokesperson for All People's Congress), put forth before the city council the following list of demands:

1. The prosecutor's office immediately drop the charges against the victims of police brutality (those arrested on May 31) and prosecute the police.
2. Form a Community Review Board with powers to discipline police who use excessive force.
3. Create jobs, recreation and parks for our youth; not police brutality and jails.

After much debate Councilman William O'Dea offered a resolution asking the prosecutor to drop all charges against the defendants. The resolution passed with a vote of 6 - 3. The people went away with a symbolic victory, since the resolution was non-binding. The next day the County Prosecutor, DePascale (who has been accused of racism by more than one) reacted to the council's action in anger stating he would not drop the charges.

Mr. Charles Stansfield from the State Attorney General's office, Division of Civil Rights held a meeting to ascertain information on police/community relations. Present at the meeting was Councilman Wiley, John Jones, APC, Ralph Cole and Elizabeth Crooks of the NAACP, Viola Richardson of Impact, and Breeze Barrow of BCNS. The NAACP and Impact took the position that the Memorial Day Incident was simply an isolated occurrence, however, Breeze raised the historical perspective of police terror enforced on the community and sighted examples of police brutality after the Memorial Day Riot. Also John Jones of the APC expressed concern about the role of police and Mayor McCann's attitude which fosters racism in Jersey City. As of this date no public report has been forwarded by Mr. Stansfield which is not unexpected since he is a tool of the state.

As of this date, the issue of the Memorial Day Riot has been put on the back burner by the bourgeois of the black community, but efforts of the new progressive alignment of members of the Islamic Community, Black Community News Service, All People's Congress, and other individuals intend to keep the
There has never been any illusion of Black elected officials in Jersey City, providing leadership for the Black community and recent developments are a continuation of the backwardness of the Black bourgeoisie.

The following are examples of these actions. In the not too distant past, Freeholder Bill Braker and Ward F Councilperson Dan Wiley spoke about Plantation Politics in relation to Mayor Gerald McCann's statement regarding William Braker looking for a gentler and kinder slave master. However, you will see in the future when Bill Braker has crawled back on the plantation, running for Freeholder on McCann's slate and of course with his blessing. Consider this, Bill Braker is the incumbent, however because of his insecurity and failure other drugs had to be introduced to the community, with the exception of the regular political hackas, into independent political support from the community. This has caused Mr. Braker to sneeze his way back to Gerry's arms. This was not unexpected of Mr. Braker due to his political past.

Then you have Ms. Willie Flood, a nice hard working sister. Ms. Flood campaigned vigorously for Cunningham and Wiley against the McCannites. Now sister Flood is running for the vacant at-large council seat, as Gerald McCann's choice.

Remember McCann's demand was loyalty, this in itself brings up a major concern, can and why should Black folks suspect a person whose candidacy is being loyal to McCann? Can the Black community afford to give another council vote to McCann and in effect endorse what McCann has been doing? It is disturbing with sister Willie since she is the likeable and concerned person, but in an attempt to curry votes the city has supported her administration 90% of the time. Of course we can not leave out the only present Black municipal elected official, Dan Wiley, Ward F Councilman, who ran and won on Cunningham's ticket. During the run off with then Councilperson Frances Thompson, one of the elements which contributed to Wiley's victory were the allegations of deals and money exchanged between Frances and Gerry. Now Mr. Wiley has endorsed both Mr. Braker and Ms. Flood. The surface reasons were: Braker "supported me" and Flood "for unity" the former being unprincipled and the latter being unreal. This is even more disturbing than the others because I worked for Mr. Wiley in an advisory role and still consider myself a friend (obviously he hasn’t listened to my advice), but my commitment to the people supersedes personal issues.

Supporters of Ms. Flood and Mr. Braker were asked their position on all of this. Some of these folks are political hacks and opportunists who are only concerned with their jobs and have no problem prostituting themselves without any principles. However, there are some honest, dedicated righteous folks who are doing what they sincerely think is correct, they must become more didactical in their methods.

Electoral politics with Black Bourgeois politicians will not independently address the true needs and concerns of the people (even if they want to) unless the progressive and radical elements of the community effectively organize to make Black politicians accountable to the people. There is enough fault to spread around, the preachers with pimp mentality, the "civil rights" organizational whippersnappers of the piece of the pie, so progressives who become silenced by city hall monies and revolutionaries who forgot how to be a vanguard and winding up in the refurbished. This piece is written in the spirit of true, principled community unity and constructive criticism to move forward our community. Truth like medicine can be bitter to the taste but it can cure what ails you.

In Struggle
Aki Lumumba
aka Breeze
Black Community News Service
New Jersey Office
Homelessness is the end result of many things gone wrong - there is no one thing that causes it and there will be no one thing that corrects it. While there is no one single factor causing homelessness, there is one factor that is a primary cause. Since 1980, federal low-income housing has been cut by 80% nation-wide. 80%. It's even more mind-boggling to consider when you realize that in the last decade, incomes of the richest 1% of the U.S. households grew more than 87%, while incomes of the poorest households dropped more than 5%. Same old story, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

It used to be the poorest of our poor were trapped in apartments in the "projects", but not today. Rent in run down rat-hole single occupancy hotel rooms start at $350 a month. Desperate mothers and fathers crowd their families in one room in SROs not built to accommodate the needs of children. Relatives double-up until the breaking point is reached. While waiting for a minimum of five years on the low-income housing waiting list, today's poorest of the poor end up homeless. Today, in the richest country in the world, men, women, and children live in bushes, doorways, under freeways, and in parks.

Although I know the work of the past twenty-five years was not in vain, the good cannot be taken back, I am haunted as I work throughout Oakland and the rest of this county and see the faces of homeless people. The very young, the very old, and yes, those who are my age. I even see those who were strong and resilient in our midst. In the City of Oakland alone, during one week last February, 1500 different homeless men, women and children sought shelter, but there were only 204 shelter beds and most of them were already full.

There is nothing on the horizon to suggest that the federal, state, or any other part of the government is going to restore housing to our people, much less address the underlying cases: racism, sexism, classism, and economic rape. It is clear we have only ourselves to look to, who will take corrective action if we do not?

Food and shelter are rights, not privileges. They are the most basic needs of all human beings. Those of us who can must work with (not for or down to) our brothers and sisters who are homeless or at risk of being homeless and rebuild our community to its 'natural state,' one that nurtures, encourages, and supports its own.

If we fail to act swiftly and effectively now, the ranks of homeless people will grow and grow until, with great desperation and nothing to lose, they revolt and destroy everything that they can. How will they view you?

We do not have a shortage of housing, but, a shortage of affordable housing.

There is an estimated minimum of 8,000 homeless people in Alameda County, with approximately 5,000 of them in Oakland. According to the Emergency Services Network of Alameda County's 1990 Report on Homelessness in the City of Oakland, 84.5% of them are African-Americans and 20% of them are under the age of 12 years old. Further, ESN's 1990 Report on Homelessness in Alameda County identifies 50% of the homeless county-wide are African American, an outrageous number and we are only 18% of the total county-wide population.

The Bay Area is especially hard hit because of the cost of living. We do not have a shortage of housing out, but, a shortage of affordable housing. The Center for Budget Policy Priorities recently released a study, A Place to Call Home, which identified the typical Oakland renter household had an annual income of just $13,825, with at least 25% of all renter households paying at least half their income on housing. And, there are at least 20,000 identified as "eligible" people on the Oakland Housing Authority's waiting list for low-income housing.

Homelessness continues from page 4

By mainly going after street level dealers, the myth is perpetuated that the majority of the drug problem is街头. However, nationally, it is estimated that whites are 76 percent of all illegal drug users. In New York, Whites are 47 percent of the clientele in state-funded centers, but less than 10 percent of those committed to prison.

The current upheaval in drug trafficking and abuse in the Black community has mainly been driven by a complex web of economic need meeting economic opportunity. Black males, particularly young ones, have been trapped in an entrenched cycle of poverty and unemployment. A 1985 Field Foundation study asserts that one-half of all Black men (16-65) are chronically unemployed. Black youth unemployment has officially hovered around 35 percent for the last decade, but in reality is much higher.

Cuts in aid for higher education in the past 10 years blocked one more avenue out of poverty. At the high school level, the dropout rate for young Black men is well above 50 percent. During this period, the cocoa leaf production glut made cocaine plentiful and therefore cheap. A kilogram that sold for $30-60,000, in 1980 goes for $10-12,000 today. The development of crack cocaine, which sells for made distribution network of existing or easily created street gangs of unemployed youth who could retail crack and other drugs. These communities also had consumers who would purchase the cheap, but potent product. It's no coincidence that Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago and New York, cities that have historically had large Black Street gangs, are the major points of drug distribution in the U.S.

The current upheaval in drug trafficking and abuse in the Black community is driven by a complex web of economic need meeting economic opportunity.

The drug crisis in the Black community has been labeled by some as "chemical warfare" against black people. Madeleine Kunin, the President of Bennington College, wrote in the Christian Science Monitor that "The drug epidemic is a humanitarian and moral crisis facing the nation. It cannot be ignored or solved with quick, emergency "bailouts." The crisis is a reflection of the cumulative, complex factors that have undermined the fabric of black communities.

Women, particularly minority women, are disproportionately victimized by the epidemic. For the first time, health officials see more women drug users than men. New York, D.C., Kansas City and Portola women outnumber men in drug abuse. G as young as 12 trade sex for crack as pone is for the streets.

DRUGS, RACISM AND THE DESTRUCTION OF COMMUNITIES

By Zenobia Embry-Nimmer
FALLEN COMRADES

ALPRENTICE "BUNCHY" CARTER
Assassinated: October 15, 1968
The last member of the Black Panther Party to be killed in 1968 was also the eighth member. "Franco" Diggs had seen 40 years of America's oppression before his life was taken by the gun of an unknown reactionary agent. His body was found in an alley on the outskirts of Los Angeles, after he'd been missing for a period of time. The autopsy report revealed Franko had been shot to death.

LARRY ROBERSON
Assassinated: September 4, 1969
On the morning of July 14, 1969, Larry Roberson, 20, and others at a gas station, and the squad car stopped behind them. As Steve Bartholemew was getting out of the car, a volley of police gunfire killed him instantly.

ROBERT LAWRENCE
Assassinated: August 25, 1968
Brother Robert Lawrence, 22, was killed as he got out of the car to ask why Steve Bartholemew was shot. A quick, second wave of police bullets took his life as unexpectedly as the shots that claimed the life of his comrade, Steve.

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WELTON ARMSTEAD
Assassinated: October 15, 1968
Welton Armstead, like "L'il Carter, friend's backyard as he tried to escape from a police manhunt. When Welton saw the police converging on his home he ran to his friend's house. When they came there too, he borrowed his friend's rifle and attempted to evade the officers through the back yard. However, the net was too tight and Brother Armstead was cut down as he tried to defend himself. The police had no warrant or cause to arrest or chase him. The fact that Welton Armstead was a well-known member of the Black Panther Party and a threat then to the Seattle power structure provoked this fatal attack.

SIDNEY MILLER
Assassinated: December 30, 1968
The last member of the Black Panther Party to be killed in 1968 was also the eighth member. "Franco" Diggs had seen 40 years of America's oppression before his life was taken by the gun of an unknown reactionary agent. His body was found in an alley on the outskirts of Los Angeles, after he'd been missing for a period of time. The autopsy report revealed Franko had been shot to death.

ALEX RACKLEY
Assassinated: May 21, 1969
Alex Rackley, a member of the New York State Chapter, killed in Connecticut as a result of the paranoid atmosphere engendered by COINTELPRO. To this date Bro. Rackley's death remains a matter of controversy. The editor feels the loss of this brother keenly.

FRANK DILGS
Assassinated: December 30, 1968
Twenty-two days after the Seattle police murdered Welton Armstead, a racist Seattle businessman murdered another Black Panther Party member, Sidney Miller, 21. Brother Miller was shot point blank in the head as he was leaving a West Seattle grocery store. The murderer said he thought Brother Sidney was about to rob the store.

NATHANIEL CLARK
Assassinated: September 12, 1969
Nathaniel Clark had been a member of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Black Panther Party. A former UCLA student, Nathaniel heard the words of Bunchy Carter and John Huggins and heeded their call. Killed as he slept, Nathaniel Clark's life was snuffed out by the forces of reaction and oppression which beset our lives and our communities, just as those same forces, in a different way, killed Bunchy and John.

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FALLEN COMRADES

RORY HITHE
Assassinated: November 13, 1973
Rory Hithe joined the BPP in San Francisco in 1966. He was quickly elevated to the position of Aide to the Central Committee. In June 1969 he traveled across the country helping coordinate offices. He was falsely captured by police and the FBI and incarcerated along with 13 other Panthers in the New Haven case involving the murder of Alex Rackley. Upon his release from a Connecticut prison in 1971, he returned to San Francisco where he got involved in WAPAC. At one of their community meetings, Rory and his sister, Michelle were both shot. Michelle was wounded and Rory was killed. At the time of his death, Rory was a member of the BPP, and it was probably not coincidence that he was killed the same month and year as his comrade-in-arms, Twymon Myers. His assailant was released from prison in a matter of days.

ZAYD SHAKUR
Assassinated: May 2, 1973
Zayd Shakur was one of the older brothers in the Party who helped organize and lead the New York Chapter. Another Panther who went underground with the BLA, Zayd was killed in a police attack on the New Jersey Turnpike, while riding with comrades Assata Shakur. Assata survived the attack although wounded, and later escaped from a New Jersey prison to Cuba. Zayd had a long history of dedicated struggle in the Black Liberation Movement which suffered a tremendous loss when he was martyred.

ROBERT WEBB
Assassinated: March 8, 1971
Robert Webb joined the BPP in San Francisco. He and his family lived in Hunters Point, a Black community under siege in the Sixties. Robert had been to Vietnam where he had acquiredconsiderable

FRED HAMPTON
Assassinated: November 13, 1969
Fred Hampton with a special holiday to Chicago to confer with the leadership of the Party's Chapter there in order to help him organize in downstate Peoria. Mark made one such trip to Chicago in December, '69, and stayed, along with several other members of the Party, at Fred Hampton's apartment. Chicago police raided Fred's apartment on the morning of December 4; Clark was shot through his heart when police crashed into the apartment firing. Fred Hampton was also killed, and several other occupants were wounded. Mark was 22 years old.

FRED HAMPTON

annals of people’s struggle because he was one of Black History’s most dynamic leaders. A young, outspoken critic of America’s treatment of Black and poor people, Fred’s dedication to the cause of freedom led him and others to organize the BPP’s Chicago Chapter. He soon captured national attention with his incredible organizational and speaking abilities that quickly mobilized Chicago’s huge Black community. Political persecution of Fred Hampton included numerous false arrests and a 1969 conviction for a $70 ice-cream truck robbery. He was released from prison a short time later due to enormous community pressure. Such persecution culminated on December 4 at 4:00 a.m., with a premeditated, predawn raid by Chicago police, who broke into his apartment and shot him as he slept (having been drugged the previous night by an infiltrated agent). Fred was only 21 years old. Although the Black community lost a beautiful warrior for human dignity, as Fred often said, “You can kill a revolutionary, but you can’t kill the revolution.”

Today, the Chicago’s City Council is debating a proposal to honor Fred Hampton with a special holiday.

STERLING JONES
Assassinated: December 25, 1969
Brothers Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were only days in their graves when the Chicago police struck again. On Christmas Day, Sterling Jones, 17, a member of the Chicago Chapter, responded to a knock at his family’s apartment door. As Sterling opened the door, he was shot directly in the face by an unknown assailant. The bullet killed Sterling, and his murderer fled into the night.

Fallen Comrades will be an ongoing feature of the Black Panther Newspaper. Due to limited space and the many murders that
WHY I MOURNED THE DEATH OF HUEY P. NEWTON

By Kiilu Nyasha (Pat Gallyot, New Haven Chapter)

WHEN I first heard the news of Huey Newton’s death, I thought of Malcolm X’s statement following the death of John F. Kennedy, when he referred to it as a case of “the chickens coming home to roost.” I slept no less than 1,000 people had been killed in the streets of my city, the city where I had lived for 20 years. The day I heard the news of Huey’s death, I was still and lifeless, I flashed back on the image of the media. In reality, there was an image of Huey Newton in the streets of my city, the city where I had lived for 20 years. The day I heard the news of Huey’s death, I was still and lifeless, I flashed back on the image of the media. In reality, there was an image of Huey Newton in the streets of my city, the city where I had lived for 20 years. The day I heard the news of Huey’s death, I was still and lifeless, I flashed back on the image of the media. In reality, there was an image of Huey Newton in the streets of my city, the city where I had lived for 20 years. The day I heard the news of Huey’s death, I was still and lifeless, I flashed back on the image of the media.

REMEMBERING HUEY

The author is a former Party member who has requested anonymity

There it happened, on August 22, 1989, at around 4:30 in the morning, in West Oakland, California. I was woken out of my sleep by the sound of a gunshot. I thought it was a dream. But when I opened my eyes, I saw a body lying on the ground. It was Huey Newton, the man who had dedicated his life to the struggle for Black liberation.

Huey P. Newton was a Pan-African revolutionary who was co-founder of the Black Panther Party. He was imprisoned for murder in 1961 and spent over a decade in prison. Despite his imprisonment, he continued to write and speak about revolutionary ideas, including the concept of “police brutality.”

In 1969, Newton was released from prison and became a leader of the Black Panther Party. He was known for his radical views and his commitment to the struggle against police brutality and racism.

Huey P. Newton was shot and killed on August 22, 1989, while he was in prison. The circumstances of his death are still unclear, but it is believed that he was shot by a guard.

Huey P. Newton’s death was a major blow to the Black Liberation movement. He was a key figure in the struggle for Black liberation and his death was a loss for the movement.

In the aftermath of his death, there was a wave of grief and anger among those who knew and respected him. Many people spoke about his legacy and his contribution to the struggle.

Huey P. Newton was a complex figure, and his legacy is still debated. However, his commitment to the struggle for Black liberation and his passion for justice and equality continue to inspire people around the world.
Black Community News

AFRIKAN AMERIKAN STAKE IN A MIDEAST WAR

Landon R. Williams

Landon R. Williams was a member of the BPP Central Committee, and is on the Black Panther Newspaper Committee Editorial Team. He presents his thoughts on the Middle East war.

IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF JANUARY 16, 1991, the government of the United States of Amerikkka used stealth bombers, cruise missiles, laser guided bombs, and other high technology weapons to launch a sudden and massive attack on Iraq. When the U.S. attack occurred, the fifth time in recent memory that the industrial democracies have used high tech weapons developed to combat the specter of Russian communism to viciously attack third world people of color:

- the racist Amerikkkan government invaded Grenada to “rescue” Amerikkkan college students; destroyed the presidential Palace in Triniti, St. Louis; executed the last remaining General of General Kadaifi; and invaded Panama to capture Oliver North’s and George Bush’s drug running partner, General Noriega. The British, trying to hold on to one of the last vestiges of their imperial colony, used its high technology to attack innocent civilians in the Falkland Island’s with U.S. tactical and logistical support. While the suddenness and the ferocity of the U.S. attack caught everyone by surprise, it was no surprise to those who follow and understand the racist nature of Amerikkkan and European history, that the war and the war’s over have both never been in anger except at people of color.

- Within the next few hours, the United States and their allies flew literally thousands of air sorties (missions) against targets inside Iraq and Kuwait. The planes dropped thousands of tons of bombs on Arabiian, women, and children. Vidieo tape recordings and live pictures of the devastation caused by the initial high explosive bomb by the CNN newscaster inside Baghdad. The scenes which filled TV screens unendingly across Amerikkkan showed bombs exploding in the air and on the ground with smoke and fire everywhere. Through the medium of television, the carnival of the war was sterilized and the television scenes became reminiscent of the savage detonation attacks on the Empire against the rebels in the Star Wars trilogy - only here, the blood is real; men, women and children, not actors, were really dying.

- In the days and now weeks following the initial attacks, the Amerikkkan military and African American community have been subjected to an almost endless display of video graphics on the evening news and in special articles which remind one of a visit to a video arcade. Night after night, generals in fresh uniformed held press briefings showing “smart bombs” and cruise missiles finding targets and exploding into what are described as military significant targets as the press aprovals.

- The parade of generals, and applause for the war, however, have not been without dissent. Gigantic peace demonstrations began before the first bomb exploded and continued to take place across the land. As the assault continues with out letup and the Generals prepare for a bloody ground war, Amerikan are drawing up sides and trying to decide if they should support or oppose the war. For some the rallying cry is “No War for Big Oil”. In the African Amerikkkan community the rallying cry must be “No War On Oil”. The African Amerikkkan American community has an awful lot to lose as the war continues. It is the duty of all of us to inform the forces of evil the issue.

- The African American community must ask itself, what’s at stake in this war. Who are the winners who have the most to gain. And, more importantly to us, who are the losers and what will they lose.

- War is uncertain and the Mideast war is no exception. It’s not about the house or other no matter how the war goes. In any war that is fought, we African Americans will fall in numbers greater than our proportion in the general population.

- The lesson of Vietnam is that African Americans are not only disproportionately represented in the armed services but they are also concentrated more heavily in the combat arms, that is front line troops. In almost every battle, we are at greatest risk of losing our sons and surnaries of the minority soldiers. The old saying goes “if you’re Black, get back”. In the Amerikkkan army the saying has been changed to “if you’re Black, go to the Front... and walk around.”

- Our community will lose many of our brightest and bravest members fighting on the front lines and spread democracy and freedom, but instead to restore a despotic monarchy.

- A monarchy complete with harem, concubines, slaves, and a complete lack of rights for women and Black people. In Saudi Arabia women are not allowed to even drive automobiles. One of the royal princes was publicly stoned to death for having an affair. A husband has the RIGHT to do literally anything to his wife or wives if it upholds his “manhood.” African Americans will be fighting and dying to restore a society dominated by a few rich families who control their country’s wealth.

- We must ask ourselves the question, “is there... and supply production, distribution, and transportation contracts being made to support the war effort are African American and employ many of our people — except the combat soldiers. African American businesses and workers continue to be illegally kept from participating in the country’s economic wealth through ungramed and pervasive racist practices and discrimination.

- Internationally, Africans everywhere lose as the world turns its attention away from the war...
THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY AND THE DEATH OF HUEY P. NEWTON

By Kit Kim Holder (Harlem Branch)

With the death of Huey P. Newton, there has been renewed interest in the activities of the Black Panther Party (BPP). In order to understand how and why Newton died, one must examine the conditions which the BPP struggled against and which still affect our people today.

Many people have been devastated by the circumstances of Newton’s death. Some have even uncritically placed complete blame on the government. While the government has used force and fraud to combat almost every progressive movement and individual fighting for African-American liberation, it would be a mistake to automatically pinpoint the government as being responsible in this case. Under the pretense of the FBI-led, secret Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) against the African-American liberation movement, the BPP and Newton in particular were targeted for a massive, illegal, and often deadly campaign of destruction.

It must be pointed out that during the late 1960s and early 1970s, Newton and the BPP were the main targets of every domestic intelligence and law enforcement agency in the United States. The years of dirty tricks, arrests, shootings, prison terms, etc., did take their toll on Dr. Newton.

It was the chant of “Free Huey” that swept across this country in the late 1960s. The Party used Huey’s incarceration as a major rallying point of the African-American liberation movement of that era. It created an image of Newton as the most radical revolutionary in history. Party members quoted Newton constantly, often as if he could say no wrong. Newton’s trials and tribulations and the struggle over who could or should run for the BPP did not die with Huey on that Oakland street last August because the idea of the Party would never have the sole possession of Newton.

The lesson of Newton’s death is twofold: First, the African-American community is involved in a war of destruction, and the principle tool at the moment happens to be crack cocaine. Drugs are destroying our youth and our communities as they took the life of Huey P. Newton and have Tyrone Robinson (25-year-old accounted killer) facing life imprisonment. There is a strong African-American brothers whose lives have been taken from us because drugs are brought into our communities and we can do nothing to stop them.

The second lesson of Newton’s life and death is that African-Americans must stop looking for a messiah who is going to lead us to the promised land. As the poet and musician, Gil Scott Heron, once reminded us, “There ain’t no such thing as a superman.” We Black people must realize that one man or one woman is and always will be unable to lead us. We must realize that leadership will only come from the hard work and struggle of every last one of us. There are no secrets to our freedom; so we had better wake up and understand that it is we who must change our conditions.

The only thing that separated Newton and the Panthers from anyone else was the fact that they were willing to take the first step, to go up against those who dared to struggle and “Seek the Time.” It is not from a sense of nostalgia that we should remember Newton and the Black Panther Party. Rather, we must analyze the work of the BPP within the context of searching for solutions to contemporary problems. The words of today are not to be forgotten but focused on Newton, the man, rather than the Party.

Editor’s Note: Kit Kim Holder, a former Black Panther, is a Ph.D. candidate from the School of Education University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

“A MESSAGE TO MY SISTERS” FROM ASSATA SHAKUR

(We reprint this message from Assata because it is just as relevant today as it was 10 years ago, 1980. We hope to have more words and pictures from our comrades-sister very soon.)

At this time I’d like to say a few words especially to my sisters. Black women will never be free unless Black women participate in every aspect of our struggle, on every level of our struggle. It is we who have seen the terrible effect of racism on our children. I just want to take a moment out to express my love to all of you who risk your lives daily struggling out here on the front lines.

We have seen the sick, wept over the faces of our children when they come to fully realize what it means to be Black in Amerika. And we know what deprivation is. We have known the pain of being ignored, without hope, without love, without a chance. We have known the struggle of every Black man and Black woman and Black child. We have been the backbone of our community, and We will be the backbone of our community, and We will be the backbone of our nation. We have got to build strong family units, based on love and struggle. We don’t have to do anything to play around.

A revolutionary woman can’t have no revolutionary man. If he’s not about liberation, if he’s not about struggle, if he ain’t about building a strong Black family, if he ain’t about building a strong Black nation then he ain’t about nothing. We must learn to struggle. We know how to struggle and fight. We have got to open up liberation schools, we have got to start teaching ourselves.

Assata Shakur in Cuba

We have seen the sick, wept over the faces of our children when they come to fully realize what it means to be Black in Amerika. And we know what deprivation is. How many times have we had to go out of our way to get the money we needed to keep our children healthy and happy? We have had to deal with the welfare systems that do not care about our welfare or the welfare of our children. And it is We who have to deal with the school systems that do not educate our children. It is We who have to deal with the racist teachers who teach our children to hate themselves. It is We who have seen the terrible effect of racism on our children.

We have got to take responsibility for educating our children. We can’t leave the job of teaching our young, our futures, in the hands of teachers who don’t care about our children. We’ve got to work against the wish of teachers who don’t care about our children. We’ve got to open up liberation schools, we have got to start teaching ourselves.

We’ve got to build survival centers. We’ve got to build survival centers. We’ve got to build survival centers.

We’ve got to build a nation.

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This issue of the "Black Panther" is respectfully dedicated
to the Soldiers of the Black Panther Party and the countless
others who participated and continue to participate in the
righteous struggle for Black/African self-determination. Spec-
cifically it is dedicated to those, killed and/or captured in the
cause of Black/African Liberation. This memorial issue is
dedicated to fallen comrades and to African Political Prisoners
who are less covered by life experiences and it is they who will do,
against the odds of government agents in the guise of Party members
who have yet to see or hold in person their grandmas and grandpas.

DEFINITION OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND P.O.W.'S

All comrades in this issue define themselves as either
political prisoners or prisoners of war (P.O.W.'s). We respect
their right to define themselves. We do think it is necessary to
briefly explain the difference between political prisoners and
P.O.W.'s.

The definition of political prisoners is based on Interna-
tional Law which states that political prisoners are persons
who were captured while engaged in a war of National
Liberation against the US Empire. They do not recognize the
right of the governments of the US to unjustly imprison
and torture them just because they are engaged in a war of
national liberation. They are political prisoners.

The definition of political prisoners is that they view themselves as
waging a struggle to win political power through collective action
for the self-determination of the Black nation/State in North
Amerikkka. They often define themselves as the creation of a
multi-racial society with some form of autonomy for oppressed
Nationalities. On the other hand, those who define themselves as
P.O.W.'s view themselves as waging a Na-
tional Liberation Struggle with the
objective of creating an independent (Black)
nation/State in North
Amerikkka or else-
where. These two defi-
nitions and positions are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and
definitely are not
antagonistic.

The question of who is correct should, and must be
answered by the masses of African people in Amerikkka. These
are extremely important questions for the future.

Our immediate discussion is the burning issue of the unjust
imprisonment of our freedom fighters.

There are now over 1000 Political Prisoners in the United States of Amerikkka. All made sacrifices in the struggle to achieve Freedom, Justice, and Equality in American society in general and Liberation of oppressed Nationalities, in par-
ticular. The limited space does not allow us to give adequate coverage of them
and to give inadequate coverage of others. We are publishing
a list of many not included and their mailing addresses.

The general issue of political prisoners in the United States of Amerikkka is one that must be exposed and addressed now.

Some individuals will receive more coverage than others
because of the blatant injustices and the urgency of their particular situation. The general issue of political prisoners in the United States of Amerikkka is one that must be exposed and addressed now. Most of the following articles were
written by these prisoners themselves. We wish to thank the editors of the excellent book, "You can't Jail the Spirit," for
permission to quote from their work.

LET THE HEROES SPEAK!!!

THE B.P.P. AND
POLITICAL PRISONERS

By Herman Bell

Because the Black Panther Party (B.P.P.) was young, its leadership was politically inexperienced. Party members were ex-
posed to attacks from local and national police agencies, which in some instances, a politically inexperienced and politically inexperienced political party could have side-
stepped. A critical over-

sight in Party strategy was its failure to sustain a strong base of support within the Black community. Had it done so, it might have
survived the suppressive police and FBI attacks and its own internal dissolution. That way, it would have had a powerful base of support to draw from. But this is hindsight. The political currents of the 60's and 70's can be viewed as the distillation of three distinct periods in African-American experience, each of which exhibits greater so-
philosophization and complexity employed by the forces militating against the legitimate aspirations of the black community. One of the unique aspects of the latter, i.e., the African-American experience is that its agenda and its demands were articulated by a young leadership. In
to itself, young leadership is commendable, since it is the young who are less covered by life experiences and it is they who will do,
in instances when they have been advised not to do, or are advised that a thing cannot be done. Still, young leadership must be tempered
by experience.

A young politically inexperienced leadership and its failure to
camouflage its base of support, combined with a fast-learning
attempt to abide by the principles of democratic centralism within the hierarchy of Party leadership, ultimately led to policies and positions that were determined by a small inner-circle of top Party
leaders. With growing internal contradictions within the Party itself, and the growing record of the FBI's Counter Intel-
ligence Program (Cointelpro) which among other things fabricated disinformation about the Party, leaders and those political objectives, all to create an atmosphere of suspicion and mistrust between Party members and Party allies—this, in conjunction with the machina-
tions of government agents in the guise of Party members
who frequently initiated actions called to bring on swift and deadly reaction from local and national police agencies. Given the level of sophistication, unlimited man-power and resources available, what's remarkable is that the Party lasted as long as it did.

With the dissolution of the Party those comrades who chose to
increasing danger. And because of their firm political commitment
most of these comrades were railroaded to jail then and they remain in jail today, often than not they are lawyers who have developed a personal
relationship with or several of our imprisoned 'raders. 'The
'raiders in jail still see themselves as part of a revolutionary
movement that aims to abolish racism and class privilege and to create and safeguard a social order that will nourish freedom and justice for all. Meanwhile, they continue to display exemplary moral
character and, with the help of the prison population and even by SO SOME of their
jails, it can't be done. Their friends who have
began to have children of their own and practically all of them have become grandmas and grandpas of children they have yet to see or hold in their arms. Although they do not presume to speak for every imprisoned 'rader, something has to be done for them. It is mean-spirited and unkind to view their
unavoidable extremities and criticisms of 'raiders on the street as a
response to pressures generated by constant abuse and long
term confinement.

Against this bleak background, they read in the papers that in
some foreign country a national liberation front avenged a
wrongful death of a comrade or took measures to insure that a
comrade would not be maltreated by the authorities, or liberated
a comrade from the clutches of the authorities. It is not uncom-
mon to read in the papers where members of the criminal
MUMIA ABU-JAMAL: MOVE POLITICAL PRISONER

My name is Mumia Abu-Jamal. My background is in Radical/Revolutionary Media, Print, and Broadcast.

As a young activist in the Black Panther Party, I was taught graphic arts, newspaper layout and related computer skills by California Minister of Culture, Emory Douglass, his wife, BPP Editor, Judy Douglass, and Deputy Culture Minister, Brad Brewer, in the East Coast N.Y. Information Ministry headquarters in the Bronx.

I joined the BPP in May 1969. I served as news director and commentator for the 1300 AM WWDB-FM/WPNX-FM radio station, WWDB-FM (96.5) FM radio, August 1978, broadcasting globally and illuminating the depth of corruption that city officials were willing to stoop to, still the voice of the valiant Afrikan. 9 men and women (the women, incidentally, not even charged with weapons offenses, were given identical sentences as the men) sentenced to a total of 900 years in prison, for a crime that they (the state) knew they didn't commit.

The trial judge, in fact, held a regional radio broadcast audience that he had "no idea" who shot the cop but... they were tried as a family. I sentenced them as a family" Judge Edwin S. Talmed, Common Pleas Court Judge, speaking on the Frank Ford Show, World Radio TV (WRTV 96.5 FM/Hollywood, Florida) the day following the trial.

As a reporter for a well-known public radio station, I covered this frame-up of MOVE, and immediately recognized the gross, fraudulent, and "objective" reporter was trained to do, i.e., I got both sides—the system's, and MOVE's.

This activity, undertaken in the spirit of fundamental fairness, and a sense of kinship with fellow radicals, marked me for legal extinction shortly thereafter. Another pre-dawn attack, on men wearing deadlocks, resulted in my being shot and beaten, and a cop shot, on a central Philadelphia street, in December 1981.

Despite my efforts to defend myself, to select a jury of my "peers", to give opening and closing arguments, cross-examine, I spent most of the "trial" out of the courtroom. On July 3, 1982, a jury, in such a clear and virulent attack on a virtually all-white jury, middle class and over-aged, a tactic designed to defeat demand.

Total sentence: Death + 2 1/2 to 5 years. Current legal status: direct appeal

Address: Mumia Abu-Jamal, #8335 Drawer R
Huntingdon, PA 16652

Contact: Partisan Defense Committee
Drew R
P.O. Box 99, Canal St. Station
New York, NY 10013

SUNDIATA ACOli: NEW AFRlKAN PRISONER OF WAR

Sundiata Acoli, a New Afrikan political prisoner of war, mathematician, and computer analyst, was born January 14, 1937, in Queens, New York, and was raised in Texas. He graduated from Prairie View A&M College in 1965 with a B.S. in mathematics and for the next 13 years worked for various computer-oriented firms, mostly in the New York area.

During the summer of 1964 he did voter registration work in Mississippi. In 1968, he joined the Harlem, New York, Black Panther Party and did community work around issues of schools, housing, jobs, child care, drugs, and police brutality.

In 1969 he and 13 others were arrested in the Panther 21 conspiracy case. He was held in jail without bail and on trial for two years before being acquitted, along with all other defendants, by a jury deliberating less than two hours.

Upon release, FBI intimidation of potential employers shut off all employment possibilities in the computer profession and stereotyping the COINTELPRO harassment, surveillance, and provocations soon drove him underground.

In May 1973, while driving the New Jersey Turnpike, he and his comrades were ambushed by N.J. state troopers. One companion, Zayid Shaker, was killed, another companion, Assan Shaker, was wounded and captured. One state trooper was killed and another wounded, and Sundiata was captured and shot.

After a highly sensationalized and prejudicial trial he was convicted of the death of the state trooper and sentenced to Truman State Prison (TSP) for life plus 30 years consecutive.

Upon entering TSP he was confined to a new and specially created Management Control Unit (MCU) solely because of his political background. He remained in MCU almost five years in a stripped cell smaller than the SPCA's space requirement for a German shepherd dog. He was only let out of the cell ten minutes a day for showers and two hours twice a week for

MESSAGE FROM SEKOU MGBOBO

ABDULLAH ODINGA: NEW AFRICAN PRISONER OF WAR

My name is Sekou Mboobo Abdullah Odinga. I am a Muslim and a P.O.W. I was born in Queens, NY on June 17, 1944. I was raised in a family of 9—Father, Mother, 3 brothers and 3 sisters. I was kicked out of school in the 10th grade for defending myself against an attack by a teacher.

In 1964, I became involved in the Cultural Nationalist movement. By 1965, I had joined the organization of African American Unity, founded by Esau H. Makai Shaka (Malcolm X). I began to move with and among young African Nationalists. My political consciousness was growing daily. I was reading and listening to many Afrikan Nationalists from Africa and the U.S. As a result, I became convinced that only after a successful armed struggle New Afrique would gain freedom and self determination.

In September 1979, the International Jurist interviewed Sundiata and subsequently declared him a political prisoner. A few days later prison officials secretly transferred him during the middle of the night to the federal prison system and put him en route to the infamous federal concentration camp at Marion, Illinois, although he had no federal charges or sentences. An entrance physical exam by federal medical personnel disclosed that he had been heavily exposed to tuberculosis while at Trenton State Prison.

Marion is the highest security prison in the U.S., also one of the harshest, and there afterwards he was locked down 23 hours a day in a stripped cell containing only a stone bed, toilet, wall wash, and a few personal items. Brutal conditions and violations of human rights are endemic at Marion where murders and assaults by guards and prisoners alike are common occurrences. During one turbulent period beginning in October 1983, Sundiata and all prisoners were confined to their cell blocks 24 hours a day for nine continuous months as wolf packs of guards roamed about the compounds of prisoners without"

at Leavenworth, Kansas, where he is presently confined,

Charges:
Sentenced to life plus 30 years, sentences to be served consecutively. Convicted of murder, armed robbery, assault, and weapons possession, arising from same incident.

Parole:
Presently eligible for parole on life sentence; granted must begin doing time on the 30-year consecutive sentences. It is unclear whether a state prisoner confined in the federal system receives good time. Release date for full sentence unknown.

Current legal status:
No pending legal aspects of case exist.

Address:
Sekou Mboobo, #39704-066
P.O. Box 1000
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

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**The Black Panther, Black Community News Service**

February, 1991

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**WHY ARE BLACK/AFRICAN SOLDIERS FIGHTING FOR "FREEOM AND JUSTICE" IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHEN THERE IS NO FREEDOM AND JUSTICE FOR US IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERIKKKA??**

**THE CASE OF GERONIMO JI JAGA (PRATT)**

Editor’s note: Geronimo ji Jaga is a veteran of the Vietnam war (paratrooper). He served two tours of duty, wearing a Purple heart, the Bronze Star, a Soldier’s medal, and Air medal with clusters, an Army expiditionary medal with cluster, two accommodation medals, a Good Conduct Medal, Senior Jump wings, and a combat Infantry Badge with Star.

Yet, he has been unjustly incarcerated for the last 20 years for a crime the U.S. government knows (by their own evidence) he did not commit. Geronimo case is a clear example of the TRADITION OF INJUSTICE and VIOLENCE TOWARD AFRICAN PEOPLES (AND OTHER PEOPLES OF COLOR) in the United States of Amerikka.

Justice demands that these lies be removed from his files & that geronimo be released!.

After 20 years, Amerikka refuses to address the question of a fair trial and humane treatment for geronimo, and for African Black people in racist Amerikka in general. Geronimo has been denied parole NINE consecutive times. In his absence, the parole board not only denied him parole, but placed slanderous lies in his prison files. Geronimo is due to go before the parole board hearing this year (1991). Justice demands that these lies be removed from his files AND that geronimo be released IMMEDIATELY.

**STATEMENT BY GERONIMO JI JAGA**

August 22, 1989

The California State Parole Panel recently issued statements regarding my eligibility for release from prison. I repudiate those statements as untrue and slanderous. I hereby challenge the State Parole Panel to come forward and prove any and all allegations of which I am aware were made while I was out of state on a federal subpoena on behalf of my brother Filiberto Ojeda Rice.

The statements about my psychiatric evaluation are groundless and completely contradicted by all jail psychiatric reports from the first days of my imprisonment. I openly invite any and every person of good will to come forward and read these reports and see the yearly recommendations that have stated that I be released from prison and that I pose no threat and no danger to society.

Secondly, the State Parole Panel said they refused to parcel me because, they claim, I am not educated enough. In fact, reflected within my prison file are numerous job offers to lecture and teach at the University of Atlanta, University of California at Berkeley and the University of Azania among others. Furthermore, I have more than 40 units in credits from UCLA and the College of Marin. I have completed with honors college courses in Cultural Anthropology, Philosophy, Sociology, Oceanography, African History and Political Science. The fact that every day, this panel all prisoners to go free who haven’t even been to high school shows they are imposing a double standard in my case.

The most ludicrous of their wicked untruths accuses me of involvement with heroin. This is a sad joke given the many years of my strict discipline and firm position against drugs, as well as my known display of physical fitness. This was noted by an award from the Vietnam Veterans Group of San Quentin for my marathon run of 17 miles at the age of 41 and my weight lifting of 300 pounds regularly. The Parole Panel’s latest attempt to vilify, defame and discredit me must be challenged because of the insidious image it portrays to our children in the midst of the world war that is so grossly being waged against our families and communities daily.

Finding, there is no basis in fact or reality for these statements that the Parole Panel has made.

The aforementioned statements were made during a so-called parole hearing without me or my attorney being present. Therefore, I hereby challenge any and all members of the Panel to face me with their baseless accusations in the open instead of hiding in the shadows with these deceitful and damaging lies.

This is similar and very much in line with the way COINTELPRO acted in the 60’s and 70’s to discredit and criminalize the people who were actually involved in the struggle for human rights.

I see this as a continuation of the COINTELPRO campaign against me which illegally put me in prison in the first place and now wants to keep me here for life.

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**RUCHELL CINQUE MAGEE: SOLE SURVIVOR OF THE COURTHOUSE REBELLION**

by Kilu Nyasha (aka Pat Gallyot, New Haven Chapter)

The news photos of the "Courthouse Slave Rebellion" on August 7, 1970, hit the front pages of practically every newspaper in and out of the country _shocking_ waves around the world. Pictures of four black men emerging from Marin County Courthouse with guns and hostages and disarming guards provoked panic among some, but in others it inspired images of the pre-Civil War actions of John Brown and Harriet Tubman.

The sole survivor of this audacious revolt, Ruchell Cinque Magee (who took his middle name from a leader of an historic slave upris- ing), has now spent an additional 21 years in California's state prisons, the last 11 in solitary confinement.

Magee's life story is a classic example of the racist repression of many throughout their nearly 400-year history on this land: Sentenced to "life" in Louisiana (Angola) on a bogus 'attempted' rape charge involving a white woman; framed, arrested, beaten by police and railroaded to "life" again at 23 in prison just five months ago.

Magee has now spent 35 of his 51 years in the dangers of Angola, San Quentin Prison, the new maximum-security prison at Corcoran (near the San Joaquin Valley), and Oregon border where the isolation is extreme. Opened in 1989, it's windowless, completely automated cells keep prisoners alone at all times allowing no access, no smoking, and absolutely no contact with other inmates or guards except when moved for showers and exercise—at which time they're shackled. Some inmates have said they were naked in front of the guards who fired into the van testified as follows:

"GUARD: As we were under orders to prevent anyone from entering the truck..."

---

Magee has spent about 35 years in prison; yet he has never personally injured or killed anyone. He has, it appears, been driven to paranoia by the relentless torture of his jailers.

This stand-up brother has been denied his most basic human rights, mentally and physically tortured, and in his daring bid for freedom—shot.

How much longer will we tolerate the "cruel and unusual punishment" of this heroic freedom fighter who has sacrificed...[and it would be necessary to kill all 20...to prevent that escape, that you would do so?"

GUARD: "Yes, sir, I would be under orders to..."

Over the past two decades, Ruchell Cinque Magee has been directly or indirectly responsible for the release of over 40 fellow inmates. He has filed numerous class actions and civil suits he calls "guerilla law," some of which were won by his withdrawal as either the plaintiff or the attorney of record. (Magee has been repeatedly told he has no legal "standing" in the courts.)

Nonetheless, Magee's legal maneuvers are largely responsible for his removal from maximum prison population.

In his determined struggle to exonerate himself from this frame-up and subsequent denial of his rights, Magee developed consciousness not only of his own plight, but of that of a whole class of people victimized by institutionalized, unjustified terrorism. In his own words, "My fight is to expose the entire system, judicial and prison system, a system of slavery...This will cause benefit not just to myself but to all those who at this time are being criminally oppressed or enslaved by this system."

In recent years, we have witnessed the release or parole of countless violent convicts who committed heinous crimes—including imprisoned double murderer—as in the case of Dan White, who killed former San Francisco Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, after serving as little as five years.

Magee has spent about 35 years in prison; yet he has never personally injured or killed anyone. He has, it appears, been driven to paranoia by the relentless torture of his jailers.

This stand-up brother has been denied his most basic human rights, mentally and physically tortured, and in his daring bid for freedom—shot.