



# It's About Time...



Volume 4 Number 4

Fall 2000

## TO THE SISTERS IN THE BLACK LIBERATION STRUGGLE

The African woman continues to be exploited, as an African, as a worker, and as a woman. She suffers from both mental and physical oppression and abuse. In industrial cities and in rural areas, more African women and families live below the poverty line than in 1970. Trapped in low-paying jobs, our chil-



dren suffer at the hands of a poor educational system and the abusive police.

The African woman must organize and be educated (brothers also). Set your sights on permanent change that will transform our society and the conditions of our people - a true liberation struggle. We must strive for complete change, not just reforms. We must fight against all ideas, traditions and practices that hold us back from true emancipation.

**FORWARD ALWAYS!**

## CUBA OFFERS TO SEND DOCTORS TO U.S.

Before the Cuban Revolution 41 years ago, there were only 6,000 doctors in Cuba. Now there are 66,000 doctors in Cuba and 3,000 Cuban doctors are in service in other countries. The Cuban National Assembly recently offered to send an undetermined number of doctors to Mississippi and other U.S. states where trained medical personnel are in short supply.

Cuba has also offered free medical training in Cuba for 500 Americans; targeting African-Americans, Latino-Americans, Native Americans and people from other poor communities. Cuban leader Fidel Castro made the offer in May to visiting U.S. lawmakers from the Congressional Black Caucus.

Before the 1959 revolution, there was no system for public health and there was only one public hospital in Havana. Public health care was scarce in the countryside. Today, 46 hospitals provide medical education, including specialty training, and there are 4 formal medical schools. Health care is available and free to all citizens from birth. Despite the scarcity of resources due to the economic embargo imposed the U.S., Cuba has a model health care system.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**\*Sacramento** - California will forfeit about 590 million dollars in federal matching funds for children without health insurance. A bill which earmarked a share of the state's tobacco settlement to insure working parents and their children died in the legislature due to inaction.

With 7.5 million Californians lacking insurance and their ranks growing every month, SB673 by Sen. Martha Escutia was hailed as the best opportunity to stem the crisis. The legislature failed to act on the bill and many others before the current term ran out.

These people should be run out of office. Legislators work for us, the people. Employees in the private sector who failed to do their jobs would be fired. Do not reelect them. Hold your elected officials responsible.

**\*San Francisco** - A federal appeals panel has narrowed the powers of police to search the homes of hundreds of thousands of Californians on probation. The panel wrote that probationer's homes can only be searched under the terms of probation. They cannot be searched as a mere subterfuge for the pursuit of a new criminal investigation.

**\*U.S. Prisoners** Number Over 2 Million - You know the facts!!

**\*Los Angeles** - Operation Easy Money - The L.A. Sheriff's Department suspended 4 deputies and 7 civilian employees for stealing credit cards and obtaining one million dollars in cash.

**\*Montebello** - Southern California Gas Co. was fined \$3.5 million for forcing about 500 landowners to sell mineral rights at unfair prices and lying about it to regulators.

**\*California** - \$365 million has been allotted to build a prison hospital in Coalinga, which will house up to 1500 prisoners. We need more schools - not

*See News Briefs on Page 2*

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## SACRAMENTO P.D. ARE RECKLESS DRIVERS

The city of Sacramento has paid \$2.9 million to settle a lawsuit stemming from another police patrol car wreck. This is the fifth person in less than 2 years to receive a huge payment as a result of a police patrol car accident, costing the taxpayers a total of \$9.9 million. This reflects a disregard for human safety and taxpayers should not have to subsidize reckless behavior by the police. Individuals should be held accountable!

## FIRESTONE TIRES SCANDAL

To date, 103 people have been reported killed in accidents involving Firestone tires. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said it received about 800 reports of tire tread separation, blowouts, and other problems with the tires since Aug. 31, 2000. There have been reports of over 400 injuries. Most accidents have involved the Ford Explorer, the world's top-selling sports utility vehicle, on which Firestone tires are standard equipment.



Continental General Tire announced it will replace 160,000 tires - mostly from Lincoln Navigators - because they were found to be susceptible to losing tread. Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. recalled 6.5 million ATX, ATX II and Wilderness AT tires.

Firestone didn't announce the recall until August, but Ford began a recall of Firestone tires in 16 countries more than a year before the U.S. recall. Also, there are lawsuits dating back a decade regarding claims of tire tread separation.

The N.Y. Times reported in 1999 that Federal traffic accident data showed that 52 people died in 40 accidents in Explorers in which the tires were the problem, twice as many as 1998.

We believe that this is a clear case of Corporate Greed and Criminal Activity resulting in the loss of human life.

NEWS BRIEFS from Page 1 —————  
more prisons!

**\*Berlin, Germany** - Three neo-nazis were found guilty of the racist murder of Alberto Adriano from Mozambique. One will receive a life sentence and the others nine years each.

**\*Los Angeles** - More Convictions Tossed in LAPD Scandal - Clinton Harris, 36, will be freed. He was framed by two undercover cops at the center of the police corruption probe. This ruling brings to 98 the number of cases dismissed due to police corruption.

**\*California** - According to the U.S. Census Bureau, whites are no longer a majority in the state.

**\*Washington** - The Supreme Court barred California from dispensing marijuana to people who are sick or in pain. Nearly 4 years ago, voters approved a statewide initiative allowing seriously ill patients to obtain marijuana with a doctor's recommendation. The Court ruled that federal law supercedes state law, yet several counties continue their medical marijuana distribution in defiance of the ruling.

**\*San Francisco** - The California Supreme Court ruled that the identities of prosecution witnesses must be disclosed to the defense, even if they believe their lives are in danger. The unani-

## THE SELMA ELECTION

By Gaidi Faraj

On October 2, 2000, the crowd overflowed into the hall of the Selma City Council chambers as people gathered to witness the historic swearing in of Selma's first Black Mayor, James Perkins, Jr.

Perkins defeated the nine term incumbent Joe T. Smitherman in a run-off election on September 12. This was Perkins third attempt to unseat the segregation era Smitherman, and the first time he made it to a run-off. Perkins received 6,230 votes to Smitherman's 4,884. Both of these totals were way up from the vote totals in the general election in which Perkins and Smitherman received 4,076 and 4,352 votes respectively. Going against the trend of low voter turnout across the country, well over 50% of Selma's citizens voted in this election.

Selma is known for its role in the Voting Rights Movement in the 1960's. It gained national attention in 1965 when a group of civil rights workers were savagely beaten by racist state troopers and local whites as they attempted to march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, which leads out of Selma towards the Alabama State capital of Montgomery. Two weeks later the marchers successfully completed the march with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Kwame Toure among those making the trek.

Joe T. Smitherman was mayor of Selma during the attack on the marchers in 1965 and once referred to King as Martin Luther Coon. He was a supporter of segregation and fought recent efforts in Selma to remove the Confederate battle flag from the city seal.

The effort to defeat Smitherman put Selma back in the national spotlight as activists from around the country came to support the effort to get him out of office after 36 years. Geronimo ji Jaga made several trips to Selma and encouraged others to get involved. Following his lead celebrities like actor Sean Penn also descended on Selma to attend mass meetings and offer words of encouragement. Others who came for various events include Martin Luther King III, Dick Gregory, Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth and numerous delegations representing the NAACP, SCLC and other community and college based organizations.

Selma also has a reputation for being one of the more racially divided cities in this part of the country, with White voters almost unanimously supporting the White incumbent and the Black community supporting Perkins. Perkins' campaign centered on the idea of truth and reconciliation which drew implicit parallels between Selma and South Africa. Many Whites made public statements that if Perkins were elected, the White businesses in town would flee and Selma would go into severe economic decline. Very few Whites attended the inauguration.

The racial divide was evident at the swearing in ceremony where Perkins was sworn in with the new city council which has six Blacks and three Whites. Each member was sworn in individually. All of the Black members were sworn in by Black judges or ministers while all of the White members of the council elected to be sworn in by a White judge, a symbolic representation of the divide between these two communities.



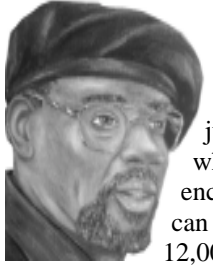
See NEWS BRIEFS on Page 4



## ANGOLA 3 UPDATE Letters to the Editor

Fellow workers,

I am just back from a two day seminar of left unionists in Brazil, organized by the Metalworkers Section of the main labor federation, the CUT. The meeting was designed to facilitate ongoing international labor solidarity work, but covered other things, like the situation in Columbia.



I distributed flyers about the Angola 3 to just about all of the approximately 75 delegates who came from a dozen countries. The most encouraging response came from the South African delegate, Abraham Agulhas, the leader of the 12,000 member Oil, Chemical and Allied Workers, and someone who lobbied the leadership of the Congress of South African Trade Unions to support Mumia Abu-Jamal.



We talked at some length about the Angola 3 and he clearly indicated that he will take the information I gave him back to South Africa and talk to other union leaders there about the Angola 3. I am quite certain he will come through for us. I have his e-mail address if anyone would like to contact him directly.

Bruce Allen, Canada e-mail: Praxis1871@aol.com

(editor's note: Bruce is a labor organizer in Canada and an active supporter of the Angola 3, Mumia, and other political prisoners. It's About Time salutes his ongoing work.)

Hey comrades,

We had about 100 people, including Geronimo and Afeni, come to the event marking the 30 year anniversary of the Desire Housing Project shootout in New Orleans and support for the Angola 3. We got a lot of positive feedback and an offer from one of the bands to do another benefit. We also ended up with a dedicated cadre of college students who are setting up speaking engagements for us.

Thanks for all your support.  
Peace, Marion

## REMEMBER THE ATTICA PRISON UPRISING

Sept. 9-13, 1971

Over 28 years ago at the Attica State Prison in upstate New York, prisoners who were fed up with poor conditions took control of the prison. Their demands included an end to guard brutality, better food, medical care, and the right to read certain newspapers; i.e. the Black Panther Community News Service and the Black Muslim paper. After several days of negotiation, against the wishes of the state's negotiating team, then Gov. Nelson Rockefeller ordered state troopers to retake the prison. Using helicopters and tear gas, they fired their guns indiscriminately into a crowd of 1281 inmates. This action resulted in the deaths of 43 people, including the 11 guards held hostage who were shot and killed by fellow officers. Eighty people were also wounded, and countless others were beaten and tortured in retaliation as the state retook control of the yard.



## AIDS CUTTING LIFE EXPECTANCY IN AFRICA

Life expectancy in the countries worst hit by Africa's staggering AIDS epidemic is expected to fall to around 30 within a decade - the lowest in a century - as the disease kills tens of millions more in its sweep across the continent. This new estimate is the latest attempt to quantify the incredible breadth and effect of the epidemic on sub-Saharan Africa, where 15 million have died of AIDS and 25 million more infected people almost certainly will die in the next few years.

AIDS already has sharply reduced life expectancy in many southern African countries. In Botswana, where more than one-third of adults are infected with HIV, life expectancy is now 39 instead of 71, as it would have been without the disease. The numbers are expected to get worse. By 2010, life expectancy will be 29 in Botswana, 30 in Swaziland, 33 in Namibia and Zimbabwe, and 36 in South Africa, Malawi and Rwanda. Without AIDS it would have been around 70 in many of those countries.

Dr. Kevin DeCock of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention called the epidemic, "Africa's worst social catastrophe since slavery."

## In Memory of Julian Richardson

Mr. Richardson, founder of Marcus Books, died in early August, 2000. The San Francisco Bay Area has lost another leader and pillar of the community.

Mr. Richardson opened Marcus Bookstore in 1960. Over the years, many Afro-American writers, from Alice Walker to Cornel West, had book signings at Marcus Bookstore. It is a place the community comes for knowledge.

Mr. Richardson was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and attended Tuskegee Institute. Ralph Ellison was his classmate. George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington both taught at Tuskegee while Mr. Richardson was there.

In 1944, he moved to San Francisco with his wife, Raye.

In the early days of the BPP, we used the Richardson's printing service to make leaflets and posters. We also used the store as a meeting place. Owning a commercial press allowed Mr. Richardson to publish books, pamphlets and manuscripts on Black Culture and Nationalism that otherwise wouldn't be available to the Bay Area community.

"He was dedicated to the progress of our race and was always action oriented," said his daughter Blanche. The bookstores provide a forum for the community. There are two stores, located in Oakland and San Francisco. He was instrumental in developing Black culture in the Filmore district of San Francisco. He will be greatly missed.

## FREE BUSING PROGRAM

**Mission Statement** - The mission of the Foundation is to help those persons who cannot help themselves and to work with these people to better their quality of life. The Foundation will also take a strong active role in assuring that all incarcerated Brothers receive visits from loved ones.

**History** - The Foundation is a group of people committed to helping the people no matter what the need is.

The Foundation was founded by Bro. Trent Winters on July 12th, 2000 after being released from jail in the previous month. Over the duration, Trent realized the need to empower others to believe that truly All Power Does indeed Belong to the People.

The Foundation is funded by donations and the proceeds from the sale of graphic-logo T-shirts and assorted crafted art that inmates send to us.

**Free Busing to Prisons Program** - Started in August 2000, the busing program has taken people to several prisons to visit their loved ones. On the first trip, \$90 was collected in donations from the people on the trip. The total cost was \$220. There are 15 people signed up for the last trip in Sept.

For more info or to send donation:  
All Power to the People Foundation  
7967 West Airport  
Houston, TX 77071  
(713) 729-1153



## Where to Find It's About Time Newsletter

Carol's Books  
5964 South Land Park Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95822

Marcus Bookstore  
1712 Fillmore St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115

Marcus Bookstore  
3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
Oakland, CA 94609

Esowon Books  
3655 S. La Brea Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90016

K.I.N.K.S. International  
629 15th Street  
Sacramento, CA

Your Muslim Bakery  
5832 San Pablo  
Oakland, CA

Community Bookstore  
217 N. Broad St.  
New Orleans, LA

Amistad Research Center  
Tilton Hall  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, LA

## NEWSBRIEFS from Page 2

mous decision overturns two lower court rulings that allowed L.A. prosecutors to keep secret the names of witnesses.

**\*Dallas** - A federal magistrate awarded more than \$700,000 to 13 Latino employees who argued that they were discriminated against for speaking Spanish at work. The Court doesn't support English Only policies which discriminate mostly against Mexican Americans, many of whom are hired for their ability to speak Spanish.

**California** - A San Quentin Prison guard and union leader, Lee P. Beck, was busted trying to smuggle cocaine and heroin into the prison for sale. Beck is vice president of the California Correctional Peace Officers Association at San Quentin. What is wrong with this picture?

**California** - Seven guards at Pelican Bay Prison were cleared of excessive force charges in the beating of an inmate, Thomas Brissett. In May, another guard was sentenced to only 7 years in prison for the

shooting of an inmate. Two others have been indicted on federal charges of conspiring to arrange attacks on prisoners from 1992 to 1995.

**New York** - It is not possible to determine "race" by DNA. Genetic research is showing that there is only one race on planet earth - the human race. "Race is a social concept, not a scientific one," says Craig Venter, the director of the Celera Genomics Corp. "We all evolved in the last 100,000 years from the small number of tribes that migrated out of Africa and colonized the world."

**California** - The state of California will pay \$350,000 to a dying inmate because the prison physician ignored signs of breast cancer for years. Sherrie Chapman suffers from metastatic breast cancer due to a delay in diagnosis despite her complaints of painful breast lumps. This is only one of many claims of neglect and poor care at the women's prisons in California.

**Washington** - U.S. Food to be Sold to Cuba - The House and Senate approved a deal to allow the sale of U. S. food products to Cuba, a significant change in U.S. policy, being pushed by farming states. The bill will allow cash sales and financing through third countries, but prohibits any U.S. financing arrangements.

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## LOOKING AT ONE ANOTHER

By Dr. Yvonne King

(reprinted from

*The Neighborhood Leader, Chicago, Ill, Feb. 2000*)

Recently I was having a stimulating discussion with my neighbor and supervisor in Sekondi, Ghana about life in the United States compared with some of his experiences in Russia in the 1970's when it was part of the former United Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR). He described several instances of racism while he was a student in the old USSR, but



he was shocked when I told him racism persists in the US. You see, most people in Africa believe that life in the US is free of any hardships. Although some Africans know about racism in the US in earlier times, particularly due to the civil rights and black power movements, most certainly do not believe that it still exists.

Today African youth and adults alike aspire to leave their difficult countries to flock to the West, particularly the US, which the Nigerians refer to as "God's own country". They are driven usually by economics and fail to consider how they may be treated in this country because of the color of their skin. Usually it is not considered because they do not know that racism still rears its ugly head in this country. And then those who do know often do not care because they are on a mission that usually is to earn money to help themselves and those at home. It is not to say that Africans from the Motherland have avoided being victimized by racists in the US. However, most probably absorb such discrimination and suffer in silence. This silence usually continues even after they return to their towns and villages with the fiercely sought after US dollar and other evidence of material success. Consequently, the myths about life in America are perpetuated.

During the early period of my more than 10 years living as a single woman in Nigeria, I was confronted with some of these misconceptions. One of the most prominent is that all Americans are rich and, otherwise, constitute one homogeneous group. It is interesting to note that too many people in the US make the same mistake by referring to African culture, African religion, African dress, and some even think that all African food is the same. Let us not forget that Africa, unlike the US, is a Continent, consisting of more than 50 countries with different ethnic groups speaking different languages and often practicing different cultures, etc.

I was surprised and initially disappointed that I was not recognized as an African American or even a Black American. However, it did not compare with the frustration I experienced from most people in my town thinking I had money. Little did they know that on April 29, 1989, I arrived at the Murtala Muhammad International Airport in Lagos with approximately one hundred and ten dollars and less than that when I reached my final destination, Awka, later that evening. I was hardly the rich American many expected.

After being unemployed in Ghana for almost 10 months, I went to Nigeria to teach at a university in Anambra State, in the southeast of the country, where the civil war was fought between

1967 and 1970, in what was then called Biafra. People at the university and in my town, Awka, assumed I had money and was in Africa only for an adventure or maybe to find my roots and then go home. They could not believe and certainly were unable to understand that I had moved to Africa permanently.

I did not have a car for the first three years I lived in West Africa because I could not afford one. People in Awka, who used to see me trekking (walking), assumed that I preferred walking to riding. Surely this American could buy a car if she wanted to. I learned years later that many people assumed I was being paid in dollars. I am certain that most of the Americans they had known were missionaries, businessmen, Peace Corps volunteers, all of whom were being paid in foreign currencies, or were women who were married to well-to-do Nigerians. Clearly, I did not fall into any of those categories, but regardless, I was born and raised in America.

About one year after arriving in Nigeria and seeing how I was struggling without a car, my landlady said rather matter-of-factly, "Why don't you have your people send you a car?" I said to myself, "Why does she think that my family has that kind of money?" It cost about one thousand eight hundred dollars to ship a car from the US to West Africa. I think it was more than just that I was born and raised in "God's own country," but I had acquired a doctorate degree. Education in Africa is extremely expensive when one considers the average per capita income in most countries in the Motherland. Therefore, it is usually the elite - those with money and influence - who achieve that level of higher education. In certain areas of many African countries, boys are educated before girls and too often girls, if they go to school, are not given the same opportunities to realize their academic potential. I imagine that my landlady assumed that I came from a wealthy family.

Because Africans make these and other kinds of assumptions about Americans, many cannot conceive of racism in the US. Despite our common heritage, the worlds of the Diaspora and the Motherland are different in so many ways. Many of us in the Diaspora do not understand the complexities of the contradictions that result in mass abject poverty, ethnic conflicts, rampant spread of HIV, and gross corruption, particularly that which is fueled by the State apparatus, that exist in Africa today. On the other hand, how difficult it must be for those in Africa today to grasp how insidious and devastating racism is, especially when it manifests in "God's own country."

Thirty-one years ago, I joined the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party, in Chicago, where I joined thousands of other Black youth to fight against racism and exploitation in the land of the free and home of the brave. Little did I know on January 2, 1969, when I entered the Panthers' headquarters at 3950 West Madison Street that 20 years later I would be in a position to begin to understand better the problems of our Brothers and Sisters on both sides of the Atlantic. As the Panther Party taught me, change is a process - and truly a protracted one. Clearly, the struggle continues.

Dr. King is currently teaching in Sekondi, Ghana.

It's About Time...

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## UNDERGROUND

Partially Reprinted from BLU Magazine - August 2000

NEHANDA ABIODUN is a political exile living in Cuba. She is a veteran of the New Afrikan independence struggle and a citizen of the Republic of New Afrika. Nehanda's work as an activist began at age ten as a tenant organizer. Later she worked with the National Black Human Rights Coalition, and then helped to heal addicts at the Black Acupuncture Association of North America with Dr. Mutulu Shakur. In 1982 Nehanda was indicted, along with Dr. Shakur and Sekou Odinga, for a Brinks truck expropriation. She went underground and later surfaced in Cuba. Nehanda is a member of the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement.



At the age of 28, I decided that I was going to devote my energies to bringing about a free New Afrika in a more disciplined, organized way. I was fortunate that my parents taught me the value of resisting and struggling against injustice, and even though Malcolm X was and still is my political mentor, until that time I chose important but safe ways to fight the system. It wasn't until I started working with Dr. Mutulu Shakur at the Black Acupuncture Association of North America (BAANA) that I had my first real taste of government police agency harassment, surveillance, telephone wiretaps, and dirty tricks.

BAANA was founded and supported by some of the most dedicated revolutionaries - individuals who were involved in the New Afrikan, Puerto Rican independence, and North American anti-imperialist movements. We (BAANA) supported national liberation movements, organized and fought against police brutality in our communities, and resisted cutbacks in welfare benefits, health services, and educational opportunities for people of color. We were dedicated to exposing the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) AND TO THE FREEDOM OF Political Prisoners.

After the liberation of Assata Shakur on November 2, 1979, our clinic was labeled a terrorist hangout, and following the October 21, 1981 Nyack Brinks expropriation attempt, we were an excuse for the FBI to intensify their war on progressive people. On April 26, 1982 a number of us were either arrested or sought by the FBI for violating the federal RICO (organized crime) laws. I was one of the people they were looking for, and it was on this day - April 26, 1982 - that I went underground.

The ultimate reason I decided to go underground was that I knew that the FBI was not seeking to arrest us to go to trial. It was quite simply trying to kill us and destroy our movement. I had seen the results of the Joint Terrorist Task Force torture of Seku Odinga after his capture, and the cold-blooded assassination of Mytari Shabaka Sundiata. I had read the misinformation in the newspapers calling us murderers and terrorists, and listened to the boasts that the New Afrikan Independence Movement no longer existed. I didn't go underground to save myself, I went underground to help save my people.

Living underground meant leaving behind family, friends and comrades. The guilt of leaving my children is something I live with and am trying to deal with to this day, eighteen years later. How does one make a choice between a people's struggle for liberation and your two children? It's impossible to choose one over the other. My philosophical justifica-

tions gave me momentary comfort. The guilt made me think about turning myself in - especially when my mother was hospitalized and diagnosed with cancer. It was, however, the very same FBI agents assigned to capture me that made the final decision for me. Their harassment of my children and mother was and is unforgivable. They often tried to take my then fourteen year old daughter out of class to interrogate her. They would detain my five year old son leaving kindergarten asking him where I was; and my mother was mentally tormented until only very recently. They even told her that if I didn't turn myself in, they would likely kill me if they caught me.

The u.s. government and its agents crystallized for me why I had to continue to resist. I couldn't allow them to go on unchallenged violating the human rights of their so-called African American citizens; illegally invading sovereign nations; flooding drugs into the communities of people of color and committing terrorist acts to destabilize countries like Cuba. It was during this time that I remembered Patrice Lumumba of the Congo. I imagined that he, too, felt the pain of leaving behind his family when he was forced underground. It was attempting to see them that cost him his life, killed at the hands of traitors carrying out united states butchery.

Living underground for me was a renewal of the commitment I made in 1978. It was extremely difficult at times; moving from place to place, hearing about the captures of Mutulu Shakur, Susan Rosenberg, Laura Whitehorn, Linda Evans, Marilyn Buck, and it was the Creator that helped me deal with the death of Kwasi Balagoon. But living in the whirlwind was rewarding at times. Wherever I went I was welcomed by people who were just as committed as I was to the cause of freedom. There are no words to express how fortunate I was and am, or the gratitude I feel to those I had the honor to meet and work with while underground. Dedicated, disciplined, loving people of all colors, social and religious persuasions. These Brothers and Sisters allowed me the freedom to nurture my spirituality, to politically mature and help me grow into a better person. My freedom today is a testimony of the strength of a world-wide community that craves peace and justice; to my ancestors who gave their lives for freedom; to political prisoners, who are presently incarcerated in amerikkka's hell holes; and I give all praises to the Creator for guiding me when the path was uncertain.

When I first went underground, the FBI was quoted as saying that I would be the easiest to capture because of my supposed inexperience. What the FBI forgot to take into account was that they were not just trying to stop an individual, they were trying to stop a movement of people determined to be free. My freedom is a people's victory.

FREE THE LAND!

## DA UNDA GROUND

Mo' deeper, Mo' deafer, Mo' indepth and Mo' profound.

No scenes from the mainstream, for this shit is strictly from the underground.

The homeless on Chicago's lower Wacker Drive were forced to live in it.

Some time ago, Harriet Tubman utilized it, Assata was forced in it,

and the Viet Cong hid in it.

Where Mos Def, dead prez, The Coup and Common tapes could still be found,

In this illustrious, beloved sacred covenant that we call Da Unda Ground.

Where archeologists in Egypt do their digs and miners in Southern Africa

are forced to live.

It's where in Chicago, Illinois, 1969, Spurgeon Jake Winters dropped two

oncoming pigs.

Where countless of cadavers of colonized casualties go unclaimed.

And in New York, New York, 1999, beneath big buildings, it's where they found

old bones and slave remains.

In Marion Illinois it's where a many Political Prisoners may be found.

Snatched from civilization, sensory deprivation, with no communication,

24/7, non-stop held Underground!

Young Chairman Fred Hampton, Jr.

# ON THE QUESTION OF SEXISM WITHIN THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

By Safiya Bukhari-Alston

(*excerpt from an article written in response to Alice Walker's article on sexism in the BPP - 1993*)

The error everyone seems to be making, supporters and detractors of the Black Panther Party (BPP) alike, is separating the Party from its time and roots and looking at it in a vacuum. Quite clearly, The Black Panther Party came out of the Black community and its experiences. The membership of the Black Panther Party was recruited from the ghettos of the inner cities. The Party itself was founded in Oakland, California in the spring of 1966 by two Black men who came straight out of the ghetto and met on the campus of Merritt College. It was founded as a response to the rampant episodes of police brutality against the Black Community committed by the notorious Oakland Police Department.



Bobby Seale and Huey Newton envisioned the Party (for Self Defense) as just that, a community based organization who sought to defend the community against police brutality and set an example of revolutionary activism. In defining the work of the Party they looked to other struggles around the world and to Mao Tse Tung's Red Book "Quotations of Chairman Mao" for direction. The Eight Points of Attention and Three Main Rules of Discipline were lifted directly from this book. One of the Eight Points was "Do Not Take Liberties With Women." This was a monumental step forward in addressing the issue of the treatment of women. The simple fact that the issue was placed in/on books was a step forward, now we had to make it a part of our everyday lives, the everyday lives of the lumpen who were the majority element of the Black Panther Party.

The ideology of the Black Panther Party developed out of the struggle of people of Afrikan descent in the United States for freedom, a struggle which began on the slave ships and continues today. This struggle is seen through the prism of Marxist-Leninism and scientific socialism. It was an attempt to overcome the romanticism and idealism which was characteristic of Black organizations at the time and replace it with a pragmatic analysis that allowed for "social practice" being "the criteria for truth". Nonetheless, it had it's own unique analysis of which class was the vanguard of the struggle for Black liberation.

The Party believed that the only group that was capable of moving the struggle forward was the lumpenproletariat (lumpens) - i.e., the brother and sister "off the block". The Party felt that they were at the bottom rung of the totem pole and had nothing to lose. It was this element that the Black Panther Party recruited from the ghetto and tried to politicize.

In its brief history (1966-1973) of seven years, women had been involved on every level in the Black Panther Party. There were women, like Audrea Jones, who founded the Boston Chapter of the BPP, women like Brenda Hyson, who was the Officer of the Day in the Brooklyn Chapter of the BPP, women like Peaches, who fought side by side with Geronimo Pratt in the Southern California Chapter of the BP, Kathleen Cleaver who was in the Central Committee, and Sister Rivera who was one of the motivators behind the office in Mr. Vernon, NY. By the same token there were problems with men who brought their sexist attitudes into the organization. Men who refused to take direction (orders) from women, and we had a framework established to deal with that, but because of liberalism and cowardice, as well as fear, a lot of times the framework was not utilized.

It is extremely important that we remember that even though the Black Panther Party had a built in process to deal with male chauvinism within its ranks, the members of the Party were products of the society in which they lived. We struggled against these tendencies whenever possible, but they were reinforced by the society in which we lived.

In order to create a new society we have to create a new being. If we simply change the color of the oppressor, we have not moved forward. It is easy to decry the sexism of the leadership of the BPP from afar, without having struggled along with them. While the Party was dealing with the

issue of politically educating its ranks, it was also feeding hungry children, establishing liberation schools, organizing tenants, welfare mothers and establishing free health clinics. Simultaneously, the Black Panther Party was under attack from the local, state and federal government. Offices of the Black Panther Party from California to Louisiana, from Texas to Michigan, all across the country were under physical attack and Panthers were being killed and imprisoned. We were not just theorizing about struggle, we were involved in constant struggle on all levels.

Finally, I would like to remind you of two things. The first is, we must remember that everybody that is Black is not involved in the Black Liberation Struggle and therefore, their critique of the struggle or elements of the struggle is not done with the motivation of curing the sickness to save the patient. The second thing is that while the primary struggle that the Black community faces is one against racist oppression and economic exploitation, we must still deal with the problem of male chauvinism and sexism as well as domestic violence in our communities. These problems are not just problems that exist in the Black Community, but in the whole of society. The problem for us is that we are having to deal with them simultaneously with the primary struggle.

The Black Panther Party put into place a mechanism for dealing with this - starting with political education and ending with bringing the responsible parties up on charges for disciplinary purposes. It is through study and practice that we strengthen our own self-esteem and therefore gain the courage to challenge chauvinist and sexist attitudes that we encounter as we struggle. And finally, it is through our social practice that we set the example to our community and advance the struggle. We must remember that the Black Panther Party may not have completed the task, but we did put the question on the floor.

Editor's note - There were many sisters in leadership positions in the BPP. Some examples are: Erica Huggins ran our New Haven office. Lauren Williams was our head photographer. Naomi Williams ran Central Distribution along with Sam Napier. Pat Hilliard was our treasurer. Marsha Turner was Officer of the Day at Central Headquarters. Kim Nelson was in charge of our West Oakland Center. There were many more whose contributions were just as important as the brothers. In many cases, after police raids removed many male members, the women continued to run the offices and raise funds to keep the programs going and bail the brothers out.



## " ECHOES "

Echoes of wisdom I often hear,  
A mother's strength softly in  
my ears, echoes of womanhood  
shining so bright, echoes of  
mother within darkest night.  
Echoes of wisdoms on my mother's  
lips, too young to understand it  
was in a gentle kiss!

Echoes of love and fear, arrogance  
of manhood wouldn't let me hear  
Echoes of heartache I still hold  
close, as I mourn the loss of my  
one true hero! Echoes from a mother's  
womb, heartbeats held so dear, life  
begins with my first tears. Echoes  
of footsteps taken in the past, echoes  
of manhood standing in a looking  
glass, echoes of motherhood gentle and  
near, echoes of a lost mother I will  
always hear!

Cinque (aka Albert Woodfox)  
Angola 3

## NEBRASKANS FOR JUSTICE

Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice) need your help. They have been imprisoned for 30 years, for a murder they insist they did not commit. And Nebraskans for Justice has recruited a legal team to review court documents, secret surveillance reports by the FBI, and all the relevant evidence, to see what steps can be taken to set Ed and Mondo free.

We need financial help for this dedicated team of Nebraska lawyers. They work under the able supervision of New York attorney Lennox Hinds, who served as an attorney for former President Nelson Mandela of South Africa. Like Ed and Mondo, Mandela was a political prisoner for 27 years.

We cannot allow the injustice to Ed and Mondo to continue in Nebraska, and we ask that you write a check to Nebraskans for Justice (NFJ) for at least thirty dollars, for thirty years of incarceration, and send it to: Nebraskans for Justice, 1314 South Ninth Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68108 (NFJ is a non-profit corporation and your donations are tax deductible)

### NEW PANTHER VANGUARD MOVEMENT

Saturday - October 14, 2000

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON REPARATIONS

For African Americans and Indigenous People

Special Guest Speaker - David DuBois

For more information: Ph. (323) 296-4383

Fax (323) 290-1645 e-mail: LAPANTHUR@AOL.COM



VOTE	NOVEMBER	7
VOTE	NOVEMBER	7
VOTE	NOVEMBER	7

## 35TH YEAR REUNION OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

It's About Time has started making plans for the 35th year BPP Reunion to be held October 2001 in Washington DC. We are looking for as many ex-Party members, community workers, and supporters as possible to add to our mailing list and involve in the reunion. We are also looking for people on the East Coast who would like to work with the Reunion Committee on organizing the event.

Your tax-deductible donations to help make this event possible are greatly appreciated. Please make checks out to It's About Time and mark Reunion on the bottom. Send to It's About Time, PO Box 221100, Sacramento, CA 95822.

For more information: e-mail: itsabouttime3@juno.com  
Phone: (916) 455 0908





## COALITION AGAINST POLICE ABUSE

The Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA) was formed in 1976 in response to a wave of police shootings, beatings and harassment. CAPA's membership is drawn from the Black and Latino communities, workers' organizations, churches, the gay community, the women's move-



ment, and concerned individuals. CAPA believes that the reign of terror by the LAPD, and by police and sheriff's departments across the country - including the FBI, CIA, and INS - must be opposed. This means mobilizing and uniting a wide base of forces into a mass movement against police abuse.

### MOBILIZING A MASS MOVEMENT

CAPA is committed to calling attention to the many instances of police abuse, and bringing public pressure to bear in obtaining justice. We want to educate people about our human and constitutional rights, train new leadership so that people can unite to defend themselves and their democratic rights from further attack, and unite as many people and organizations as possible from all races and nationalities so that in our numbers we will have the unity and strength to defend our homes, families and human rights. We intend to mobilize, rely on, and give concrete direction to the people in our communities to stand up for their rights against police harassment, beatings, racist insults and murders.

CAPA sees the necessity not only of organizing against police abuse, but also for educating our communities about the link between increases in police abuse and the growing economic crisis taking place globally and in the United States. If workers strike for higher wages and representation, who is called out? The Police. If you can't pay the rent and refuse to leave your home and move into the streets, who is called out? The Police. And if you organize demonstrations against a corrupt and unjust system, government complicity in drug dealing, or mass imprisonment and welfare cuts, who is called out? The Police - whether with armed force or as disruptive undercover spies! CAPA understands that the police and their abusive methods are necessary elements in maintaining a system controlled by a few billionaires and politicians who put profits before people.

We have won some interim victories. We have exposed organized gangs of vigilantes and white racists inside the LAPD and Sheriff's Department. We won the requirement that all LAPD officers must carry business cards and give them to everybody they stop. The cards, adopted after pressure by CAPA and other community groups, carries the officer's name, division, and commander's phone number. If you don't get one in an encounter with the police, get their car number and note the location and time, call us at 323-733-2107, and we'll follow up.

Unity and vigilance are critical in resisting police abuse. When you're on the streets and witness police abuse, note the date, time, and location, get the car number and ask for their business cards.

If they refuse, inform them that you will call CAPA. This is important, because the police will often cover their abuse with charges of assault on an officer against the victim of their brutality. Our strength is in our unity. Victims of police abuse need independent witnesses to corroborate their experience, so don't hesitate to do what has to be done, and call CAPA.

### YOU CAN SUE THE POLICE

You have the right to file criminal charges against abusive police officers, and to file claims for civil damages (a cash penalty) against the city of Los Angeles or other jurisdictions. While even the most successful suits are no substitute for an organized community mobilization to end police crimes, imagine the impact on the City Council and the residents of having thousands of cases go to court and millions of dollars being paid out to victims of police abuse.

You have exactly 180 days from the date of the incident to file such a claim or you will lose your right to sue. The forms you need to file a claim for damages because of police abuse can be picked up at the City Clerk's office and/or the Hall of Administration for Los Angeles County.

In addition, don't forget to file a report with the CAPA Police Complaint Bureau. Many complaints made directly to the police are simply ignored. Often, we are even harassed while making a complaint at a police station.

### CAPA COMPLAINT BUREAU

To help you overcome such problems, CAPA formed its own complaint bureau. We have files on thousands of officers who have had various complaints and charges leveled at them by community people. We can help make formal complaints to the appropriate agencies. Again, such a program cannot take the place of an organized mass movement to hold the police accountable for their crimes against the people. But it can help unite our forces and build such a movement.

Coalition Against Police Abuse (CAPA)  
2824 S. Western Ave. • Los Angeles, CA 90018  
323-733-2107

### Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald

Chip has served 32 years in the confines of America. He is there because of his political beliefs. He is there because he represented the people in their struggle against oppression and racism.

Chip is a former Black Panther, nothing else need be said. We are all familiar with the dedicated and unselfish work that the Panthers put in for our people. We must honor this work with his FREEDOM!

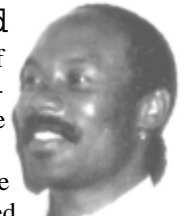
Chip has been approved for transfer to CMC-E, but it has been over a month and he still waits. He needs people to write letters to the prison requesting that they immediately honor his transfer. He will be going to the parole board in December or January, and he will have a better chance if he is not at Salinas.

Letters can be sent to the following places requesting that his approved transfer takes place immediately:

Inmates Appeals Section  
C/O California Department of Corrections  
600 Bercut Drive, Sacramento, CA

Drs. Thor and Pavlovic  
C/O Salinas Valley State Prison  
PO Box 1040 • Soledad, CA 93960-1040

For more info: Talibah Shakir at: Support4Chip@aol.com  
or Mel Mason at: Mmason3747@aol.com



THANKS TO MODERN SCIENCE  
17 INNOCENT PEOPLE  
HAVE BEEN REMOVED  
FROM DEATH ROW

THANKS TO MODERN POLITICS  
23 INNOCENT PEOPLE  
HAVE BEEN REMOVED  
FROM THE LIVING

*(American Civil Liberties Union, 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor,  
NY, NY 10004, www.aclu.org)*

On April 15, 1999, Ronald Keith Williamson walked away from Oklahoma State Prison a free man. An innocent man, he had spent the last eleven years behind bars. "I did not rape or kill Debra Sue Carter," he would shout day and night from his death row cell. His voice was so torn and raspy from his pleas for justice that he could barely speak. DNA evidence would eventually end his nightmare and prove his innocence. He came within five days of being put to death for a crime he did not commit.

Williamson's plight is not an isolated one. Nor is it even unusual. Anthony Porter also came within days of being executed. The state of Illinois halted his execution as it questioned whether or not Porter was mentally competent. Porter has an I.Q. of fifty-one. As the state questioned his competence, a journalism class at Northwestern University questioned his guilt. With a small amount of investigating, they managed to produce the real killer. After sixteen years on death row, Anthony Porter would find his freedom. He was lucky. He escaped with his life. A fate not shared by twenty-three other innocent men.

The Chicago Tribune, in its five-part series "Death Row justice derailed," pronounced, "Capital punishment in Illinois is a system so riddled with faulty evidence, unscrupulous trial tactics, and legal incompetence that justice has been forsaken." The governor of Illinois recently declared a moratorium on the death penalty after the state had acquired the dubious honor of releasing more men from death row than it had executed.

The unfairness that plagues the Illinois system also plagues every other state as well: incompetent lawyers, racial bias, and lack of access to DNA testing all inevitably lead to gross miscarriages of justice. As Supreme Court Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., stated, "Perhaps the bleakest fact of all is that the death penalty is imposed not only in a freakish and discriminatory manner, but also in some cases upon defendants who are actually innocent."

Even those who support capital punishment are finding it increasingly more difficult to endorse it in its current form. Capital punishment is a system that is deeply flawed - a system that preys on the poor and executes the innocent. It is a system that is fundamentally unjust and unfair. Please support our efforts to have a moratorium on further executions declared now. Support the ACLU.

This situation could improve soon. A bill - The Innocence Protection Act - has been introduced in Congress. It would allow death row prisoners to request DNA testing on any evidence from their case that is in the government's possession.

## BOYCOTT CHATTANOOGA TOURISM

Lurking behind the streams and mountains of Chattanooga there is a clear and present menace that could prove to be a real danger to you and your family. All throughout the Chattanooga area the right, white, and very uptight men and women of local Law Enforcement are completely out of control.

You may think, with some justification, that this is a national problem, since most cities do have some police who are corrupt and brutal. Chattanooga, however, leads the nation (on a per capita basis) when it comes to known police murders and overall police brutality; racial profiling, and beatings are all too common. For more than fifteen years there has been, on an average, a death every six months at the hands of local police - more than 38 people. In spite of overwhelming evidence, not one police officer in Chattanooga has been prosecuted for murder.

Many of these uniformed assassins are still "on duty," and while in the Chattanooga area you are at risk of a personal encounter with one of them. The Chattanooga Police Department is only a tool for the corrupt and fascist political system in control of the city. The lifeblood of this system is tourist dollars. The money that you spend in Chattanooga helps make what the local police do possible. In the name of humanity we ask you to stop giving your money and support to tourism in Chattanooga.

Tourism is the no. 1 industry in Chattanooga and is the only thing keeping this local economy afloat. It brings in millions each year, which finances racism, police brutality, and political corruption. The city government is riddled with graft and kickbacks, which leads to the fleecing of the people.

For years, there had never even been fair elections in the city, until a group of Black Plaintiffs filed a federal voting rights lawsuit in 1987, which in 1990 forced restructuring of the government. Until 1990, there had been only one black person elected in the previous 90 years! Even now, there is social and economic discrimination in the political system, which locks out poor and working class citizens.

Now there is a scheme to destroy Black neighborhoods by giving developers the right to take over downtown and the Southside, destroying the city's largest housing project with an interstate highway. All of this is designed to weaken Black political influence in the city, and continue plantation politics. Your boycott of Chattanooga Tourism will send a message like no other protest can. Like the boycott against the South African Apartheid State proved, economic boycotts work! Join us in fighting for freedom.

For more info: Boycott Chattanooga Coalition  
PO Box 11422, Chattanooga, TN 37401  
e-mail: [Komboa@hotmail.com](mailto:Komboa@hotmail.com)

### Poetry on a Saturday Afternoon

The longest running poetry series in Sacramento  
The last Saturday of every month at  
Carol's Books, 5964 South Land Park Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95822

Oct. 28 - Greg Jones, Sacramento writer, actor, poet vocalist  
Nov. 25 - James Sweeney, Berkeley poet, writer, activist

For more info: Straight Out Scribes (916) 443-3322

## INDIAN AFFAIRS HEAD EXTENDS APOLOGY FOR PAST ATROCITIES

The head of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs apologized recently for the agency's legacy of "racism and inhumanity" that included massacres, forced relocations of tribes and attempts to wipe out American Indian languages and cultures.

"This agency participated in the ethnic cleansing that befell the Western tribes," said Kevin Gover, a Pawnee Indian. "It must be acknowledged that the deliberate spread of disease, the decimation of the mighty bison herds, the use of the poison alcohol to destroy mind and body, and the cowardly killing of women and children made for tragedy on a scale so ghastly that it cannot be dismissed as merely the inevitable consequence of the clash of competing ways of life."

The misery continued after the BIA became part of the Interior Department in 1849, Gover said. Children were brutalized in BIA run boarding schools, Indian languages and religious practices were banned and traditional tribal governments were eliminated. "Poverty, ignorance and disease have been the product of this agency's work," Gover said.

Editor's note: We have recently been hearing several "apologies" from public officials regarding past social injustices. However, talk is cheap and nothing is being done to compensate the victims.

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

SAFIYA BUKHARI-ALSTON, a revolutionary sister, joined the BPP in Nov. 1969. She worked out of the Harlem office, carrying out her political work in Spanish Harlem, helping to organize with the Young Lord Organization and also working in the medical cadre. She sold papers, organized the community, and did valuable work to free the N.Y. Panther 21.

In 1971, she left the Party and became a member of the BLA, organizing and teaching self-defense. This led to her capture and frame-up and she was incarcerated for 8 years (1975-1983).

Today Safiya is still hard at work organizing and educating the community. She works in Brooklyn where she is the Director of Administration for Brooklyn Legal Services-A. She also is the chairperson for the N.Y. Mumia Coalition and co-chair and founder of the Jericho Movement, launched in 1998 to Free Political Prisoners.

She has received numerous awards for her hard work. In 1971, she was awarded the Malcolm X Black Unity Award and in 1990, ONI - International Black Women's Congress Award for 25 years of service to the Black Community. She also has recently agreed to work on the 35th year Reunion of the BPP, to be held in Washington DC in 2001.

MOTHER RUTH JONES VILLA - mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, elder, supporter and advisor.

Ms. Jones, as she is known to us, is 94 years old and still lives in Oakland at the Senior Housing Project where she helped organize the BPP SAFE Program (Seniors Against a Fearful Environment) in 1973.



Ms. Jones life is full of dedication and service to the Black Community. She first came into contact with the BPP in 1968, after Lil Bobby Hutton was killed in West Oakland. Her children, who attended the funeral, came home and told her about the BPP. As a person of conscience, she went to the next community meeting and met Bobby Seale. Always ready to serve the community, Ms. Jones made it her business to help on the first Breakfast Program at 27th and West at St. Augustine's Church, and stayed active with the BPP for several years.

Ms. Jones was born in 1906 and has lived in the Bay Area since the early 1930's. Her long history of community involvement began with the PTA, the Boy Scouts and the Order of Eastern Stars. In the 1940's, she worked with the Red Cross, assisting servicemen. Later, she joined Dr. Martin Luther King and Reverend Cecil Williams in the fight for civil and human rights. She still goes to Glide Memorial Church every Sunday in San Francisco.

Ms. Jones has dedicated her life to organizing and empowering the Black Community and in 1994, Assemblywoman Barbara Lee chose Ms. Jones as Woman of the Year. She received the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award from Glide Memorial Church in 1976 and an Outstanding Political Service award from BWOPA (Black Women Organized for Political Action). She is currently on the Commission for the Aging for the City and County.



REGINA JENNINGS is an ex-BPP member formerly working out of Philadelphia. She went on to earn a B.A. degree in English, a Masters degree in English and Creative Writing and a PhD in African-American Studies with a concentration in literature. Regina started an African-American Studies program at the college level, and is currently an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies at Rutgers University.

Regina wrote a book of poetry entitled *Midnight Morning musings: Poems of an American African*, has a manuscript entitled *Poetry of the Panther: The Poetics of Revolution*, and has a book contract for *Patriarchy, Resistance, and the Black Panther Party*. Regina has also published a host of articles in *The Journal of Black Studies*, *Language and Literature of the African-American Imagination*, *Pennsylvania English*, *Africana History, Culture and Social Policy*, *Essence* and others. Regina also has a chapter in *The Black Panther Party Reconsidered*. She currently resides in Philadelphia.

## SACRAMENTO OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Of 158 police complaints received over the year, 88 (43%) came from African-Americans. Black residents only comprise about 15% of the city's population.

Also, 64% of citizens charged with resisting arrest in Sacramento over a 100 day period last year were African-American.

Out of 17 cases reviewed by the Office of Accountability, only 3 were deemed to show use of excessive force.

**Editor's note:** *The Office of Police Accountability needs to hold the police accountable for their actions, especially in regard to racial profiling, racist attitudes and outright police brutality. We cannot stand for unequal treatment by the police department. We are tax payers and we should have the same rights under the law as everyone else.*

## "IT'S ABOUT TIME" ACTIVITIES JOURNAL

Summer 2000 - Members of It's About Time traveled to France and were able to visit with Donald Cox, Field Marshall in exile of the BPP; and with George Johnson, formerly of the International Section of the BPP in Algiers. We also met with members of the Mumia Defense Committee in Marseille who regularly hold educational events and demonstrations at the U.S. Embassy there.

Democratic National Convention (DNC)-Members of It's About Time went to Los Angeles for the Mumia March at the DNC. We also distributed the newsletter through several bookstores and community centers. While there, contact was also made with many ex-Party members. Our trip was made complete with a visit to Georgia Jackson, mother of George and Jonathan.

Billy X participated in a demonstration in support of the Farm Workers Union for an increase in the minimum wage. The demonstration in Stockton CA was very successful.

Several Panther alumni recently attended a

photo exhibit of the BPP by Stephen Shames at UC Berkeley. Stephen was the official BPP photographer in the early days. His exhibit continues through October at the Dept. of Journalism on the UC Berkeley campus (northgate, Euclid and Hearst).

Several members of It's About Time attended a reception for Ruben Hurricane Carter, Pam Africa, Leonard Weinglass, and Michael Franti in San Francisco.

We were able to speak them about our newsletter and the Angola 3. We were pleased to learn that the Hurricane reads the newsletter and was familiar with our work. Mr. Weinglass, Mumia's attorney, also had read the newsletter and was familiar with the case of the Angola 3. Following the reception, there was a fund-raising event for Mumia at Mission High School with a standing room only crowd.

More than \$50,000 was raised. The Vanguard Foundation donated \$25,000.



*Photos:  
Top Left:  
Stephen Sham  
& Billy X.*



*Bottom Left:  
Staajabu,  
Geronimo &  
V.S. Chochezi*



## Recommended Reading

### **Blu Magazine**

P.O. Box 903  
2032 Route 213  
Rifton, N.Y. 12471-0903  
www.blumagazine.net

### **Covert Action Quarterly**

1500 Massachusetts Ave, NW #732  
Washington D.C. 20005  
www.covertaction.org

### **Randall Robinson**

"The Debt"

### **"Last Man Standing"**

by Jack Olsen  
(The story of Geronimo Pratt)

### **South African Beacon**

1615 Broadway, Suite 705  
Oakland, CA 94612

## Recommended Websites

[afrocubaweb.com/assata.htm](http://afrocubaweb.com/assata.htm)  
[afrikan.net](http://afrikan.net)  
[mumia.org](http://mumia.org)  
[nalfnationtime.com](http://nalfnationtime.com)  
[itsabouttimebpp.com](http://itsabouttimebpp.com)  
[prisonactivist.org](http://prisonactivist.org)

### ***It's About Time...***

P.O. Box 221100

Sacramento, CA 95822