



It's About Time...



Volume 4 Number 3

Summer 2000

RESIST MUMIA'S FRAME-UP

The Democratic Party National Convention Ed Rendell, Philadelphia district attorney in 1982 who framed-up Mumia is now chairman of the Democratic Party.

August 14, 2000, Los Angeles, CA

Why is the Chairman of the Democratic Party Campaigning to Execute Mumia Abu Jamal?

- As Philadelphia's District Attorney, in 1982 he designed and executed the frame-up of Mumia, including unconstitutionally using Mumia's Panther Party affiliation in the sentencing phase (when requesting the death sentence).
- Oversaw the bombing of the MOVE headquarters in 1985 (prepared for a year) leaving 11 dead and 65 homes destroyed.
- Architect of countless other frame-ups already thrown out as a result of litigation and investigations, including federal.
- Member Fraternal Order of Police, became Mayor partly on the continuing effort to execute Mumia.
- Helped plant Vanity Fair article last summer. Buzz Bissinger, the author, was one of the PR men in his Mayoral campaigns. This was the article that placed the new,

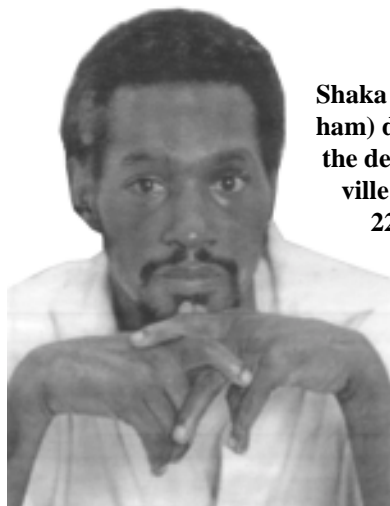


updated lie that Mumia confessed.

- Friends with Bill Clinton who signed the Effective Death Penalty Act into law.
- Is preparing to run for Governor of Pennsylvania in 2002.
- Married to Marjorie O. Rendell, an appellate judge of the Third Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals (where Mumia's case is presently being reviewed).

This man, Ed Rendell, now in the position of Chairman of the Democratic Party National Committee, makes obvious the necessity for a major national mobilization at the Democratic National Convention on August 14 in Los Angeles. This is a direct challenge to the movement to obtain freedom for Mumia & all political prisoners. How will we respond?? We must use every opportunity to expose this criminal. Let's put the real criminal on trial. Rendell is guilty of Mumia's frame-up. He's guilty, with Mayor Goode and the others of the murders in the MOVE bombing. He must be branded & the Democrats must pay. We must show them that the price of Mumia's continued persecution is too high of a price to pay.

FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!
FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS!
www.aspenlinx.com/mumia



Shaka Sankofa (Gary Graham) drew his last breath in the death chamber at Huntsville Prison in Texas on June 22, 2000. Long live his revolutionary spirit.

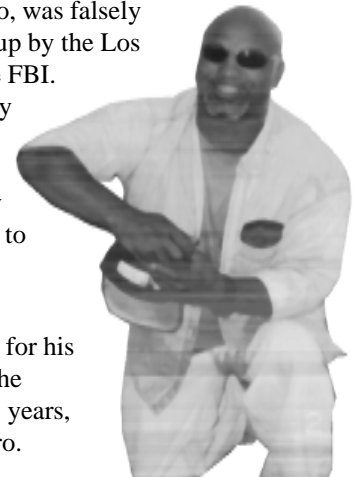
END THE
DEATH
PENALTY!!!

Compensation for Cointelpro

Former BPP leader, Geronimo, was falsely imprisoned for 27 years, set up by the Los Angeles Police Dept. and the FBI.

In a recent settlement, the city of L.A. will pay Geronimo \$2.75 million dollars, recently approved by the city council. The FBI has agreed to pay \$1.9 million for its role.

We are glad to see Geronimo awarded some compensation for his imprisonment, but we know he would rather have had the 27 years, stolen from him by Cointelpro.



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MILLIONS FOR OAK PARK MAN

A Sacramento, CA, police officer shot and permanently disabled Ronald Ross, 37, of Oak Park in 1999. Claiming he saw something in his hand, the officer shot Mr. Ross after chasing him. Mr. Ross, an African American will receive \$13.5 million in a settlement from the city, the largest payout for a Sacramento police shooting. This is the 49th time the city has been sued for police officer involved shootings since 1976.

Statistics show that more than 50% of the shooting victims are African Americans. This reflects the consequences of racial profiling and racist, trigger-happy police.

FBI IS READING YOUR E-MAIL

Carnivore is a hardware-software device that the FBI secretly developed at its lab in Quantico, Va. Dubbed Carnivore because of its ability to find "the meat" among millions of e-mails. Carnivore scans every incoming and outgoing e-mail message on a network looking for telltale words or names, and saves those messages for later retrieval by law enforcement. Carnivore can also track instant messages, visits to websites, and internet relay chat sessions.

The FBI admits that Carnivore will scan millions of e-mail messages from innocent people to find a tiny number of messages from people suspected of crimes. That's no different than if the FBI opened everyone's mail hoping to find a letter from a criminal, or listened in on everyone's phone calls just in case a crime was being discussed.

Though Carnivore's existence was just publicly revealed, the FBI has already installed the device at dozens of Internet Service Providers (ISPs) around the country, and claims it has used it "fewer than 50 times" so far. In many cases, the FBI keeps the device in a locked cage on the ISPs premises, with agents making daily visits to retrieve the captured data.

Many ISPs have refused to allow the FBI to install Carnivore, citing concerns that the privacy of all their customers could be violated. But earlier this year, a federal judge ruled against one such ISP, leaving it no choice but to allow the FBI access to its system.

Carnivore is more than a threat to your ordinary e-mail correspondence - it also gives government bureaucrats the ability to spy on your online banking transactions, because it has the ability to monitor all digital communications. The bottom line is that your privacy won't be protected as long as Carnivore is on the loose.

At this point, no legislation to eliminate Carnivore has been proposed. However, with your help we can change that. Join the "Kill the Carnivore" campaign!

What to do: Call the Congressional switchboard, toll free, at 1-888-449-3511. If that number is busy try 202-225-3121 or 202-224-3121. Then ask to speak to the office of your Congressional representative. The switchboard is open 24 hours, and most House offices have voice mail, so please make the call as soon as you get this message.



ANGOLA 3 UPDATE

(For more information regarding their case, see prior issues of It's About Time, or visit the website - prisonactivist.org/angolatwo)

Robert King Wilkerson recently had a habeas corpus hearing in the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Having served 28 years in solitary confinement after being framed for the murder of another prisoner, he has sworn affidavits from the original so-called witnesses saying they were coerced by prison officials. Also, the person who committed the murder in self-defense has sworn that he acted alone. They hearing went well but we are still awaiting a decision as we go to print.



Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, who also have served 28 years in solitary after being framed for the murder of a prison guard, also both have appeals being filed. Unfortunately, Albert lost his initial appeal and is now moving on to the State Supreme Court. They have some new attorneys involved which we hope will help move things forward.



RETURN TO OUR SACRED WAYS

Us Indians have always been treated as less than real human beings and it's up to us as a "People", a United Front to change this lie. The Creator endowed this continent to us. We were lied to, cheated, starved, beaten, slaughtered and driven off our sacred grounds and locked up in penitentiaries they termed reservations where many of our ancestors died from disease, freezing weather, and outright genocide.

Everything we ever had was stolen from us including our traditions, customs, and religion through oppression. So many of us have forgotten how to make use of our elders and sacred knowledge keepers. So many of us have forgotten how we are supposed to dedicate our lives to our children and it's a mockery to our "sacred way of life." Pride, joy, laughter, things like that are very sacred to us



Indians, and will never come back to us until we stand up and live for our children. We need to fight back without violence at our own people, including the red-hearted brothers and sisters in the iron houses of the U.S. and state governments. We are the ones who must stop the cycle of violence and disharmony, the hatred and drug and alcohol abuse. We Indians didn't understand hatred and discrimination before the Europeans came here, so why discriminate against our own people now? Especially the ones in the American prison system! The only way we will achieve anything of permanence is by unifying and returning to our sacred ways. So many of our people are so poisoned by the white man's hatred and discrimination and disharmony, they will never come back to our ways - Truth. Our own children watch us struggling and wondering what it will be like when it's their turn. I'm so frightened for our children, I truly am. How can we say we are proud or joyful or even laugh when so much has been lost or stolen? We need to stop arguing amongst ourselves and be-

See SACRED on Page 7

PRISONS: PROFITS AT WHAT COST

By Mr. Wesley "Godfather" Hunter

It was cold; colder than usual as the old grey bus pulled up to the entrance gates marked "prisoner admissions". The guard in the tower looked out at the bus through his darkened shades, cradling his rifle in the crook of his left arm while fingering the trigger with his right hand; tall, burly, white,



big mustache and a lump of tobacco under his lower lip. Home of the 'good ol' boy' this time in black CDC jumpsuit and big black boots, instead of whips and horses, but the concept was still the same; you would work, turn a profit and if you got out of line you'd be beaten, shot or killed! "Welcome to PELICAN BAY STATE PRISON" the carved redwood sign read. It was a welcome that none of us men felt.

The California Department of Corrections (CDC) is a booming industry, loathe with dangers and abuses. This will be our home for awhile. For some of us, for good. Those that do leave here are actually going back out to society worse off than we were when we came. There are no real trades or educational programs in prisons anymore, to help prisoners improve or better themselves, and because all of the weights and picture programs have been removed, we are left with virtually nothing more to do than stand around on the yard in small groups, sharing memories of yesteryear and hopes for a distant, yet possible, tomorrow; while waiting for the eruption of drama, which frustration from boredom will surely bring, at any moment, in any day.

I once heard it said that "an idle mind is the devil's workshop". Well, Ol' Diablo has a booming playground all his own. This IS THE PIT OF HELL! Home of the many forgotten, tormented and lonely souls, most of whom are products of an inherited poverty or victims of a politically established drug trade. "They" put it all in place, and then declared a war against it as a "solution", helping prisons to grow at a rapid rate, while they privately join boards and corporations or receive kick backs and payoffs. Either way, it's profit at both ends and who's really paying attention?

Taxpayers are being bled by the fears that they've been fed; while politicians and their cohorts issue false statistics to show improvements. A recent survey showed that a majority of Americans feel no safer today than they did 10-15 years ago. Yet 22 new prisons have been built in California alone within that very same time period! And California prison populations grew from 23,511 in 1980 to 216,140 in 1995. So, who are they locking up? According to a report issued by the Justice Policy Institute in March 1998, over the past 20 years the nonviolent prisoner population has tripled, the violent prisoner population doubled, while the prison population for drug related offenses increased eight-fold! In 1998, 77% of persons entering prisons and jails were nonviolent offenders.

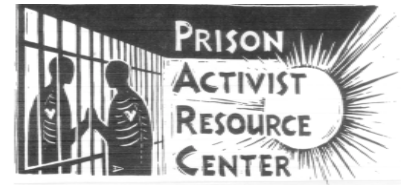
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The Vincent Simmons Support Committee now has a Listserve. To sign up go to: <http://vssl.listbot.com/>

For info on Vincent Simmons case see the last issue of It's About Time.

PRISON ACTIVIST RESOURCE CENTER

The US currently incarcerates over 2 million people in its prisons and jails. The Prison Activist Resource Center provides support for educators, activists, prisoners, and prisoners' families. This work includes building networks for action and producing materials that expose human rights violations, while fundamentally challenging the rapid expansion of the prison industrial complex.



Human rights activists and advocates for alternatives to incarceration are up against especially repressive conditions at this time. During the last 20 years, nationwide spending on K-12 education rose a mere 33%, while incarceration spending rose over 571%! Women now make up the fastest growing segment of the prison population, their numbers rising 500% since 1980. Seventy percent of U.S. prisoners are people of color, and the U.S. cages more people per capita than any other country. Educating our communities about these issues is one part of our fight against racism and class discrimination in the prison system and in society at large.

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NAACP REGISTERS

2.8 MILLION NEW VOTERS!!

Kweisi Mfume, NAACP President, says they have reached roughly 70% of their goal to register 4 million voters by November. The time is now to use your vote, use it as a weapon. It is especially important in local and statewide initiative campaigns and races.

TIRED OF PAYING RENT?

WANT TO BUY YOUR OWN HOME?

CALL ACORN COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

If you are low or moderate income, ACORN can help you become a homeowner. ACORN members have fought bank redlining and won millions of dollars of investment in our neighborhoods. While getting good lenders to invest more, we are also keeping predatory lenders out. Now we can help you achieve the American Dream of owning your own home!

Join ACORN's First Time Homebuyer Committee:

One-on-One Assistance from a Professional Loan Counselor

Credit Repair Assistance

Low Down Payments as Low as 3%

Below Market Interest Rates as Low as 1% Below Market

Organizing and Advocacy for the Rights of Homebuyers

For More Info: Call ACORN - in Sacramento, CA (916) 455-1795

in Oakland, CA (510) 436-5690

Record Settlement Against Tobacco Industry

A jury in Florida recently returned a record breaking judgment against several major tobacco companies. The class action suit was brought on behalf of the 300,000 to 700,000 Florida smokers who have become sick. The jury ordered Phillip Morris, which sells about half of the 20 billion packs of cigarettes sold yearly in the U.S. to pay \$73.9 billion in punitive damages. In addition, R.J. Reynolds is to pay \$36.28 billion, Lorillard Tobacco, \$16.25 billion and Liggett Group, \$790 million. Of course, the decision will be appealed, as the companies claim they would be bankrupt if they had to pay.

Statement from the BARRIO DEFENSE COMMITTEE

There is no independence for La Raza or for African people, only prisons and police brutality!

There are 8,000 lockdown in Corcoran State Prison and 3,000 of them are in the SHU. There are 200,000 lockdown in Califas alone. The majority in lockdown are Africans and Mexicans. The U.S. government must lockdown la Raza because our gente are a growing population in our own ancestral land. La Raza have been living in Aztlan for 50,000 years. But la Raza have been under the military control of a U.S. government that was born as a result of the mass murder of our people as the europeans stole our land. Today, we are 35 million in Aztlan, but we have no power. The majority of our gente are in poverty, we have no access to higher education, no access to decent housing. The U.S. government pumps massive drugs in the barrios where we live; the police and migra kill us and we have the worst jobs and the majority who are in the prisons in CalifAztlan are Raza. We are a colonized people.

Prisons are not meant to rehabilitate, they are meant to control a people. They are meant to break the fighting spirit of a people who have been fighting to get the gringo off of our backs for the last 500 years. Today, northamerican white people are living off of the fat of brown and black skins - they are filthy rich as a result of the prison economy. To give an idea: 100 African men are arrested for every one who graduates from college; 5 African men are in prison for every one in college; 70% of all African people in prison are incarcerated on drug related charges; twice as many white people as Africans use and fill (sic) crack, yet 90% of all those in prison for crack are Africans. Prisons and drugs make millions of dollars for white people. We demand economic development and an end to this brutal policy of police containment.

In 1994, the Corcoran prison guards made it a sport to put the Mexicans and Africans to fight each other "gladiator style" then shot and killed 9 of them. The families brought the Corcoran prison guards to trial in the Fresno courts for killing their loved ones. But Fresno is run and controlled by the prison guards and the courts have set the murderers free. The U.S. government has given the prisons a license to kill our gente. So, the families and their loved ones who were murdered can never see any justice in the U.S. court system. Justice will only come from the people!

On November 20th, 1999, 68 Mexican men declared a hunger strike in New Folsom Prison to expose the brutal conditions in all of the California

FBI to Release Lab Probe Documents

More than 53,000 pages of documents from the Justice Department's internal investigation of the FBI lab will be posted on the Internet for the public to read. The Justice Department agreed to post the documents July 6 and pay \$355,000 in legal fees to settle a lawsuit brought by defense lawyers and a whistleblower.

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, freelance writer and former spokesman Jack King and FBI lab chemist Frederick Whitehurst charged the lab with flawed scientific work and inaccurate, pro-prosecution testimony in major cases including the Oklahoma City bombing. The information is to be posted within 90 days of the agreement.

Editor's note: We know from our experiences with Cointelpro over 30 years ago that the FBI has a long history of fabricating "evidence" in order to neutralize effective organizers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
TO GEORGIA JACKSON
Sept. 21,
mother of George & Jonathan Jackson
We love you

prisons. On December 17, 1999, Governor Gray Davis attacked the New Folsom Prison hunger strikers and without notice to anyone, snatched them out of New Folsom Prison and stuffed them in maximum security prisons throughout California. Gray Davis condemned 7 of them to the SHU's in Pelican Bay and Corcoran State Prisons to die for standing up like true soldiers in defense of all of the lockdown. Their call was Emiliano Zapata's call: It is better to die on our feet fighting, than live like slaves on our Knees!

Jose Luis Avina, who was one of the New Folsom Prison hunger strikers was placed in the Corcoran SHU. Jose Luis is also the son of Quetzacoelociua Coordinator of the San Jose Barrio Defense Committee. The Barrio Defense Committee began as a result of Jose Luis' capture when he defended himself from a gringo who attacked him. The State tried to legally execute him, but organization and the power of la Raza pushed the State back. The State are the police, prisons, courts, public defenders, judges, social workers, snitches, politicians and sell out, kiss butt vendidos. They are organized by the U.S. government to break, divide and weaken the ever growing resistance of la Raza. We as Raza have a right to defend ourselves in our own land from hostile settlers. The Campaign to Free Jose Luis Now! Was formed to free Jose Luis and to expose the U.S. government's attack against Raza. The Campaign also mobilizes other families to defend their loved ones. We have a saying: Raza Lockdown are Political Prisoners of War in Aztlan! Free Jose Luis, Convict the Police!

Barrio Defense Committee
PO Box 1523, San Jose, CalifAztlan 95109 • (408)223-0938

BLACK BELT LOSES TWO CIVIL RIGHTS SOLDIERS

By Gaidi Faraj

Within the space of one week, two civil rights veterans died in Alabama's Black Belt. On April 7, Perry Varner died after battling cancer for ten years. Varner was a County Commissioner in Dallas County, where Selma is located and much of the voting rights movement took place.

On April 13, Albert Turner died while being prepped for surgery. Turner was a leader of the voting rights movement in Perry County. He was also one of the leaders of the Selma to Montgomery March in 1965, and was in the front lines when the marchers were brutally attacked and beaten by Alabama State Troopers.

Varner, a native of Gadsten, Alabama, moved to Selma 24 years ago. He was office manager at the law offices of Chestnut, Sanders, Sanders, Pettaway, Campbell and Albright. He was a founding member of the Alabama New South Coalition and the National Voting Rights Museum and Institute. He also served as an active member of several other community based organizations.

Varner was also one of the first Black county commissioners elected in Dallas County. He was described by state senator Hank Sanders as "a strong person, a warrior, and a community servant."

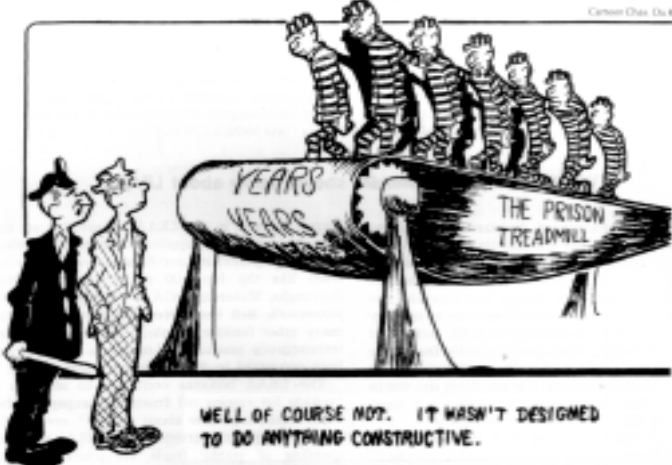
Local businessman Michael Hayes remembered Varner as a humble warrior for the downtrodden. "He'd always look out for the grassroots," said Hayes.

Turner, who was also a commissioner in his county, was remembered as one of the pillars of the civil rights movement in Alabama. Attorney J.L. Chestnut stated that there was no single person in Alabama who contributed more to the political progress of Black people during the last 35 years than Albert Turner. Turner, who led the mule cart which pulled Martin Luther King, Jr.'s body, was carried in his own mule cart during his funeral procession.

Gov. Davis 'No Parole' Policy

Creates 'Need' to Build \$335 Million Prison

(By Rose Braz - San Francisco Bay View - July 5, 2000)



Threatening to hold California's Board of Prison Terms in contempt, a state appeals court recently took the unprecedented step of essentially ordering the board to follow the law and parole Robert Rosenkrantz.

The backdrop to the court's extraordinary decision is what could be coined California's "no parole under any circumstances" policy, which has repercussions far beyond Rosenkrantz, sentenced to 15 years to life for the 1985 murder of a classmate.

The parole board, with Gov. Gray Davis as its head cheerleader, has created the justification for the state's latest boondoggle: the proposed construction of a new 5,000-bed, \$335-million maximum-security prison in Delano. California, however, doesn't need another prison.

Just five months ago, the Department of Corrections scratched plans to build four new 500-bed prisons. Why? Because in 1999, crime rates dropped for the eighth straight year, the state's prison population showed its smallest annual increase in 20 years, and the Golden State's prison population was almost 10,000 fewer than Corrections had projected. "It's strictly a population issue, and based on the figures we have right now we would not be in a position to need the beds," Corrections Director Cal Terhune explained.

If the state didn't need 2,000 beds five months ago, why does it need 5,000 beds at Delano? State officials no doubt will argue that what it needs are maximum-security beds. But California wouldn't need more maximum-security beds if only the parole board followed the law.

Made up of retired police chiefs, lawmakers and victims' rights advocates, the parole board denies parole in more than 99 percent of the approximately 2,000 cases it reviews each year. Davis has made matters even worse. He has vetoed every parole recommendation for an inmate serving an indeterminate sentence - one carrying no prescribed release date. In 1999, Davis vetoed 19 such recommendations. In sharp contrast, in his first year in office, law-and-order hawk Pete Wilson approved 54 recommendations.

The courts are not the only ones taking issue with the board and Davis. The governor's 2000 budget sets aside a whopping \$19 million for the parole board, an increase of \$1.4 million. The justification for the increased funding: the "no parole" policy. The Legislative Analyst's Office estimates that more than 4,000 inmates, incarcerated at an annual cost of at least \$100 million, are now eligible for parole and a total of 20,000 inmates are potentially subject to the "no parole" policy. The policy has manufactured an overcrowding crisis that is easily alleviated if only the parole board and Davis would actually parole someone.

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LA Cop Charged with Attempted Murder

Former Los Angeles Police Officer, Nino Durden, will be charged with attempted murder of Francisco Ovando. Nino Durden was once a partner of Rafael Perez, the officer who broke the LA police corruption scandal when he told investigators that he and other officers beat, framed and robbed people in the city's Rampart district, west of downtown. Perez said Durden shot Mr. Ovando and then planted a gun next to him. Mr. Ovando was shot in the spine and is paralyzed from the waist down.



DNA Frees Another Prisoner

San Diego - Frederick Daye served 10 years of a life sentence before DNA evidence proved he was innocent of robbery, rape and kidnapping charges. Now the D.A. office is checking hundreds of cases to make sure there are no others. San Diego's District Attorney's office has authorized free DNA testing for inmates who maintain their innocence and could be cleared by the biological evidence. The county will pick up the cost.

Several other California counties, including Sacramento, are considering adopting such a policy. Nationally, DNA evidence has been used successfully to overturn 69 convictions, including 8 death row sentences.

"Excuse Me Mr. Officer..."

Excuse me, Mr. Officer - to "serve" and "protect"
Your job isn't to put a foot on the neck!
Protecting the people, is what your job description reads
So where in the job description does it say, "Crack-a-skull-to-bleed?"
You see, there's been a breach of contract-
A misunderstanding of sort
'Cause, you're swinging your billy club around like baseball's the sport!
You're disobeying the rules, like the bully of the class
And you traded in your sheets in exchange for a badge.
Do blacks and browns at gunpoint make you feel like a man?
So that before they're of age, you put blood in the air?
What do you fear, Mr. Officer - in the black and blue?
Leery that your homicidal past will haunt you?
Why suicide, Mr. Officer, of do so many of you die?
Do the walls cry out from your palace of demise?
Sending you to the hell that you put so many through
When to serve and protect -
Was all you REALLY had to do.

By Adrian Jasper
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It's About Time...
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BLACK AUGUST 2000

A Story of African Freedom Fighters
By Kiilu Nyasha

Black August is a month of great significance for Africans throughout the diaspora, but particularly here in the U.S. where it originated. "August" as Mumia Abu-Jamal noted, "is a month of meaning, of repression and radical resistance, of injustice and divine justice; of repression and righteous rebellion, of individual and collective efforts to free the slaves and break the chains that bind us."

On this 21st anniversary of Black August, first organized to honor our fallen freedom fighters, Jonathan and George Jackson, Khatari Gaulden, James McClain, William Christmas, and the sole survivor of the August 7, 1970 Courthouse Slave Rebellion, Ruchell Cinque Magee; it is still a time to embrace the principles of unity, self-sacrifice, political education, physical fitness and/or training in martial arts, and resistance.

The concept, Black August, grew out of the need to expose to the light of day the glorious and heroic deeds of those Afrikan women and men who recognized and struggled against the injustices heaped upon people of color on a daily basis in America. One cannot tell the story of Black August without first providing the reader with a brief glimpse of the "Black Movement" behind California prison walls in the Sixties, led by George Jackson and W.L. Nolen, among others.

As Jackson wrote: "...when I was accused of robbing a gas station of \$70, I accepted a deal...but when time came for sentencing, they tossed me into the penitentiary with one to life. I was 18 years old...I met Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Engels, and Mao when I entered prison and they redeemed me. For the first four years I studied nothing but economics and military ideas. I met black guerrillas, George 'Big Jake' Lewis, and James Carr, W.L. Nolen, Bill Christmas, Torry Gibson, and many, many others. We attempted to transform the Black criminal mentality into a black revolutionary mentality. As a result, each of us has been subject to years of the most vicious reactionary violence by the state. Our mortality rate is almost what you would expect to find in a history of Dachau. Three of us (Nolen, Sweet Jugs Miller, and Cleve Edwards) were murdered several months ago (Jan. 13, 1969) by a pig shooting from thirty feet above their heads with a military rifle. (Soledad Brother: The Prison Letters of George Jackson).

When the brothers first demanded the killer guard be tried for murder, they were rebuffed. Upon their insistence, the administration held a kangaroo court and three days later returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide." Shortly afterward, a white guard was found beaten to death and thrown from a tier. Six days later, three prisoners were accused of murder and became known as The Soledad Brothers. "I am being tried in court right now with two other brothers, John Clutchette and Fleeta Drumgo, for the alleged slaying of a prison guard. This charge carries an automatic death penalty for me. I can't get life, I already have it."

On August 7, 1970, just a few days after George was transferred to San Quentin, his younger brother, Jonathan Jackson, 17, invaded Marin County Courthouse single-handed, with a satchel full of handguns, an assault rifle and a shotgun hidden under his raincoat. "Freeze," he com-



manded as he tossed guns to William Christmas, James McClain, and Ruchell Magee. Magee was on the witness stand testifying for McClain, on trial for assaulting a guard in the wake of a guard's murder of another Black prisoner, Fred Billingsley, beaten and teargassed to death. A jailhouse lawyer, Magee had deluged the courts with petitions for seven years contesting his illegal conviction in '63. The courts had refused to listen, so Magee seized the hour and joined the guerrillas as they took the judge, prosecutor and three jurors hostage to a waiting van. To reporters gathering quickly outside the courthouse, Jonathan shouted, "you can take our pictures. We are the revolutionaries!"

Operating with courage and calm even their enemies had to respect, the four Black freedom fighters commandeered their hostages out of the courthouse without a hitch. The plan was to use the hostages to take over a radio station and broadcast the racist, murderous prison conditions and demand the immediate release of The Soledad Brothers. But before Jonathan could drive the van out of the parking lot, the San Quentin guards arrived and opened fire. When the shooting stopped, Jonathan, Christmas, McClain and the judge lay dead. Magee and the prosecutor were critically wounded, and one juror suffered a minor arm wound.

Magee survived his wounds and was tried originally with co-defendant Angela Davis. Their trials were later severed and Davis was eventually acquitted of all charges. Magee was convicted of simple kidnap and remains in prison to date - 37 years with no physical assaults on his record. An incredible jailhouse lawyer, Magee has been responsible for countless prisoners being released - the main reason he was kept for nearly 20 years in one lockup after another. He is currently at Corcoran State Prison, having been recently transferred from Pelican Bay, remains strong and determined to win his freedom and that of all oppressed peoples.

In his second book, *Blood In My Eye*, published posthumously, Jackson noted: "Reformism is an old story in Amerika. There have been depressions and socio-economic political crises throughout the period that marked the formation of the present upper-class ruling circle and their controlling elites. But the parties of the left were too committed to reformism to exploit their revolutionary potential...Fascism has temporarily succeeded under the guise of reform." Those words ring even truer today as we witness a form of fascism that has replaced gas ovens with executions and torture chambers; plantations with prison industrial complexes deployed in rural white communities to perpetuate white supremacy and Black/Brown slavery.

The concentration of wealth at the top is worse than ever: One percent now owns more wealth than that of the combined 95% of the U.S. population; individuals are so rich their wealth exceeds the total budgets of scores of nations - as they plunder the globe in the quest for more. "The



BLACK AUGUST 2000

"August, in both historic and contemporary African-American history is a month of meaning, a month of injustice and divine justice; of repression and righteous rebellion; of individual and collective efforts to free the slaves, and break the chain that bind us." Mumia Abu-Jamal

FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 7-11 PM
PHOTO & ART EXHIBIT 6-7 PM
ALICE ART CENTER
1428 ALICE ST., OAKLAND

fascist must expand to live. Consequently he has pushed his frontiers to the farthest lands and peoples...I'm going to bust my heart trying to stop these smug, degenerate, primitive, omnivorous, uncivil...and anyone who would aid me, I embrace you."

"International capitalism cannot be destroyed without the extremes of struggle...We are the only ones... who can get at the monster's heart without subjecting the world to nuclear fire. We have a momentous historical role to act out if we will. The whole world for all time in the future will love us and remember us as the righteous people who made it possible for the world to live on...I don't want to die and leave a few sad songs and a hump in the ground as my only monument. I want to leave a world that is liberated from trash, pollution, racism, nation-states, nation-state wars and armies, from pomp, bigotry, parochialism, a thousand different brands of untruth, and licentious, usurious economics." (Soledad Brother)

On August 21, 1971, after numerous failed attempts on his life, the State finally succeeded in assassinating George Jackson, then Field Marshall of the Black Panther Party, in what was described by prison officials as an escape attempt in which Jackson allegedly smuggled a gun into San Quentin in a wig. That feat was proven impossible, and evidence subsequently suggested a setup designed by prison officials to eliminate Jackson once and for all.

However, they didn't count on losing any of their own in the process. On that fateful day, three notoriously racist prison guards and two inmate turnkeys were also killed, presumably by Jackson who was shot and killed by guards as he drew fire away from the other prisoners in the Adjustment Center of San Quentin. Subsequently, six A/C prisoners were singled out and put on trial - wearing 30 lbs of chains in Marin courthouse - for various charges of murder and assault: Fleeta Drumgo, David Johnson, Hugo L.A. Pinell (Yogi), Luis Talamantez, Johnny Spain, and Willie Sundiata Tate. Only one was convicted of murder, Johnny Spain. The others were either acquitted or convicted of assault. Pinell is the only one remaining in prison and has suffered prolonged torture in lockups since 1969. He is currently serving his 10th year in Pelican Bay's SHU, a torture chamber if ever there was one. A true warrior, Pinell would put his life on the line to defend his fellow captives. As decades passed, our Black scholars, like Mumia Abu-Jamal, learned of other liberation moves that happened in Black August. E.g., in Haiti, the first and only armed revolution whereby Africans freed themselves from chattel slavery commenced in August. Nat Turner's slave rebellion began on August 21, 1831 (coincidence?), and Harriet Tubman's Underground Railroad started in August. As Mumia stated, "Their sacrifice, their despair, their determination and their blood has painted the month Black for all time."

Let us honor our martyred freedom fighters as George Jackson counseled: "Settle your quarrels, come together, understand the reality of our situation, understand that fascism is already here, that people are already dying who could be saved, that generations more will live poor butchered half-lives if you fail to act. Do what must be done, discover your humanity and your love in revolution".



Here are the contact numbers for Al-Amin/H.Rap Brown:

What can you do?

Consider writing to the officials at Fulton County Jail in Atlanta, Georgia to request halal or kosher meals for the Imam. That is a simple humanitarian act that any one can do.

Also, the Imam would like to get letters, although he may be unable to answer each one.

Talk to people about his case and don't let everyone fall asleep...when that happens, political prisoners can languish for too long in the U.S. prison system.

Send a donation to the Justice Fund.

Mail to the Imam:
Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (0013284-ST-06-06)
Fulton County Jail
901 Rice Street
Atlanta, GA 30318

Donations should only be sent to:
The Justice Fund
P.O. Box 93963
Atlanta, GA 30377
(Imam Jamil Al-Amin's name should be put in the memo section of the checks and money orders.)

The Defense committee is : International Committee to support Imam •
Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (ICSIJAA)
547 West End Place, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30310
(770) 215 - 2152

SACRED from Page 2

come aware of our surroundings, our children are watching us! Our children do as we do, they imitate us, their peers. I say it's time we returned to our sacred ways, there is no hatred and alcoholism and drug abuse and discrimination for your own people in traditional beliefs. The traditional ways are truth, and with truth comes love, happiness and harmony. That's the traditional, sacred way.

Gregory Eugene Two Feathers Brown BY-7912
PO Box 999, 1120 Pike Street
Huntingdon, PA 16652

PRISONS from Page 3

I ask you, what does America gain by delaying our terrors and constantly flooding our 'criminal factories' with persons whom are doomed to only come out worse at the opposite end? Would you continue to take your car to the same wash if it returned dirtier than it was when it left? It doesn't make any sense does it? It only serves to make the establishment a profit at your unsatisfied expense! So, then, why continue to pay for and support such an obviously foolish political endeavor as mass incarceration? While prisons are built at a faster rate than colleges and schools remain shamefully over-crowded, due to lack of finance!

Yes. Prisons; some profit but at what cost? What cost indeed.

Mr. Godfather (98 MSMC)

Driving While Black or Brown

Dear Senator Murray,

There is a national sports commentator, Papa Joe Chavalier. He's your typical white world supremacist - the euro-centric way is the best way and ultimately the only way! He made the comment on national radio that America had forgiven Muhammad Ali for the rational, principled position he took against the obscene, unjust Viet Nam War!
This is unadulterated arrogance!!



History has absolved Ali and those who opposed the war, and it is the U.S. government and the proponents of the imperialist adventure who should ask the world for forgiveness!

One must applaud your effort and courage to check and eventually eliminate the authoritarian practice of "racial profiling!" It was announced that Governor Davis agreed to a "compromise." Essentially, he bowed down to the fact that his political future - re-election in 2002

or presidential ambitions - is inextricably connected to the vote of the people of color. He cannot succeed without our vote and support; however, he can succeed without the vote of the political right and the opportunistic victims rights groups - a minority with a loud voice who don't give a damn about the people, social justice or the rule of law. (Proposition 21 was passed by a vote of 4 million people in a state of 33,000,000! This is because our people are not registered and are not voting - so, the minority is holding the majority hostage to their reactionary agenda!)

There is one criticism of the "compromise" that came from the representative of the American Civil Liberties Union. They and others representing the civil rights coalition were not consulted regarding the compromise with Gray Davis. Keep in mind that even though much of the American political process is about representative democracy, ideally we want to raise the bar to the level of participatory democracy, where the masses of the people are active participants at every level of the political process

It is the elected officials such as yourself and Senator Polanco who must serve as heroes for the people...their champions and protectors and serving their true interests. (How many Africans and people of color are serving life sentences under the 3 strikes law which was precipitated by racial profiling??!!)

Also, it should be noted that the same pressure that caused Davis to "blink" with regard to the racial profiling, can be applied to compel Davis to implement Senator Polanco's Board of Prison Terms reforms and permit life prisoners to parole to their families and communities. It is not a question of being soft on crime or special favor; it is simply a matter of standing on the rule of law - an indispensable component of a democratic society. Our community needs our presence to provide progressive leadership for our young people and bring them into the political process... to get them off the streets to the round table to negotiate a permanent peace between the



gangs and the 'hoods.

Finally, U.S. Senator McCain recently returned to Viet Nam. Being true to his arrogance and notions of supremacy, McCain expressed no remorse for the atrocities committed against the Vietnamese people and their land. McCain further maintains that the wrong side won the war.

I being up the examples of Muhammad Ali and Viet Nam to show how the Davis' and McCain's, in spite of their rise to political prominence and public trust, expose themselves to be unscrupulous individuals who will stand on the wrong side of principle and history when it serves their personal interests.

Therefore, we must have faith in the people - a well informed people will ultimately become a liberated people and hold the politicians and governments accountable.

Congratulations to you and Senator Polanco for making it clear to Governor Davis that without the people he is nothing!

Sincerely,

Romaine Fitzgerald B27527

Salinas Valley State Prison - B2115

PO Box 1040

Soledad, CA 93960-1040

EDITOR'S NOTE: *It was not only Governor Davis who bowed down to a compromise, Senator Murray caved and agreed to a compromise bill on racial profiling which essentially removed the most important part - requiring police to record the race of everyone they stop. The current bill adds essentially nothing to existing law and was a sell out.*

Letter to the Editor:

Mr. Bill Jennings

It's About Time

Dear Bill,

On behalf of the Racial Justice Coalition, I want to send my heartfelt thanks to you for helping to make possible the statewide April 27th protest against racial profiling by law enforcement in California. Your efforts contributed to our success in organizing more than one thousand people to go to Sacramento to demand that Governor Davis sign a mandatory data collection bill so that communities can track and prove discrimination by the police.

We are most appreciative of your helping to do outreach in Sacramento. Most importantly, your work helped to ensure that the victims of racial profiling could be heard. Thus, one of the most persistent forms of illegal conduct by police agencies throughout the state has been thrown into the spotlight. The outcome is that thousands of California residents in the struggle against racial profiling have been stirred into motion, a constituency that has now become active and organized.

We are enclosing articles related to the current status of our campaign to end racial profiling in California. Governor Davis and Senator Murray cut a deal in which Davis agreed to sign a purely symbolic bill on racial profiling that does not include data collection. Murray caved in under pressure from Davis and sold out communities of color. We cannot allow this deal to stand.

Thanks again for your contributing your time, talent and resources. Our struggle to expose and do away with racial profiling by law enforcement could not have made it this far without you. Our sincere hope is that you will continue to work with us in the future to build an organized constituency that will eradicate biased police practices in California.

Sincerely,

Michelle Alexander, Director

ACLU Racial Justice Project

I WAIT

By Albert Woodfox - Angola 3

6X8 cell, and I wait
 I wait for revolution, and I wait
 for unity, and I wait for peace!
 I wait while people shoot up dope,
 and while people smoke down grass!
 Yes, I wait, am I a fool?
 I wait, I wait and I wait!
 People party down, and I wait,
 I wait while people do the boogy,
 robot, bus stop, and hustle
 our lives away!
 I wait while people drag ass
 Education, agitation, organization
 I'm still waiting
 Justice! I'm waiting
 And I wait, and wait, and wait!
 FREEDOM! Who knows? but I wait!
 Gates flying open, people running
 jumping, screaming, laughing, and
 I wait!
 Can I be wrong to wait?
 I even wait for answers that never
 come, foolish huh? But I wait!
 I'm waiting for justice for those
 murdered, pigs killing our youth,
 and I wait for it to stop!
 People waiting for food stamps,
 hunger stalks, waiting for medical
 aid, bodies die. Decent homes cause
 there's too many rats, roaches and
 snails, I'm still waiting!
 I wait for truth in schools, I ask
 for truth, and I'm told to WAIT!
 I wait while youth dies from my body,
 death stalks my soul, and I wait!
 I wait while revolutions of liberations
 Sweeps across the world, Amerikkka, I'm
 waiting!
 I wait for black man and woman to discover
 love, I wait for them to discover it, yes,
 I wait! I wait for the embrace of family,
 sound of father, brother, black man, and son,
 and I still wait! Seconds turn to years, years
 turn to centuries and I wait!
 WHY?

RANTINGS

(On dealing with the u.s. injustice system)
 From *Taking Names and Pointing Fingers*, V.S.
 Chochezi and Staajabu, 1997)

First they'll...
 Administrate yah, asphyxiate yah
 debilitate yah, decapitate yah
 dilapidate yah, discriminate yah,
 emasculate yah, hallucinate yah
 humiliate yah, incarcerate yah
 intimidate yah, manipulate yah,
 miscalculate yah, miseducate yah,
 redesignate yah, denunciate yah,

Then they'll
 aggravate yah, confiscate yah,
 decimate yah, denigrate yah,
 deprive yah, devastate yah
 fluctuate yah, imitate yah,
 irritate yah, mutilate yah,
 operate yah, reseruate yah,
 relegate yah, ruinuate yah,
 suffocate yah, underrate yah,

And
 berate yah, castrate yah, cremate yah,
 frustrate yah, inmate yah, ingrate yah,
 low rate yah, mistake yah, mutate yah
 remake yah, retake yah

bate yah, break yah, fake yah,
 grate yah, hate yah
 rape yah, scrape yah, snake yah,
 Shake yah, stake yah

Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh
 EXTERMINATE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By Staajabu
staajabu@usa.net, 2615 D ST., #2, Sacramento,
 CA 95816

APOLOGY

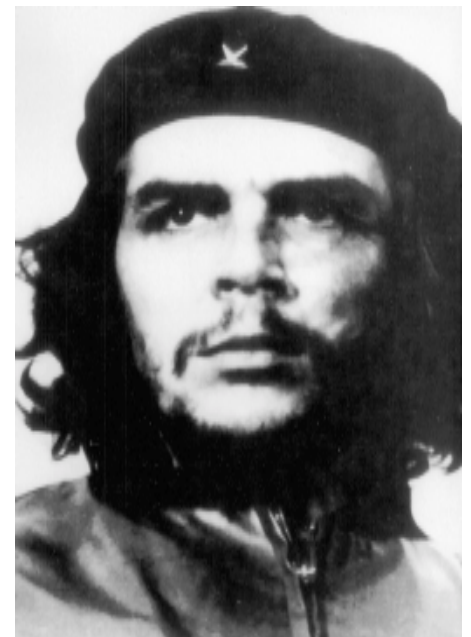
Apologies fall like dead leaves
 from the mouths of old presidents,
 they fall
 long after bones of the disappeared
 have turned to dust
 and their grandchildren wonder
 at the burning flesh-eater
 that lives in their blood,

apologies flow from congressional committees,
 polluted waters
 that wind thru a hypnotized people,
 meant to soothe painful confrontation
 to their continued complicity
 in the destruction of the earth's children,

apologies excuse past killers
 and cover up
 present day murders in progress,
 they move the eyes of inquiry
 from now to past events,
 bathe the apologists in angelic light,
 hiding the opportunism
 that lives in their souls,

these apologies are a silence
 of misleading intent,
 presenting a script
 of equality and brotherhood
 that will never occur in their system,
 these apologies will be passed on
 from president to president,
 congress to congress,
 a long string of empty hearts
 and masked faces
 that yell out a continued fiction.

Phil Goldvarg



HERE WE ARE 30 ODD YEARS LATER

(Tribute to Lil Bobby)

Brotha you were a youth
 in a man's body, on a mission
 in service of your peoples,
 Head held high, a true van-
 guard of the peoples and
 there to defend your peoples
 by any means necessary. Here
 we are 30 odd years later....
 Your image is still with us,
 It's so alive we can touch it.
 Here we are 30 odd years later.

Our young brotha's and sista's
 need to know you, know what
 you stood for, we need to pass
 the torch on to them, they need
 to know your death has given them
 life and that life is to serve our
 peoples as the Black Panther Party did. Here we are
 30 odd years later.

In Memory of Lil Bobby Hutton
 Bro. Paul Redd Jr.

REVOLUTIONARY RESPECTS

By Fred Hampton Jr.

To the outgunned, the outnumbered and sometimes outmanned,
To the freedom fighters who fought hard and played their part in the
fight for the land,
War wounds and battle scars, discarded dreams and broken hearts,
Countless casualties and millions to be mourned,
Fallen comrades, captured soldiers and prisoners of war,
Cats who haven't been compromised and those who have lost their lives.
Those who chose to die first rather than go to the other side,
The emotionally effected, those forgotten and neglected,
Men and women we didn't defend because so-called society rejected,
The ones they slandered and also hated,
The imprisoned, the tortured and the isolated,
The visionaries, the dreamers, the fighters and speakers,
The resistors, the ridahs (sic), the rank and file and leaders.
We've incurred many losses in a number of ways,
Let the record reflect revolutionary respect for the price that you paid.

In Memory Of -

PAT HILLIARD - one of the first women members of the BPP - passed away in Oakland, CA, on April 21. She was 56. Pat joined the Party in 1966 with her husband David. She later was party treasurer and she was responsible for collecting and distributing money for the then 18 chapters and branches around the country. Pat was a hard worker who always showed love for her comrades. She was gentle, kind, considerate and never abused her position. Pat was loved by all her comrades. She was a mother and grandmother. She will be deeply missed.



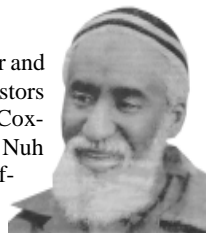
CONNIE MATTHEWS - Connie worked in the International Section of the BPP, representing the Party in the Scandinavian countries. Later she became Huey's personal secretary. Connie was a victim of Cointelpro when the FBI wrote inflammatory letters to Central Headquarters in her name. She passed away in Jamaica.

FRED KNOWLAND - Fred worked out of the San Francisco office of the BPP. He also worked out of Central Distribution. He was a dedicated and hard working brother. He was killed in a hit and run car accident in San Francisco.

GEORGE LLOYD - George worked out of the San Francisco office in the early years of the Party. We recently learned of George's death but no details are available.

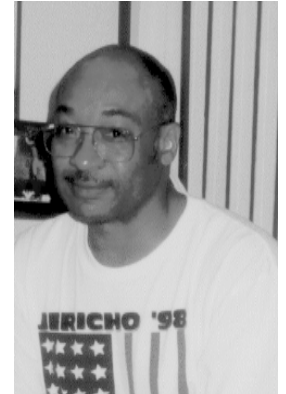
DR. ALBERT MONROE SHARP - Albert was a SNCC organizer and head of their Chicago office. He registered people to vote and participated in the Freedom Rides in the 60's in the South. He was a supporter of the BPP and was driven underground by Mayor Daley's police department and Cointelpro. He later surfaced in Africa and traveled to many countries.

NUH WASHINGTON - Our revolutionary brother and freedom fighter, Nuh Washington, joined the ancestors on April 28, 2000, at the Regional Medical Unit at Cocksackie Correctional Facility in New York. Brother Nuh worked out of San Francisco and the New York offices of the BPP.



Where are they now?

SHERRY BROWN joined the BPP in 1969 in Baltimore, MD. He also worked in the Philadelphia Chapter, New York Chapter and at National Headquarters in Oakland, CA. While in Oakland he worked on the boycott at Bill Boyette's* liquor store, the Bobby Seale for Mayor and Elaine Brown for City Council campaigns and wrote articles for the BPP newspaper.



Since his BPP years, Sherry has managed election campaigns and continued political and community organizing around social justice issues. He is currently Director of the "Beyond Food/DC Americorps Program" which is dedicated to developing leaders and finding solutions for the problems of hunger.

**editor's note - The boycott of Bill Boyette's liquor store was intended to persuade Black businesspeople to contribute money to programs in the community.*

JIMMY SLATER - Jimmy worked as a community worker for a year before joining the Cleveland Chapter of the BPP in 1969. As a party member, Jimmy served the people body and soul, working on the Free Breakfast Program; they had 3 programs in different parts of the city. Jimmy also worked in the Free Clothing Program and sold the Black Panther Newspaper door to door.

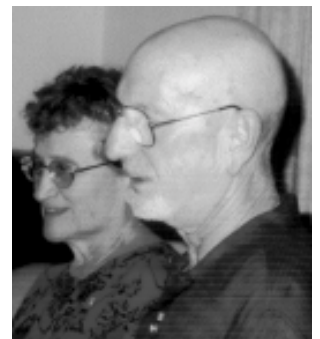


As a party member in Cleveland, he took part in the election of Carl B. Stokes, the city's first African-American mayor and the first African-American mayor of any major city. Party members registered thousands to vote.

Jimmy came out to California to work on the campaign of Bobby Seale for mayor in 1972. Using the skills he learned from the Carl Stokes campaign, Jimmy registered many Oaklanders to vote. Jimmy also worked at the West Oakland Community Center and after the campaign, worked at the Youth Center in E. Oakland until 1977.

Today, Jimmy lives in Oakland and works for the city. Jimmy is known for his practice, his devotion to the struggle and hard work. Since leaving the Party, Jimmy still works hard promoting the legacy of the Party. Jimmy has coached Little League in East Oakland for years, teaching team work and cooperation. He was instrumental in starting the Commemorator Newspaper, helped set-up Geronimo Day in Oakland, and in setting up Bobby Hutton Day. Jimmy is a living example of a Panther.

SAUL AND CEC LEVINSON - After many years of political activism, the Levinsons became involved with the BPP after Huey's arrest. They first became involved with "Honkies for Huey" and soon were traveling around the country setting up Huey P. Newton defense committees in the white community. After participating in the United Front Against Fascism Conference in 1969, they organized a branch of NCCF (National Committees to Combat Fascism) in North Berkeley. This NCCF worked closely with the West Berkeley Panther Office on several projects, including a citywide petition for community control of the police. The Berkeley NCCF functioned like a



Party Chapter, selling papers, attending Party political education classes and working at distribution on Wednesdays to get the paper out. They also ran several community programs, including free childcare, a first-aid station, a free plumbing service and community film showings.

Saul was a junior high school math teacher in West Oakland for many years, and many Party members had been his students. Although now semi-retired, he continues to work with the UC Berkeley Upward Bound Program, bringing in low-income students to the university.

Cec is presently working in community theater, and they both continue to be politically active. They have spent many years working on the Names Project - the AIDS Memorial Quilt. They also continue to work for political prisoners and are frequently seen at It's About Time events.

FIELD MARSHALL - DONALD COX (DC)

DC was a Central Committee member and has been in exile since 1971. His leadership is legendary. He always led by example. DC taught party members how to survive. One of his functions as Field Marshall was to check on the ~30 offices of the BPP and make sure they were functioning under the guidelines of the Central Committee. Problem solving and fund raising were also a part of his job.



Presently, DC is living in the south of France. He is in the process of writing a book about his experiences in the BPP. A chapter of his book can be found in New Political Science Journal, Vol. 21, No. 2, June 1999. He also grows lavender and other herbs to sell.

It's About Time members recently visited DC in France. He sends his love to all the comrades and says to keep up the struggle.

DAVIS from Page 5

According to the legislative analyst, the "no parole" policy has added to the pressure on the state to build additional maximum-security bed space, such as the prison under construction near Delano.

Parole is not the only obvious solution to overcrowded prisons. This November, Californians will have the opportunity to vote on the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000. The initiative, which provides for alternatives to incarceration for nonviolent offenders charged with drug possession, would drastically decrease the need for new prisons. The legislative analyst reports that if the initiative passes, as many as 25,000 non-violent drug possession offenders per year would be diverted to drug treatment instead of being sent to prison. That, according to the analyst, would mean at least 10,000 fewer prison beds would be needed, and the state could save between \$475 million and \$575 million just in prison construction costs.

California has spent \$4.2 billion on new prisons in the past 15 years. Since 1980, the state has built 23 new prisons, but only one new university. As a result, California ranks No. 1 in the nation in prison spending, but 41st in education spending. Lockups have displaced dams, roads and schools as the state's new public works program. And history teaches us, if you build them, you fill them.

(Rose Braz is a criminal defense attorney in Oakland and program director for *Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex*. She may be reached at 510-444-0484.)

FROM COAST TO COAST

By Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa

in a vestibule
of the apartment building in the
Bronx
where he lived
where flying piranha fish of lead
zipped through confining space
to chew an unarmed man to death
who trapped by his dark skin
could not escape the swarm of
death
that raged with puffs of smoke
and streaks of fire
from red-hot barrels of cold steel
in hands that were colder still
of undercover cops without
sheets
whose inclination was to kill
in an act of social "cleansing"
that took mere seconds to enforce
Amadou fell
was swept in the murderous tide
like Tyisha
the sister in Riverside

who just weeks before
had sat locked in her car
in a public place
out cold and slouched in the seat
in the haze of an epileptic sleep
that left her vulnerable
as she was slumped there alone
with a gun on her lap
when the police arrived
to bang on the window at first
but banging on glass
did not quench the thirst
for blood
of devils in blue
whose brimstone eyes blazed
with genocidal urge to turn
a car into a hellish tomb
and fingers yanked at triggers
in eager interplay
to end the light of day
for one African too many
in a California town
after sundown.

Statement of Purpose

The It's About Time Committee is committed to preserving and promoting the legacy of the Black Panther Party (BPP) and its programs of community survival pending social change. We will commemorate the historic legacies of the BPP as well as the many sacrifices and constructive contributions that all of us made while serving the people body and soul.

We have the responsibility to place our own experiences into historical context; otherwise the legacy of the Black Panther Party will be ignored, dismissed and distorted by today's commentators and tomorrow's historians.

We will maintain a network of Black Panther Party alumni and supporters for the purpose of providing educational information to community groups or the public at large regarding issues of social justice. This will include publishing a newsletter and maintaining a speakers' bureau. We also organize local community events and support other community organizations who promote social justice issues. We provide mentoring for urban youth groups to encourage positive community activity and volunteerism.

We commemorate the sacrifices of those who fell in body and spirit to the prevailing internal and external forces of those times. We must continue to bring attention to the plight of the many political prisoners and exiles who were victims of the government repression which contributed to the Party's demise.

We need to reclaim our history and dispel the many myths about the Party.
IT'S ABOUT TIME!

**30th ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NEW ORLEANS
SHOOT-OUT**



Former BPP members are gathering in New Orleans to remember the shoot-out at the Desire Housing Projects in 1970. There will be a campout at the site of the shooting on Sept. 15 and a dance and fund-raiser for the Angola 3 on Sept 16. For more information: contact Marion by e-mail at pantherette859@cs.com.

Recommended Reading:

1. New Political Science, A Journal of Politics and Culture Special Issue: Liberation, Imagination and the Black Panther Party (Vol. 21, No. 2, June 1999, co-editor Kathleen Cleaver)
2. Prison Writings - My Life is My Sun Dance By Leonard Peltier
3. Taking Names and Pointing Fingers by V.S. Chochezi and Staajabu
4. All Things Censored by Mumia Abu Jamal
5. The Black Panther Party Reconsidered Edited by Charles E. Jones Printed by Black Classic Press
6. Police Brutality, An Anthology Edited by Jill Nelson



Respect and Protect Each Other!

By Runako-Gamba 1997

We must realize brothers and sisters...
that it's now a brand new day.
But still we must constantly struggle...
to create a better way.
We have to save the children...
everyone must stand up now.
To show we truly love them...
to show them when and how.
Daily we must struggle...
to aid our sisters and our brothers
We all must know that love is measured...
by how we treat each other.
So don't get caught up in confusion...

fighting your sisters or your brothers
Or taking from the fatherless child...
by exploiting his beloved mother.
Don't become a victim using or selling dope...
this is a plan designed by the man to destroy our
people's hope.
Let us come together, in love of freedom...
my sisters and my brothers
Whatever else it is that you do...
REMEMBER,
**WE MUST RESPECT AND PROTECT EACH
OTHER!**



It's About Time...

P.O. Box 221100

Sacramento, CA 95822