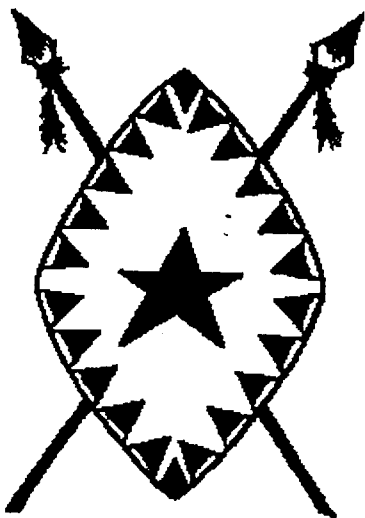


CROSSROAD

Vol. 6, No. 4 Mar-Apr, 1996

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Spear & Shield Publications
1340 West Irving Park Road
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Chicago, IL 60613



If They Are Lost, Find Them

Hotep Brothas & Sistas, greetings, as We discuss and analyze our conditions as a people, i think We all agree that our children are our future and We are in a struggle for their minds. i think We can also agree that We as parents have failed and continue to fail our children & We need to do more. i would like to challenge us to do more on whatever level you can. Studies have been conducted & facts rendered that Amerika's public school system is designed to destroy the minds of our children & break their spirits.

We have to compete with the STUPID BOX (T.V.) & it's subliminal suggestions (White men & women are the epitome of how a woman & man should relate to one another, look, think, act and dress). Sex is used in commercials to sell everything from cigarettes to cars. Our childrens' psyche is constantly under attack. We're told by the news media that our children are so dangerous that you cannot speak to them, or look at them and they are a "LOST GENERATION".

DON'T BELIEVE THEY HYPE!!! Have you ever stopped and held a conversation with any of the young people in your community or on your block? My challenge to brothas & sistas is to begin to reach out to the young people in your immediate neighborhood. i will share with you what S.T.A.C. (*Stop Targeting the Afrikan Community*) does in the community in which i live. i have always respected the young people in my community; i have always talked with the young people in my neighborhood & i speak to them whether they speak or not.

i began to watch the children & saw they had no constructive activities. So i presented to S.T.A.C. a plan to have activities in my backyard & invite the young people over. S.T.A.C.'s members agreed to the idea & We bought dot painting material & a button-making machine. We drew up flyers & passed them out in the community. We meet every first and third Saturday of each month from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm with children from ages 6-14. While We have the children in our care, We instill culture, respect & discipline. We have camp-outs in my backyard & S.T.A.C. has taken nineteen (19) children to an off-site campground, FREE of charge.



We have gatherings around the campfire, where the children make s'mores (a treat of chocolate, marshmallow, and graham crackers), bob for apples, play horseshoes & learn the pledge to the RED, BLACK & GREEN. Brothas & Sistas, this is not complicated. All you have to do is use what's in your hand Afrikan Woman & Man. S.T.A.C. members give our time & resources unconditionally & the children We reach out to DO NOT belong to us (biologically), nor are they related to us or a friend of friend. We are a small organization, of six to ten committed & dedicated members, and We are consistent in what We are doing.

This is a slow process, but there is no 'QUICK-FIX' to our conditions & We all must begin to chip away at this cancer (RACISM). S.T.A.C. DOES NOT have a budget nor are We funded by anyone except [ourselves]; We are not looking to take the oppressors SOFT-MONEY. We can do it ourselves brothas & sistas if We would simply re-direct the 400 BILLION dollars a year Afrikans spend in this kountry. i'm not saying you have to do the same activities as S.T.A.C., however, reach out to the young people where you are & make a difference in their lives.

Marcus Garvey said, "WHAT YOU DO TODAY THAT IS WORTHWHILE, INSPIRES OTHERS TO ACT AT SOME FUTURE TIME." So, let's begin to be what our children need us to be, if they are LOST, then We must FIND them.-- UNITED WE WILL WIN, UHURU!



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THE EUGENE BRITT CASE: WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

Once again, Gary (Indiana) residents and the New Afrikan community in particular has been forced to confront another horrific tragedy.

Eugene Britt was arrested on Nov. 3rd 1995 for the rape and strangulation of Sarah Paulsen, a 8 year old white child from Portage, Indiana. Britt was released from prison in August 1993 for the April 27, 1978 rape of a young New Afrikan teenager while she was walking home from school.

After having served 15 years, Britt embarked upon a terror campaign of rape and murder by strangulation of New Afrikan womyn. He is suspected of having murdered and raped at least 10 womyn. Upon his arrest, he subsequently confessed to many rape/murders and directed the Gary police to decomposed bodies of womyn that the police never knew were missing. One of whom was a white womyn.

For months the Gary community suspected that there was a serial killer in Gary who was targeting New Afrikan womyn indiscriminately. The youngest was 14 year old Nakita Moore. However, the media, police dept. and politicians continued to downplay the possibility of a serial killer targeting New Afrikan womyn. They continued to hide facts and release disinformation to the Gary community. It was only after Britt went outside of Gary to a predominantly white city and killed a young white girl that the white community identified him as a suspect that he was captured. Only then was it revealed that he was not only suspected but was in fact responsible for killing over 10 and up to 20 New Afrikan womyn in Gary.

Did the Gary police department really do its job? Why did a white child have to be killed before the Gary police dept. begun to act like they were following up leads and trying to break the case? Why was it only after this fact that the police dept., media and politicians removed the media white-out and began to be responsible to the residents of Gary — especially the womyn of Gary — by releasing facts and real information? The fact that the local Gary police and politicians waited til after the fact to come out unequivocally and state that it was a serial killer on the loose targeting New Afrikan womyn shows the contempt and disrespect that these people in positions of power have for New Afrikan womyn in particular and the community as a whole.

Who is to blame?

The need for truth in politicians

Now that Britt has been captured and his past history revealed to the public We hear reactionary and opportunistic politicians in a hurry to place blame and call for more repressive laws while launching more vicious attacks on prisoners. Politicians who act like political prostitutes and who have demonstrated by their history and voting on civil rights that they don't give a damn about the residents of Gary and New Afrikan people in particular.

Let's try and set aside Our legitimate anger for the moment and look beneath the surface of what We have been presented with so far.

Recently State Rep. Ralph Ayers, a republican from Charleston, Ind., a 99% white city, called for new "truth in sentencing" laws that would automatically add on a 10 year sentence for any violent crime. This does not include the time already added on to a convicted felon's sentence for aggravated circumstances. Nor does it include the new law just passed requiring all prisoners to serve 85% of their sentence instead of 50% for violent crimes. So in essence this political prostitute for the right wing with his hidden agenda is trying to change the sentencing guidelines for this state. At what point does the public demand truth in politicians, instead of those who consistently promote these racist laws that are not only illogical but in fact are no solutions?

Here are some facts. Eugene Britt did 15 years for rape. While in prison he continued to carry out and was involved in all sorts of reactionary and predatory sexual relationships. The psychological need and practice of rape did not discontinue once he was imprisoned. In fact it continued on behind the prison walls, oftentimes with the Dept. of Corrections turning a blind eye.

If the Dept. of Corrections had 15 years to target, identify and treat the sickness that Britt suffers from but didn't, what does that say about the D.O.C.? Who is really to blame? Why are politicians, police and the media not mentioning this contradiction?

If Britt has been raping womyn primarily all of his adult life but never to Our knowledge killed his victim, then why did he start killing his victims?

It was reported that Britt was an abused child and was moved from foster home to foster home. It is well founded that those who are abused as children often perpetrate such abuse upon others as adults. The D.O.C. had these files, but still gave him no treatment. To strangle the life from another human being, especially a womyn, takes a lot of rage, hate and anger. Where did it come from? It came from 15 years in prison. It came from those 15 years of more and more dehumanization and punishment as opposed to treatment and therapy. Britt was not born a rapist. People are not born rapists. They are made into rapists. By a culture that devalues the worth of womyn and portrays/projects them as objects here to satisfy men. Patriarchy rules in this sick society.

Britt's experiences behind the prison walls only made his illness more acute and in actuality created a human monster. Created it and released it upon the New Afrikan community. And yet they still refuse to accept any responsibility for it/him.

It was revealed that Britt had a very negative impression of womyn. That he had an addiction to X-rated porn tapes and would often objectify womyn when con-

versing about them. In prison pornography and usually predatory homosexual relationships are substitution for sex. Years upon years of consumption of pornography ultimately destroys and distorts your natural sexuality and ways of looking at womyn. The womyn in your environment ultimately takes on the character (in your mind) of those within the movies and magazines you consume.

When you already have a warped and demented sexuality or sexual politic and you're placed in an environment without treatment or therapy; and when healthy sexual relationships are not allowed, your psychological illness will be exacerbated. We know that rape is about power and not necessarily sex. Many rapists have had wives, girlfriends, etc. and yet continued to rape.

When we hear the calls for "truth in sentencing", what does it really mean? What if Britt would have been required to do 10 more years? Ten more years of no treatment, therapy or recognition by the D.O.C. ? Ten more years of dehumanization. It would stand to reason that his illness would have only become more ingrained, concentrated and severe. So who is to say what he would have done, what depravity he would have succumbed to or how many more people would have been killed? What responsibility does the Dept. of Corrections take to the New Afrikan community?

We know that Black men and womyn represent the majority of the prison population and are often times the victim of racist laws and disproportionate sentencing.

Currently 5 grams of crack which has a street value of \$225 gets a mandatory 5 year sentence. By comparison, 500 grams of powder cocaine, which has a street value of \$50,000, gets a maximum of 5 years in prison or as low as probation. This means that those arrested and convicted of possession of crack get a sentence 100 times higher than those convicted of the same amount of powder cocaine. 14,000 of 90,000 federal prisoners are serving time under the crack laws; 88.3% are Black, 7.1% are Latino and 4.1% are white.

Many families in Gary either have a relative in prison or know someone in prison. Most of the times when these neo-colonial (i.e., house negro), and racist white politicians call for harsher sentencing laws they are aimed primarily at the New Afrikan male. For We are the victims of such laws.

These opportunistic politicians play on the emotions and fears of common people in order to advance hidden agendas of genocide and political careers. Yet they take no responsibility for the consequences of these racist and reactionary laws.

The Sentencing Project recently came out with statistics that 1 out of every 3 Black men in the U.S. are under some form of political restriction: jail, prison, probation or parole. In Washington, D.C. the statistics is 46% — almost 1 out of 2, and in Baltimore the statistics is even higher at 52% — 1 out of 2 of every Black men. In New York State 91% of the prison population comes from 7 boroughs in New York City; these

boroughs are predominantly Black, Latino and poor. A New York state survey done by the Drug Enforcement Agency found that 71% of the people who use drugs and 55% who sell drugs are white and middle class. Yet 91% of people who are in prison for drug related crimes are Black and Latino (41% Latino, 50% Black). Even the government's own statistics show the racist inequality of the crack laws.

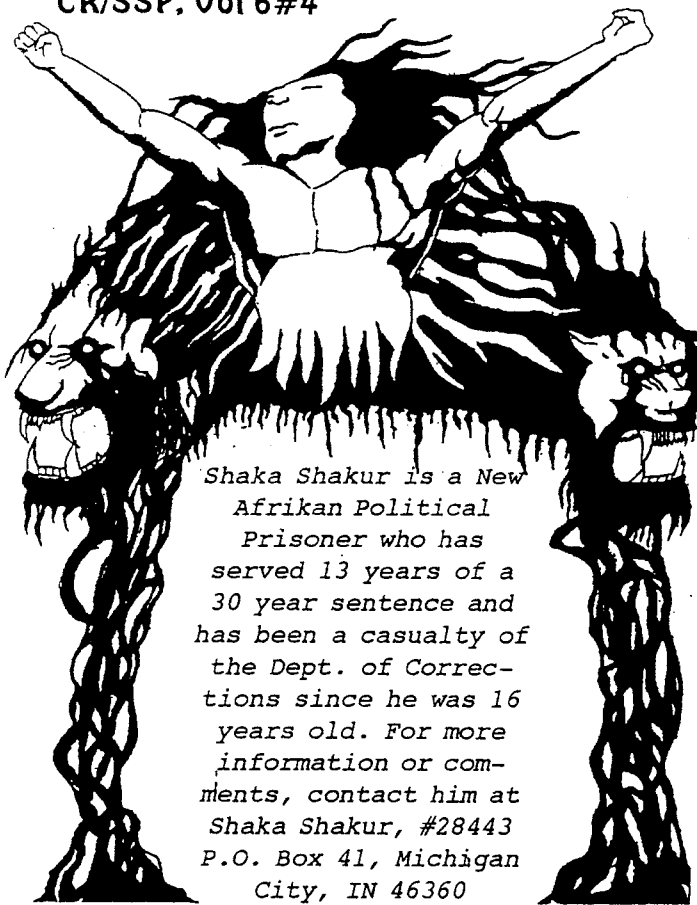
When people call for the harsher treatment and further dehumanization of prisoners it does not serve the interest of the community. When you call for cuts of educational programs and denial of domestic abuse, drug and anger management programs, you are helping to create dehumanized human beings full of rage and anger who ultimately return to the New Afrikan community as predators. Who will accept responsibility for that? Where are these politicians at then? Most of them don't live in Our communities. It has already been proven statistically that a prisoners who receive a college education while in prison have a lower recidivist rate than any other segment of prisoners released.

The New Afrikan community must begin to demand that prisoners be afforded the necessary tools, counseling and education programs so that We can prevent the Eugene Britts from being created and returning to prey upon Our communities. Calling for harsher sentences is not a solution. It might be an emotional solution, but later We as a community suffer for it. Just locking a human being in a cage for 10 or 20 years and abusing him or her for all those years only to release that person upon the community is a kkkcrime in itself. If you create a frankenstein then it should not be a shock when it seeks to destroy its creator while destroying itself in the process.

The New Afrikan community has to start becoming more involved with prisons, prisoners and overseeing the Dept. of Corrections. We have to take a more hands-on approach as opposed to depending on people outside of Our community (and instead of depending on politicians and agencies that do not have Our collective interest at heart). KKKCrime is a serious problem in Our community, but the solution is not destroying other human beings. If someone has an illness it should be treated. There are many prisoners who have transformed themselves and are now committed to their communities and are now fighting for a brighter day. The community should be involved in the parole process and demanding more community control over sentencing and release. This is not an end in itself, only a means to an end in a long, protracted struggle/process.

No part of this essay is designed to justify Britt's actions, for he is definitely responsible, but it is an attempt to explain it. And there are others who are just as responsible for Britt's actions. Primarily politicians like State Rep. Ralph Ayers and the Dept. of Corrections. The Dept. of Corrections does not correct, it only destroys.

In Struggle, Solidarity, & Love
Shaka Shakur



Shaka Shakur is a New Afrikan Political Prisoner who has served 13 years of a 30 year sentence and has been a casualty of the Dept. of Corrections since he was 16 years old. For more information or comments, contact him at Shaka Shakur, #28443 P.O. Box 41, Michigan City, IN 46360

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Nubian TV:

Black Conscious Television Network

...Cable Access is a community vehicle for getting the local residents of a city to be involved in television production. Cable Networks and/or the City pick up the tab for the training and broadcasting of local productions. Since Cable affiliates are in most of the towns and cities where [New Afrikan] people live, it is one of the most effective and powerful tools yearning to be utilized by conscious and concerned brothers and sisters...

America is very crafty and effective in utilizing newspapers, satellites, ...sports and anything...to perpetuate and propagate capitalism and Amerikkkanism... [They] are even using us to promote their policy of capitalism, [eg.] Michael Jordan's Coca Cola, Nike, Hanes and Gatorade commercials reached most of the world's population...

[We] highlight and showcase conscious and concerned [New Afrikan] scholars such as Dr. Frances Cress Welsing, Dr. Ben, Tony Browder, [Min.] Farrakhan, Dr. Imari Obadele, Steve Cokeley, and anyone else that's skilled in some aspect of the liberation of our people. [By] highlighting our scholars, this will convey much needed information to [New Afrikan] people who are not familiar...The conscious information has to be brought to them...

We don't wish to profit individually through NTVN, but collectively by being liberated from this wretched condition that we're in....



Black Conscious Television
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New Orleans, LA 70114
504-595-3022

Sundiata Acoli, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Geronimo Ji-Jaga, and Leonard Peltier were selected as Honorary Chairpersons of the 1996 Martin Luther King Day Kansas City Celebration. The following is Sundiata's statement to the mass ceremony.

Attention Today Means Less Detention Tomorrow

I'm honored today that you've again selected me as an Honorary Chairperson of the SCLC MLK KC Celebration and that the theme is "Attention Today Means Less Detention Tomorrow. That is precisely the dilemma that We, as an Afrikan people, face today.

It's obvious that the Afrikan community was tricked by the "War on Drugs" rhetoric into condoning a scheme that's sending Blacks to prison in droves while White offenders go free.

Five grams of crack worth a few hundred dollars is punishable by 5 years MANDATORY, but it takes five HUNDRED grams, or \$50,000 worth, of powdered cocaine, more commonly associated with wealthier Whites, before facing the same five years. (1) 1600 people go to prison each week, 3/4 of them either Black or Latino (2), with the rate of Afrikan women imprisonment growing faster than that of Afrikan men. (3)

90% of the federal crack convictions in 1994 were of Blacks. (4) The normal assumption is that Blacks are the majority of crack users. Wrong! Whites are the majority of crack users (5) but were less than 4% of the crack convictions (6) and NO White person has been convicted of a federal crack offense in the L.A. area since 1986 (7), nor EVER in Chicago, Miami, Denver or 16 states according to a 1992 survey (8). So today We find ourselves tricked into a position where more Afrikan men are in prison than in college (9) and 1 in 3 Afrikan men aged 20 to 29 are in prison, jail, probation, or on parole. (10)

Two things are growing faster than the Afrikan prison population. One is the number of jobs for prison guards (11) and the other is prison slave industries. (12) A California guard with a high school diploma makes \$44,000 after 7 years. That's more than the state pays PhD Public University Professors, and \$10,000 more than its average public school teachers. (13) The national ratio for prisons is 1 guard for each 4.38 prisoners, (14) meaning that every time they lock up 5 new prisoners they hire another prison guard, usually White.

The U.S. hypocritically condemns China with claims that it uses prison labor in products it sells, while in fact, U.S. corporations are doing the same, in spades.

Smith Barney, you know them, they make their money the old fashioned way - SLAVERY! Not only are they heavily invested in prison slave labor but so are other BIG BLUE chip companies. IBM, Texas Instruments, and Dell use Texas convicts to assemble and repair their computer circuit boards. Prison slave labor is also used by AT&T for phone solicitations, TWA for flight reservations, Honda for parts assembly, Spaulding for golf balls, Lexus for logos, Brill manufacturing Co. for furniture, Eddie Bauer for clothes and "Prison Blues" for jeans. (15)

From 1980 to 1994 prisoners increased 221%, prison industries jumped an astonishing 358%, and prison sales skyrocketed from \$392 million to \$1.31 BILLION. By year 2000 it's predicted that 30% of prisoners (or 500,000) will be industry workers producing \$8.9 BILLION in goods and services. (16) Do any of you actually believe this trend will end soon when fortunes are made with each new prison built and filled with Blacks and other people of color?

Crime has been decreasing for several years now but the prison expansion boom continues. It's not crime, but RACISM, and GREED for profits that's driving the soaring Black imprisonment. Today is but a replay of how Blacks were reenslaved after the Civil War when "immediately vast numbers of Black males were imprisoned for everything from not signing slave-like labor contracts with plantation owners to looking the "wrong" way at some White person." (17) The Black imprisonment rate went from zero to 33% almost overnight. Between 1874 and 1877 it went to 300% in Mississippi and Georgia. (18)

So what are We to do about this move to re-enslave us? Well... We can stop our leaders from sponsoring or voting for any more crime legislation or kick them out of office. We can begin Economic Sanctions against the corporations profiting off our prison slave labor and the racist death penalty and eventually end them... only to await the next racist scheme sure to come. It has been so since we were first brought to this country over 400 years ago.

And for 400 years, and more, We've been in an abusive relationship with the government, and the White people, of this country... sort of like a battered woman in such a relationship. So how long are We to continue this masochistic abuse? Do We continue until We are re-enslaved, or murdered in a genocidal rage, or slowly poisoned with AIDS or the next diabolical scheme... or do We leave this relationship and go our own way? That is the real issue begging our ATTENTION TODAY if We are serious about LESS DETENTION TOMORROW.

Most Whites, other than arch-racists, have no problem envisioning a future "White-majority" that is just and nonracist with Black minorities living in it. Likewise, most Blacks have no problem envisioning living in such a society. But as soon as We pose our vision of a similar "Black-majority" society that is just and nonracist, most Whites take issue with it, nor can they envision themselves living in such a society even tho We state that "people of all races would be welcomed as citizens, as long as they're ready to uphold the new society's principles." (19) This reaction suggests to me that most Whites can't conceive of living in a multiracial society unless they dominate and control it. They've done so, and have become accustomed to such, throughout the history of Western Civilization.

So in closing i suggest that We begin thinking in terms of not less, but NO DETENTION TOMORROW by giving serious thought today to the planning and preparation of our people for the future holding of a PLEBISCITE: a national vote among Afrikans to determine if We want to go our own way, and if so turn our main ATTENTION towards REPARATIONS, LAND, and INDEPENDENCE as the best means to ensure NO DETENTION TOMORROW, and ever afterwards.

Sundiata Acoli
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White Deer, PA 17887
1/15/96

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5. War on Crack Targets Minorities Over Whites," Dan Weikel, Los Angeles Times, May 21, 1995.

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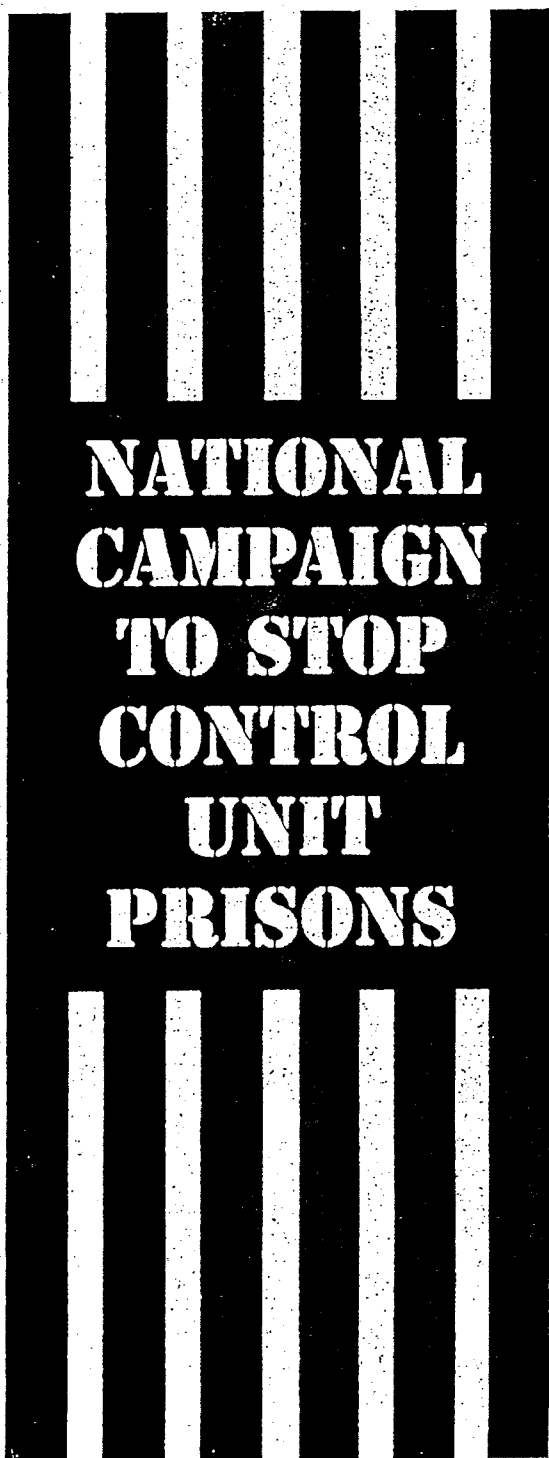
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**NATIONAL
CAMPAIGN
TO STOP
CONTROL
UNIT
PRISONS**

A CALL TO ACTION

In December, 1994 activists from across the United States, from a dozen states and two dozen cities, met in Philadelphia and founded the *National Campaign to Stop Control Unit Prisons*. A year later, at our second meeting, the Campaign issued a call to action for Spring of 1996. We believe:

That Control Unit prisons are barbaric. No human being should be caged in a cell nearly 24 hours a day and denied all human contact for years on end. It is clear that the purpose of Control Units is to destroy, both physically and psychologically, not to facilitate growth or improvement;

That political prisoners and other dissidents are especially targeted for incarceration in control units, the purpose being to dehumanize and criminalize them, and separate them from other prisoners and the movements they represent;

That Control Unit prisons are part of the insane imprisonment binge which portrays every problem as the fault of the individual rather than the result of a perverted social structure and which proposes that most of these problems can be solved by putting people away in cages for longer and longer periods of time;

That U.S. society's imprisonment binge and the proliferation of Control Units are essential components of U.S. racism. We believe that these components exist not because they are "errors" or misguided attempts to control crime. Rather, they exist not to control crime but to attempt to control the democratic impulses of people of color within the borders of the U.S.

Understanding these issues, we must organize and act; educate and agitate. With this in mind, the National Campaign is calling for coordinated activities all across the U.S. and Canada at the end of April and the beginning of May, 1996. The goal is to hold as many programs and demonstrations as possible at almost the same time. Areas already involved in the planning are Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Cleveland, Boulder, Gary, Newark, New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco. Several regions are holding hearings on control units and imprisonment. Some areas are planning hearings or an educational program to be followed by a demonstration or some other activity such as an educational picket or a delegation. Others are planning only an educational program or only an activity.

We hope that many more will join the effort. We believe that if we raise our voices against these barbaric control unit prisons, against the racist imprisonment binge, against the incarceration of millions of young people, that together we will be heard. Together we can organize,

through practical activity, a network of people that will challenge the dehumanizing U.S. society, and that will move towards the construction of a human society in its place. Please join us.

Contact the following people for further information:

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CROSSROAD Support Network - Announcements, News & Updates

3021 W. 63rd St., Chicago, IL 60629; 312-737-8679 (Voice/FAX); crsn@aol.com

On January 12, the Jackkksonville ABC/Youth Action Movement was raided by over 20 officers wearing black fatigues and body armor. The following is part of a statement which was posted on the internet: "They searched the house and interrogated Justin, Chris and Jenny. They were here in the house, without a warrant for about 3 hours. They stole from us 2 legally owned shotguns, a radio scanner, pamphlets, spray paint and stencils. The police openly admitted that they were here only to gain information on the ABC/YAM. The information we gave to the police was in large part menial. However, it was enough to give them a basic idea of what our organization is all about and was a blatant contradiction of everything we have learned or studied. We, perhaps more than a lot of others have read and re-read all of the material concerning talking to the police. Our position has always been not to say a word. When the police come in like they did, with guns and body armor and all, it is very intimidating. After all we had studied, all we had learned, we still violated our own policy. We have had meetings among ourselves where we have re-read and re-thought our material concerning talking to the police. We have gone through a lot of self-criticism, which is a very positive thing to help growth. No matter how small the conversation may be, it could be enough to get you in a far worse position than you need to be in. We would like to extend our experience with everyone... We would like to advise that you take your material about talking to the police more seriously than ever before. It is one thing to TALK it is another to DO... This petty attempt has served only to make us stronger in our determination and desire to see a better life for all of the people..." • B-Day Greetings to (March) **Jaan Lamaan, Juan Segarra-Palmer**, (April) **Ricardo Jimenez, Alberto Rodriguez, and Laura Whitehorn** • **Kojo Bomani Sababu** has been transferred to Florence ADX • **Sekou Odinga** has been transferred to



Jaan Lamaan & his son, Ricky

USPLompoc • **Merle Austin Africa** (#6306, 451 Fullerton, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238) is in solitary confinement... The prison authorities are intensifying their persecution of the MOVE women... Please send your letters of protest to Prison Superintendent William J. Wolf, 451 Fullerton Ave, Cambridge Springs, PA 16403-1238 • We'd like to thank all who



Nehanda Abiodun, New Afrikan Freedom Fighter in Exile in Cuba

of Pigs counterrevolutionary expedition was mounted by "expatriates" with u.s. assistance. **Viva Cuba Libre!** • According to the **National Rainbow Coalition** (Office of the Field Director, 1700 K St, NW, #800, Washington, DC 20006; 202-728-1180; jackson@rainbow.org), "[In late January] U.S. Customs agents violently attacked volunteers from a humanitarian aid caravan - the *Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO)/ Pastors for Peace* -- as they attempted to carry computers across the San Diego border into Mexico. The 30-vehicle caravan arrived at the border carrying nearly 300 computers bound for Cuba. The computers were donated to an on-line medical information system which would link Cuba's medical system, including hospitals, clinics and medical schools. All of the computers were seized, including 23 from Canada which had earlier been cleared by Customs. As many as 50 riot police with shields moved into place, despite the commitment of the caravan drivers to act nonviolently in all cases. Fifteen squad cars and many uniformed and plainclothes police from multiple law enforcement agencies converged on the border, along with 19 tow trucks. An interagency task force of U.S. Customs, INS, the U.S. Attorney's office, FBI, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, and the San Diego Police and Fire Departments had planned for weeks to seize the computers before they crossed the border into Mexico, according to unclassified government documents. After police blocked the way of the caravan, about 20 drivers attempted to carry computers across the border on foot, and were gang tackled by as many as 8 police at a time, who then violently wrenched the computers from their arms. Customs agents opened the backs of several trucks and began confiscating the computers. Caravan drivers, who had formed a protective ring around the trucks, some even sitting on top of them, were violently dragged away from their vehicles... IFCO-Pastors for Peace has organized 5 national aid caravans [since 1992]." We urge calls & faxes to the u.s. empire's representative Reno to: 1) demand an end to the embargo of Cuba; and 2) demand release of the computers so they can be used to improve Cuba's healthcare system.

• As We go to press, the empire is trying to create an international incident to escalate the war on the people of Cuba; two planes were shot down over Cuban airspace -- they were flown by "Cuban expatriates". The *Bay*

• S.T.A.C. (see pg. 1) requests that Brothas & Sistas around the empire research and forward information regarding prison industries in their respective states. Their conference, "Economic Sanctions Against Racism in America" (See CR, V6#2) is scheduled for August 15-17 in Kansas City. Call for further information. • **My Sister's Keeper** (1074 E. 89th St., Chicago, IL 60619) is seeking Sistas to act as mentors to women behind the walls, call 978-7265 for more information. • High blood pressure derailed **Rev. Helen Sinclair's** (*Ma Houston Prison Outpost*) federal prison tour recently, and We wish her a speedy recovery. • **Rev. Harold Bailey**, of *Probation Challenge* is recovering from a freak accident. As he drove under an overpass, the load of a U-Haul truck fell off & caught the back of his car, resulting in a back injury that could have been much worse. As of this writing, Rev. Bailey is recuperating at home. • **Larry Giddings** (#10917-086, P.O. Box 1000, Lewisburg, PA 17837), an anti-authoritarian political prisoner, & the **Bronx ABC** (P.O. Box 1034, Bronx, NY 10454) have collaborated to produce "Drum Talk", a postcard featuring a drawing of Mumia. The cards are .50/ea for quantities under 500 and .30/ea for 500 or more. Please send check or money order made out to *Political Prisoners Unite* to Bronx ABC. • **New Writings By or About Political Prisoners: The FBI Files**: "For the first time in the case of **Leonard Peltier** the documentation from the FBI that shows Peltier's innocence is now available to the public... Along with the compilation of FOIA documents is an important case study of what led up to the shoot-out on June 26, 1975, various letters of support from important political sources, samples of submissions to the Court of Appeals and the Parole Commission, a statement from Leonard Peltier, and most importantly what **you** can do to help free Leonard Peltier..." Send \$5 (add \$2 p&h) to *Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, P.O. Box 583, Lawrence, KS 66044; 913-842-5796*. • **Family Values** is a brief memoir by **Ray Luc Levasseur** about life underground; **Global Lords of Poverty** is a collection of two book reviews by **David Gilbert** about the devastation of *Structural Adjustment Programs* on the masses of the world. The pamphlets each sell for \$2, and are available from Cooperative Distribution Service, P.O. Box 77452, National Capitol Station, Washington, DC 20013. • **Black Prison Movements, USA** is published by *Africa World Press, P.O. Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08607*, and sells for \$14.95 in better bookstores. • The **New Afrikan Prisoner Bulletin** is "a medium to transmit information that is immediately & directly relevant to the New Afrikan captive." Subscriptions are \$4 for 6 mos. & \$7 yearly; Money orders must be made payable to *NIS & G Publishing, c/o Freedom Network, 654 Franklin Rd., Pontiac, MI 48341*. • **The Gaither Reporter** is a newsletter coming out of Houston, check it out: P.O. Box 262364, Houston, TX 77207-2364; e-mail: largaither@aol.com • **Tyehimba Jess**, revolutionary poet and journalist, is featured in a new anthology of Young Brothas, **Soulfires**. You may have heard of the brothas' epic poem, "**When Niggas Love Revolution Like They Love the Bulls**". - Word

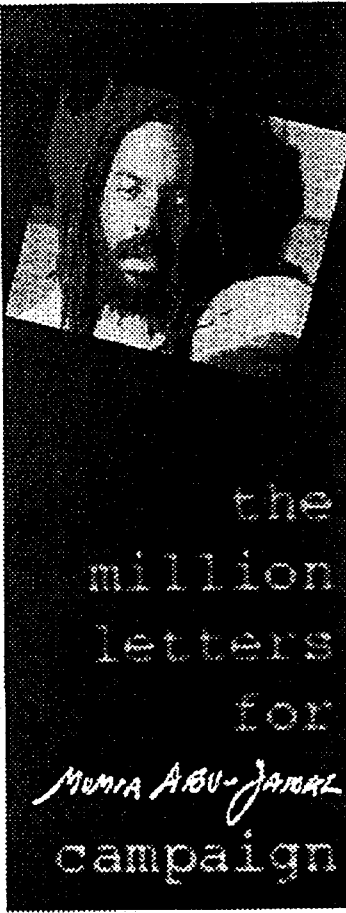


Merle Austin Africa



Laura Whitehorn





Why a Million Letter Campaign?

The NY Free Mumia Coalition has called for an International Million Letters for Mumia Campaign. This campaign supports, among others, the Congressional Black Caucus, N.A.A.C.P., members of the Hispanic & Progressive Caucus, who sent letters to Attorney Janet Reno requesting that the civil rights division "immediately conduct an investigation into the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal."

In their letter, the Congressional Black Caucus wrote, "A grave injustice is about to be committed. We are rushing to execute someone in the face of ample evidence that his constitutional rights have been denied, that he did not receive a fair trial and most importantly, that he is in fact, innocent."

The Attorney General's office responded that they could not investigate the case because the statute of limitations had expired, unless "evidence of an ongoing conspiracy" to deny Mumia Abu-Jamal his human and civil rights could be proven. Legal presentations will be made to this effect, but to make sure that the Attorney General's office realizes the importance of this case to millions of people around the world a massive grassroots campaign must accompany the presentations.

From Nelson Mandela in South Africa, to the Japanese Diet, to the European and Canadian Parliaments, support for Mumia has blossomed and proven vital to the pursuit of justice. Thus, the International Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal is joining in calling on all those in support of justice, against the death penalty and police brutality, and those who wish to stop a murder, to join the million letter campaign.

How You Can Help:

Letters to Attorney General Janet Reno are available in bulk to people willing to get them signed by their family and friends.

- Take letters to your church, community group, workplace or wherever you like, and collect signatures and donations. (We are trying to collect \$1 per signed letter.) The signed letters and donations should then be given back to International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal so we can deliver them on May 20th. Please don't mail them individually, as we feel that the delivery of all the letters at once will have the greatest impact.

- On May 19th we will go to Washington for a massive rally. Many of us will stay over night for the delivery of the million letters on May 20th.

- Help make this campaign successful! Return letters to the International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal, P.O. Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143; 215-476-8812.

We have videos, books, posters and buttons for you to use to help spread the word about Mumia's case. We meet every Thursday night at 7:00 at 4601 Market St. Speakers are also available to come to your group.

Honorable Janet Reno
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Reno,

I am aware that you have received thousands of messages - including 35 from congressional representatives, the N.A.A.C.P., and the Rainbow Coalition - urging the Justice Department to intervene in the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The call for the Justice Department to take action persisted, even after the stay of execution was granted to Mr. Abu-AJamal, and became more specifically directed at asking for a comprehensive civil rights investigation.

Your response has been that while the Justice Department has the statutory authority to investigate state court proceedings, and where civil rights violations have occurred to prosecute the parties responsible for those violations, there is a five year statute of limitations in both cases - UNLESS THERE IS SIGNIFICANT EVIDENCE OF AN ONGOING CONSPIRACY.

Yes, Mumia Abu-Jamal's trial occurred in 1982, eight years beyond the statute of limitations. But there is, indeed, significant evidence of an ongoing conspiracy to deny Mr. Abu-Jamal his human and civil rights and to assure that he be executed regardless of his innocence. To cite just one recent example of that conspiracy, Mumia Abu-Jamal was denied his right to communicate with his attorney in confidentiality. Confidential legal notes were duplicated and presented to the Governor of Pennsylvania, the very person who had signed Mr. Abu-Jamal's death warrant on June 1st. Further documentation of that ongoing conspiracy will be presented to you.

I join with thousands of others, once again, to urge you to conduct a comprehensive civil rights investigation to examine all the ways in which there has been and CONTINUES TO BE a conspiracy on the part of the State of Pennsylvania, from its executive to its judicial branches, to silence Mumia Abu-Jamal once and for all. A Justice Department civil rights investigation would make a significant contribution towards guaranteeing the new trial that Mumia Abu-Jamal must have if justice is to be served.

In light of this conspiracy, we request that all Philadelphia police files pertaining to Mumia Abu-Jamal, including those on police officer Daniel Faulkner be disclosed. A Justice Department civil rights investigation could make a significant contribution toward guaranteeing the new trial that Mumia Abu-Jamal must have.

Yours truly,