

KPFA SHOW ON POLITICAL PRISONERS 5/21/90

INTERVIEW WITH KIILU NYASHA AND DHORUBA BIN-WAHAD

[MUSIC]

NOEL [INTERVIEWER]: GERONIMO PRATT

G: . . . AND HELPED THEM WITH US. I WAS ABLE, I FELT GOOD ABOUT DOING THAT. WE CONSTITUTE THE SECOND, WELL THIRD, THIS IS CONTROVERSIAL, LARGEST GROUPING OF AFRICAN PEOPLE ON THE FACE OF THE PLANET RIGHT HERE IN THIS COUNTRY. NEXT TO NIGERIA ITS THE FIRST. I THINK NIGERIA HAS SOMETHING LIKE 90 MILLION. IN THIS COUNTRY, YOU HAVE SOMETHING, THEY'VE BEEN SAYING 22 MILLION, SO SOMETHING UPWARDS TO 50 MILLION. YOU SAY 40 TO BE CONSERVATIVE. YOU TALK TO A PERSON OF AFRICAN DESCENT HERE, AND THIS ONLY OCCURS IN THIS COUNTRY, THEY'LL GIVE YOU BLOOD LINES BACK TO THEIR FORMER SLAVE MASTERS. AND ARE PROUD OF IT. 'MY NAME WASHINGTON, MY NAME BRANSON.' AND THEY DO NOT REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING YOUR HISTORICAL IDENTITY IN TACT. YOU HAVE THESE ATTITUDES IF PEOPLE THAT IF, IT'S CALLED A PLEBESCITE, WAS TAKEN AS A NATIONAL VOTE. IF THAT WAS TAKEN, I'M WILLING TO AFTER OUR I'VE STUDIED AND EVEN BEING AWAY, BUT I'M STILL WILLING TO BET THAT THE VOTE WOULD COME OUT NATIONHOOD. THAT WE DO NOT NEED YOUR PRESIDENT. WE DO NOT NEED YOUR SUPREME COURT. WE DO NOT NEED YOUR CONGRESS. WE HAVE THE RESOURCES TO FEND FOR THAT OURSELVES. WE HAVE PEOPLE WE WANT TO HAVE PRESIDENTS OR COMMISSAR, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO BE. WE HAVE ENOUGH HERE TO HAVE DOCTORS. WE HAVE ENOUGH TO HAVE OUR OWN SUPREME COURTS. YOU KNOW. TO HAVE OUR OWN NATION AND LAND, [?- INAUDIBLE] I CAN SAY WE WOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS A NATION. ONE OF THE LARGEST NATIONS IN THE WORLD. YOU KNOW I THINK IT'S ONLY ABOUT NINE OR TEN NATIONS THAT WOULD HAVE MORE OF A POPULATION THAN WE WOULD HAVE. THERE WOULD ONLY BE MAYBE ABOUT SIX NATIONS THAT WOULD ONLY HAVE A LARGER ECONOMY THAN WE WOULD HAVE. ALREADY IT'S WORTH, WHAT, 400 BILLION DOLLARS, SOMETHING LIKE THAT. WE ALREADY HAVE

EVERYTHING TO SAY THAT WE'RE A NATION.

I'M A PRISONER OF WAR BECAUSE OF THE SECRET WAR THAT WAS WAGED AGAINST THE BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN THE 60'S. I AM A PRISONER OF WAR BECAUSE NUMBER ONE, I DID NOT DO WHAT THEY ACCUSED ME OF DOING, AND THERE'S, YOU KNOW, WE HAVE FACTS TO SUPPORT THAT AND PROVE THAT NOW. WHAT I DID DO, I HAVE NOT BITTEN MY TONGUE, I DON'T BITE MY TONGUE. I'M NOT ASHAMED OF IT, AND I'VE TALKED FREELY ABOUT IT ALL THROUGHOUT THESE YEARS WHICH CAUSED A LOT OF PROBLEMS FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE BECAUSE THEY DON'T LIKE TO HEAR IT. BUT THIS IS ME AND THIS IS TRUTH. I'M A MEMBER, I'M A SOLDIER, IN THE RANKS OF LIBERATION FOR OUR PEOPLE.

[MUSIC]

G: THEN YOUR NATION AS A FAMILY. THEN YOU REACH THOSE LEVELS OF CONCERN THAT EVERYBODY WOULD LIKE TO SEE. BUT IT FIRST STARTS WITH YOUR BEING CONCERNED ABOUT YOUR MOTHER AND YOUR FATHER, YOUR AUNTIE AND YOUR UNCLE, YOUR GRANDMOTHER AND YOUR GRANDFATHER, YOUR SON AND YOUR DAUGHTER, YOUR SISTER AND YOUR BROTHER. AND ON FROM THERE. THIS IS AN EXAMPLE [?] OF THE EXTENDED FAMILY. THE HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. ALL THIS IS BASED ON ONE THING. IT'S BASED ON LOVE.

NOEL: WE HAVE IN THE STUDIO DHORUBA BIN-WAHAD AND KIILU FROM THE GERONIMO PRATT SUPPORT COMMITTEE. KIILU'S GOING TO BE DOING AN INTERVIEW WITH DHORUBA.

KIILU: NOEL, ARE WE GOING TO PLAY THE GEORGE JACKSON TAPE?

NOEL: YEAH ACTUALLY YES WE ARE. SO WHY DON'T WE INTRODUCE -

KIILU: YES. I'M KIILU NYASHA, AND THIS IS DHORUBA BIN-WAHAD WITH ME FROM NEW YORK WHO WAS JUST RELEASED ON MARCH 22ND AFTER SPENDING 19 YEARS AS A POLITICAL PRISONER IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMPS OF NEW YORK STATE. DHORUBA AND I WERE COMRADES TOGETHER IN

THE PANTHER PARTY BACK IN THE LATE 60'S AND EARLY '70'S. AND I HAVEN'T SEEN THE BROTHER IN 19 YEARS. HE LOOKS GREAT, INCIDENTALLY. HE'S HERE WITH HIS WIFE, TANNAQUIL. AND HE'S HERE TO SUPPORT OUR STRUGGLE TO FREE GERONIMO JI JAGA PRATT. RIGHT NOW I'M GOING TO INTRODUCE A TAPE, JUST A VERY SHORT PORTION OF A TAPE THAT WAS DONE BY KAREN WALD IN 1971, MAY 16TH, EXACTLY 19 YEARS AGO. AND IT WILL GIVE YOU A LITTLE INCITE INTO THE THINKING OF THIS FORMER SOLEDAD BROTHER WHO WAS MURDERED ON THE PRISON YARD OF SAN QUENTIN AUGUST 21, 1971.

[GEORGE JACKSON TAPE - WHICH DOESN'T WORK]

KIILU: OKAY. WE'LL COME BACK TO THAT. TODAY'S CHRONICLE INDICATED THAT THE CALIFORNIA PRISON POPULATION HAS JUMPED 263 PERCENT IN THE LAST DECADE. THE NEW YORK TIMES YESTERDAY FEATURED AN ARTICLE ON THE NATION'S PRISON SYSTEM, INDICATING THAT THE PRISON POPULATION HAD CLIMBED 10 PERCENT. WE ARE *[in the last years]* FOCUSING ON POLITICAL PRISONERS HERE TODAY, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT POLITICAL PRISONERS IN MY OPINION ARE ALL BLACK PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE RACIST NATURE OF THIS SYSTEM, AND ALL POOR PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE ECONOMIC DISPARITIES AND INEQUITIES INHERENT IN THIS SYSTEM. DHORUBA, CAN I PLEASE HAVE YOUR COMMENTS ON THIS SITUATION.

DHORUBA: YES. FIRST OF ALL, I'D LIKE TO THANK KPFA FOR HAVING ME ON THE PROGRAM. AND I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CLARIFY FOR THE LISTENERS THAT THE GEORGE JACKSON TAPE DIDN'T PLAY BECAUSE THERE WAS SOME TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY. YES, KIILU, THE ISSUE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES IS A VERY VITAL ISSUE BECAUSE IT SPEAKS TO THE PRIMARY CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POOR PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE VARIOUS MOVEMENTS OF POOR PEOPLE TO ACQUIRE CERTAIN RIGHTS AND CERTAIN FAIR TREATMENT IN THIS SYSTEM. THE REASON WHY THE PRISONS ARE BULGING WITH BLACK FLESH AND THE FLESH OF PEOPLE OF COLOR IS BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES HAS REALIZED OR DOES REALIZE THAT

AFRICAN-AMERICAN PEOPLE NO LONGER ARE VIABLE IN TERMS OF THE ECONOMY, IN TERMS OF THE ECONOMICAL SYSTEM. SO POOR PEOPLE ARE BEING CRIMINALIZED. THE STRUGGLES OF POOR PEOPLE AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE HAVE HISTORICALLY BEEN CRIMINALIZED AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE CRIMINALIZED UNTIL THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WAKES UP TO THE FACT OF POLITICAL REPRESSION AND THE FACT THAT THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO HAVE RESISTED THIS SYSTEM AND ITS OPPRESSION. I'D LIKE TO SAY THOUGH THAT I SPENT 19 YEARS IN PRISON AS A VICTIM OF THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM. THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, KNOWN AS COINTELPRO, CARRIED OUT A SYSTEMATIC, RUTHLESS CAMPAIGN TO DESTROY BLACK MILITANCY AND LEGITIMATE DISSENT IN THIS COUNTRY. THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WAS A PRIMARY TARGET OF THIS COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM. AND TO THIS VERY DAY, WE HAVE VICTIMS OF THAT COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM LANGUISHING IN PRISON. VICTIMS SUCH AS ELMER JI JAGA PRATT - GERONIMO; THE QUEENS TWO IN NEW YORK STATE WHICH CONSISTS OF ABDUL MAJID AND BASHIR HAMEED; THE NEW YORK THREE, WHICH CONSISTS OF ALBERT NUH WASHINGTON, JALIL MUNTAQIN, AND HERMAN BELL. AND IN OMAHA WE HAVE FORMER PANTHER LEADER DAVID RICE WHO HAS BEEN IN PRISON FOR 20 YEARS FRAMED ON THE KILLING OF A POLICE OFFICER. IN DETROIT WE HAVE AHMED ABDUL RAHMAN, A FORMER BLACK PANTHER PARTY LEADER, WHO HAS BEEN IN PRISON FOR 20 YEARS AS WELL, WHO WAS FRAMED FOR THE MURDER OF SOME RESIDENTS IN A HOUSE THAT WAS BEING RAIDED FOR DRUGS BY THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY. ACROSS THIS COUNTRY THERE ARE MANY SUCH POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO HAVE CAME OUT OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY AND OUT OF THE MOVEMENT FOR BLACK LIBERATION WHO REMAIN IN PRISON AS A RESULT OF THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM. AND I THINK THAT IT'S VERY IMPORTANT THAT WE RAISE A CRY ACROSS THIS NATION TO FREE THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO ARE VICTIMS OF THE COUNTERINTELLIGENCE PROGRAM AND VICTIMS OF U.S. REPRESSION. SO I THINK THAT WHEN WE REALIZE THAT PRISONS TODAY SERVE AN ECONOMIC FUNCTION AS WELL AS A POLITICAL FUNCTION, THEN WE CAN BEGIN TO UNDERSTAND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE CRIMINALIZATION OF POVERTY IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE REPRESSION OF THE MOVEMENTS OF

U.S.
A.

OPPRESSED PEOPLE.

KIILU: I WOULD LIKE TO ADD THAT RIGHT HERE IN CALIFORNIA WE HAVE BROTHERS HUGO PINELL, ONE OF THE SAN QUENTIN SIX, WHO WAS CHARGED WITH THE AFTERMATH OF THE GEORGE JACKSON MURDER, THE EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE AT SAN QUENTIN AUGUST 21, 1971, IN WHICH FIVE, THREE GUARDS AND TWO OTHER INMATES WERE ALSO KILLED WHEN GEORGE WAS KILLED. HUGO HAS SPENT SOME 25 YEARS IN PRISON. HE'S BEEN BEATEN, BRUTALIZED, TORTURED, AND SUBJECTED TO THE MOST INHUMANE TREATMENT BECAUSE HE HAS TAKEN A RIGHTEOUS STAND AGAINST THE OPPRESSION OF BLACK PEOPLE AND THE SYSTEMATIC INCARCERATION OF BLACK AND BROWN PEOPLE HERE IN THE CALIFORNIA STATE PRISONS. RUCHELL CINQUE MAGEE IS GOING INTO HIS 30TH YEAR PROBABLY. ACTUALLY HE'S SPENT ABOUT 35 ALL TOLLED IN BEGINNING IN LOUISIANA IN PRISON. HE WAS INCARCERATED ON A TRUMPED UP RAPE CHARGE OF A WHITE WOMAN IN LOUISIANA, KU KLUX KLAN TERRITORY. HIS CASE IS TYPICAL OF THE KIND OF BLATANT RACISM THAT BLACK MEN HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO UNDER THIS SYSTEM. AND HE IS CURRENTLY IN CORCORAN, A NEW MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN CALIFORNIA NEAR BAKERSFIELD WHERE HE IS PROBABLY GOING INTO HIS 12TH YEAR IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. THE LAST I HEARD FROM HIM HE HAD DONE 11 YEARS, STRAIGHT YEARS, IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. THIS BROTHER WAS ON TRIAL WITH ANGELA DAVIS FOR THE MARIN COUNTY INCIDENT WHICH I DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO GO INTO RIGHT NOW. THERE ARE MANY OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO ARE DESERVING OF OUR RESPECT AND OUR ATTENTION, AND I WOULD CERTAINLY HOPE THAT YOU WOULD GET YOUR PENCILS OUT AND BEFORE WE CLOSE, WE WILL GIVE YOU A FEW ADDRESSES SO THAT YOU CAN WRITE TO THESE BROTHERS AND WE CAN BEGIN TO FLOOD THESE PRISONS WITH INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS AND SEND THESE BROTHERS OUR LOVE, SEND THEM OUR REGARDS, AND LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY HAVE SUPPORT OUT HERE.

DHORUBA: YES, SISTER KIILU, THE TORTURE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES IS SOMETHING THAT IS COMMONPLACE AND SOMETHING THAT GOES WITH VERY LITTLE ATTENTION. THE ISSUE OF

POLITICAL PRISONERS, AS I POINTED OUT, IS A VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE. IT'S A VERY PRESSING ISSUE BECAUSE THE LIVES OF INDIVIDUALS AS WELL AS THE VERACITY AND THE PRINCIPLES OF MOVEMENTS ARE AT STAKE. FOR INSTANCE, IN THE CASE OF GERONIMO PRATT WHO IS PRESENTLY AT TEHACHAPI STATE PRISON, GERONIMO PRATT IS BEING ISOLATED IN THIS REMOTE MAXIMUM SECURITY STATE PRISON. HE IS CONSTANTLY UNDER PRESSURE. HE IS IN THE MAX UNIT IN THIS PRISON, AND HE WAS TRANSFERRED THERE FOUR OR FIVE MONTHS AGO AS A CONSEQUENCE OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN TESTIFYING FOR SOME PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR. HIS BLOOD PRESSURE HAS GONE UP, HAS SHOT UP - 180 -

KIILU: 180 OVER 125.

DHORUBA: YES. 180 OVER 125. AND ANYONE THAT KNOWS ANYTHING ABOUT BLOOD PRESSURE REALIZES THAT HE IS BORDERING ON AN INSTANT STROKE OR HEART ATTACK. HE IS PERMITTED NO SPECIAL DIET IN ORDER TO ALLEVIATE SOME OF THIS HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE. HE WAS SENT TO TEHACHAPI SOLELY FOR PUNITIVE REASONS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS NEVER CHARGED WITH ANY VIOLATIONS OF PRISON RULES. HE IS BEING SET UP BY THE PRISON AUTHORITIES TO BE KILLED, MURDERED, BY APOLITICAL INMATES AT TEHACHAPI WHO DO NOT KNOW THE HISTORY OF THEIR PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE OR THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE POLITICAL PRISONER ELMER GERONIMO PRATT RESIDING IN THEIR MIDST. AND I THINK THIS COULD BE SAID ABOUT A NUMBER OF OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS. FOR INSTANCE, BASHIR HAMEED WHO IS CURRENTLY AT SHAWANGUNK CORRECTIONAL FACILITY IN NEW YORK STATE. THIS IS THE MAXI-MAXI PRISON IN NEW YORK STATE. HERMAN BELL IS ALSO INCARCERATED AT THIS PRISON IN THE CLOSE SUPERVISION UNIT. BUT BASHIR HAMEED HAS BEEN LOCKED DOWN FOR THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT. THIS MEANS THAT HE IS LOCKED DOWN 23 HOURS A DAY. HE'S ONLY PERMITTED OUT OF HIS CELL FOR ONE HOUR A DAY. AND SOME DAYS HE'S NOT EVEN PERMITTED OUT FOR THAT. HIS PHONE CALLS HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED; HIS VISITS ARE CURTAILED. HIS BLOOD PRESSURE ALSO HAS SHOT UP, AND HE IS BEING REFUSED PROPER

MEDICAL TREATMENT. SO WE SEE THAT ALL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE SUBJECT TO THE MOST HEINOUS AND VICIOUS AND VILE TREATMENT BY THE CORRECTIONAL AUTHORITIES MAINLY IN AN EFFORT TO BREAK THEIR SPIRIT AND TO DESTROY THEM AS SYMBOLS OF OUR STRUGGLE. SO WE NEED TO NOT ONLY FLOOD THESE PRISONS WITH LETTERS OF INDIGNATION AND WRITE THESE BROTHERS TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THEY ARE SUPPORTED, WE NEED TO ORGANIZE ACTIVITIES, MILITANT ACTIVITIES, AT THE DOORSTEPS OF THESE PRISON AUTHORITIES IN ORDER TO BRING HOME TO THEM THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE MISTREATMENT OF OUR HEROS AND THOSE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN THESE PRISONS WHO HAVE SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES FOR OUR FREEDOM.

KIILU: AND WE CERTAINLY NEED TO REVIVE THE PRISON MOVEMENT THAT WAS AT ITS HEIGHT IN 1971 AND HAS APPARENTLY RETREATED FROM DEALING ACTIVELY AND PERSISTENTLY WITH THIS INCREASING PROBLEM OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU, DHORUBA, IF YOU WOULD DESCRIBE SOME OF YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES UNDER THE HANDS OF THE PRISON SYSTEM.

DHORUBA: WELL, KIILU, WHEN I WENT INTO PRISON IN 1971, MY INITIAL EXPERIENCES WITH THE PRISON AUTHORITIES REVOLVED AROUND THE FACT THAT AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME THE REPRESSION OF THE BLACK LIBERATION MOVEMENT HAD JUST ABOUT PEAKED OUT. IT HAD BROKEN THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY. MASS ORGANIZATIONS AND MASS DEMONSTRATIONS HAD BEEN CURTAILED. THE WAR IN VIETNAM HAD BEEN WINDING DOWN, AND THE WHITE LEFT HAD BASICALLY ABANDONED ITS PRINCIPLES IN REGARDS TO SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE OF COLOR AND THEIR LIBERATION STRUGGLES. SO WHEN I WENT TO PRISON IN 1971, THESE THINGS WERE HAPPENING. BUT IRONICALLY THERE WAS A STRONG PRISON MOVEMENT THAT MAINLY WAS THE VESTIGE OF THE RADICAL '60'S. SO I WAS INITIALLY ISOLATED BY THE PRISON OFFICIALS WHO FELT THAT ANY CONTACT THAT I MAY HAVE WITH APOLITICAL PRISONERS WOULD SOMEHOW POLITICIZE THEM AND CAUSE THEM TO REBEL AGAINST RACIST PRACTICES OF PRISON AUTHORITIES. SO I WAS ISOLATED A LOT IN THE FIRST YEARS OF MY IMPRISONMENT. AND A NUMBER OF OTHER POLITICAL

PRISONERS SUCH AS THE NEW YORK THREE AND ROBERT SETH HAYES AND BABA ODINGA AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO SUBSEQUENTLY CAME TO PRISON FROM 1971 TO 1974 WERE SIMILARLY ISOLATED. AND THEN THE PRISON AUTHORITIES HAD ADOPTED A POLICY CALLED THE CENTRAL MONITORING CASE POLICY, OR THE CMC. CENTRAL MONITORING CASE MEANT THAT WHEN YOU WERE CLASSIFIED A JACKET TO THE CMC THAT YOU WERE TARGETED FOR SPECIAL TREATMENT. AND ALL OF THE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN NEW YORK STATE WERE DESIGNATED CMC. SO WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IS THAT WHENEVER ONE OF US IS TRANSFERRED FROM ONE PRISON TO THE OTHER, ALL OF US WERE MOVED. SO THERE WOULD NEVER OCCUR ANYTIME, SO THAT IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN THAT AT ANY PARTICULAR TIME WE WOULD ALL BE IN ONE PRISON. AND THIS RESULTED IN OUR ISOLATION IN THE MOST REMOTE PRISONS IN THE NEW YORK STATE PRISON ACAPELAGO. SO THE INITIAL PARTS OF MY IMPRISONMENT REVOLVED AROUND THIS TYPE OF CONSTANT MOVING TO ISOLATED PRISONS, HARASSMENT, BEING PLACED IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT ON FLIMSY DISCIPLINARY CHARGES, HAVING MY MAIL OPENED AND WITHHELD, HAVING MY PACKAGES DESTROYED AND SHORT-STOPPED BY THE PRISON OFFICIALS. ALL OF THESE THINGS OCCURRED DURING THE EARLY PERIOD OF MY INCARCERATION AND CONTINUED MORE OR LESS UP UNTIL THE LAST YEAR OF MY RELEASE. THE HARASSMENT WAS NEVER-ENDING. ALTHOUGH I WAS NOT ONE OF THOSE PRISONERS WHO WAS CONSTANTLY SUBJECT TO PHYSICAL ABUSE, MANY POLITICAL PRISONERS ARE. I'VE HAD OCCASIONS OF PHYSICAL RUN-INS WITH THE PRISON OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, THEIR MAJOR EMPHASIS WAS TO BREAK MY SPIRIT AND TO BREAK MY MIND. AND TO DO THIS THEY ENGAGED IN CONSTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL BATTLES, CONSTANT PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE, AND CONSTANT ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE ME FROM THE COMMUNITY AND FROM OTHER PRISONERS. SO BASICALLY, MY METHOD OF RESISTANCE WAS TO DEVELOP MY SPIRITUAL AS WELL AS MENTAL CAPACITIES AND FACULTIES TO RESIST THIS TYPE OF REPRESSION AND THIS TYPE OF TORTURE. NELSON MANDELA POINTED OUT AFTER HIS, SUBSEQUENT TO HIS RELEASE AFTER A VERY LONG PERIOD -

KIILU: 27 YEARS.

DHORUBA: 27 YEARS. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS NOT HIMSELF SUBJECT TO PHYSICAL ABUSE, THAT THE AUTHORITIES TRIED MIGHTILY TO DESTROY HIS MIND AND TO DESTROY HIS SPIRIT. AND WE SEE THAT THIS IS OFTEN THE CASE WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS. SO POLITICAL PRISONERS HAVE TO FIGHT A VERY SERIOUS AND SOLID FIGHT, OFTENTIMES, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR INTEGRITY AND THEIR ETHICAL AND MORAL CHARACTER. SO WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THOSE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT CLASSIFIED AS POLITICAL PRISONERS PRIMARILY BECAUSE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DOES NOT REPRESS THE LEGITIMATE DISSENT OF POLITICAL, LEGITIMATE POLITICAL DISSENT AND ADMIT IT. WHAT THE GOVERNMENT DOES IS IT FABRICATES CRIMINAL CHARGES AGAINST THOSE WHO DISAGREE WITH IT, THOSE WHO WOULD VOCALLY OPPOSE IT, AND ONCE IT CRIMINALIZES THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS, THEN IT PLACES THEM IN PRISON AND ATTEMPTS TO REDUCE THEM TO THE COMMON DENOMINATOR OF THE SOCIAL CRIMINALS THAT EXIST, TO THE LEVEL OF A SOCIAL CRIMINAL. SO WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT THE STRUGGLE TO OVERCOME THAT IS A SERIOUS MENTAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL STRUGGLE.

KIILU: I'D ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THE FACT THAT WE HAVE A POLITICAL PRISONER RIGHT NOW WHO IS FACING THE DEATH PENALTY: MUMIA ABU JAMAAL. WHO'S IN PENNSYLVANIA, IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. WAS ACTIVE IN PHILADELPHIA. HE WAS A JOURNALIST WORKING FOR BLACK RADIO STATIONS AND NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS. ALWAYS A CHAMPION. THEY CALLED HIM THE VOICE OF THE VOICELESS. THE BROTHER HAS BEEN, WAS IN, WAS ATTACKED BEHIND HIS SUPPORT OF THE MOVE PEOPLE WHO WERE INCARCERATED. BEHIND THE - WHAT'S HIS NAME, MAYOR GOOD, HE HAS THE NERVE TO BE NAMED MAYOR GOOD - WHO ATTACKED THE MOVE PEOPLE VICIOUSLY - BOMBED THEIR HOUSES AND SET A WHOLE BLOCK OF HOMES ON FIRE BACK, IN WHAT YEAR WAS IT?

DHORUBA: I BELIEVE IT WAS 1970 UH -

KIILU: I THINK IT WAS IN THE '80'S, IN THE '80'S.

DHORUBA: IN 1981, '81.

KIILU: YEAH. IN ANY CASE, MUMIA BECAME A TARGET OF THE POLICE FORCES THERE, AND INCIDENTALLY, PHILADELPHIA'S NOTORIOUS FOR ITS VERY, VERY FASCIST, RACIST POLICE OFFICERS, IF YOU COULD EVEN CALL THEM OFFICERS. AND IN A SO-CALLED SHOOT-OUT, A POLICE OFFICER WAS KILLED, AND MUMIA IS NOW FACING THE DEATH PENALTY. AND WE NEED TO MOVE QUICKLY TO SAVE THIS BROTHER'S LIFE. A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN IS AFOOT. MUMIA ABU JAMAAL, NUMBER M-8335, DRAWER R, HUNTINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA 16652, OR JUST WRITE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA, THE GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA AND DEMAND THAT THIS BROTHER BE, WHAT IS THEY CALL IT WHEN THEY -

DHORUBA: COMMUTE HIS DEATH SENTENCE.

KIILU: HIS DEATH SENTENCE BE COMMUTED IMMEDIATELY. HE IS THE BEST OF OUR KIND. THIS BROTHER STRUGGLED, HE WAS A FORMER PANTHER MEMBER, HE HAD HIS LIFE ON THE LINE FOR YEARS AND YEARS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR OUR RIGHTS, OUR HUMAN, OUR CIVIL RIGHTS. WE MUST STOP ALLOWING THIS SYSTEM TO TAKE AWAY THE BEST OF OUR KIND AND LOCK THEM UP. AND THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS THE SITUATION OUT HERE IS DETERIORATING AS FAST AS IT IS. THEY'VE LOCKED AWAY THE PEOPLE WHO, THE VERY PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE OUT HERE STRUGGLING TO ORGANIZE AND BE OUR BEST ADVOCATES AND FIGHT FOR OUR FREEDOMS. ONE OF THE THINGS I'VE NOTICED IS THAT ANY TIME A POLICE OFFICER IS KILLED, I REMEMBER BACK IN THE PANTHER DAYS WHEN THE POLICE ATTACKED PANTHER OFFICES AND MURDERED PANTHERS JUST BLATANTLY, PREMEDITATEDLY, THEY WERE ALSO EXONERATED. HOWEVER, WHENEVER ONE OF THEM IS SHOT EVEN IN SELF-DEFENSE, AS IN THE CASE OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN BROTHER WHO WAS JUST RECENTLY RELEASED HERE IN CALIFORNIA, HE HAD TO SPEND 12 YEARS BEFORE BEING EXONERATED FOR THAT MURDER. AND BECAUSE IT WAS A CLEAR-CUT CASE OF SELF-DEFENSE. THE POLICE, ARE WE GOING TO ALLOW THEM TO BE ABOVE THE LAW IN OUR PRACTICE? ARE WE AS CITIZENS GOING TO ALLOW POLICE

OFFICERS CONTINUALLY TO BE ABOVE THE LAW? AND AT THE SAME TIME DAN WHITE, RIGHT HERE IN CALIFORNIA, WHO HAPPENED TO HAVE BEEN A FORMER POLICE OFFICER, WAS ABLE TO PREMEDITATEDLY KILL TWO TOP CITY OFFICIALS, ONE BEING THE MAYOR, AND DO FIVE YEARS TIME FOR IT. NOT ONLY DID HE NOT FACE A DEATH PENALTY, HE DIDN'T EVEN FACE LIFE IN PRISON. HE GOT FIVE YEARS. AND WE HAVE POLITICAL PRISONERS WHO ARE DOING AS MUCH AS 58 YEARS AS IN THE CASE OF SUSAN ROSENBERG FOR WEAPONS POSSESSION CHARGES. SO WE HAVE TO TAKE NOTE OF THESE DISCREPANCIES IN THE TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS IN THIS COUNTRY AND TAKE NOTE OF THE FACT THAT HERE IN CALIFORNIA, 9 OUT OF 10 PRISONERS IS BLACK. SO THE ARREST RATE IS, IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, I'M SORRY, CALIFORNIA'S RATE OF INCARCERATION FOR BLACKS IS 9 TIMES THAT OF WHITES. THE LATINO RATE IS 3 TIMES THAT OF WHITES. SO WE HAVE TO BE COGNIZANT OF THESE INCREDIBLE DISCREPANCIES. AND DHORUBA, I'LL TURN IT OVER TO YOU TO ADD TO THAT.

DHORUBA: WELL I THINK THAT WE SHOULD UNDERSTAND THE FUNCTION OF THE POLICE IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND AND BE VERY CLEAR REGARDING THE FUNCTION OF THE STATE, FOR THAT MATTER, IN TERMS OF THE INTERESTS OF ALL PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY AND IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THE STATE ITSELF, THE NATION-STATE ITSELF, VIEWS ITS OWN CITIZENS AS THE ENEMY AND HAS CREATED A CERTAIN CLASS OF INDIVIDUALS AND A CERTAIN CLASS OF INTERESTS THAT ARE ABOVE THE LAW AND BEYOND CONSIDERATION OR BEYOND SOCIAL CONSIDERATION THAT APPLY OR THAT IS APPLICABLE TO EVERYONE ELSE. I THINK THAT WE REALIZE THAT OLIVER NORTH IS WALKING THE STREETS TODAY BECAUSE HE CLAIMED THAT HE WAS FUNCTIONING IN THE INTERESTS OF NATIONAL SECURITY. I THINK THAT WE SHOULD COMPARE THAT TREATMENT WITH THE TREATMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE DEFENDED THEMSELVES FROM RACIST POLICE ATTACK AND TODAY LANGUISH IN PRISON. AND I'M TALKING ABOUT INDIVIDUALS SUCH AS MUMIA ABU JAMAAL, SUCH AS ELMER JI JAGA PRATT, AND OTHERS -

KIILU: SEKOU ODINGA.

DHORUBA: SEKOU ODINGA. AND OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS WHO HAVE STOOD UP TO RACIST POLICE ATTACK AND TO THE RACIST AGGRESSION INFLICTED UPON THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY. WE NEED TO VERY CLEAR THAT THERE IS A DOUBLE STANDARD OF LAW IN THIS COUNTRY: ONE STANDARD FOR WHITE FOLKS, AND ANOTHER STANDARD FOR BLACK FOLKS. AND THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT VALUES THAT ACCRUE TO LIFE IN THIS SOCIETY. THERE IS THE VALUE THAT ACCRUES TO PEOPLE OF COLOR WHO HAVE NO WORTH WHATSOEVER IN THE EYESIGHT OF THE LAW AND IN THE EYESIGHT OF THE SOCIETY, AND THERE ARE THE VALUES THAT ACCRUE TO THE LIFE OF WHITE PEOPLE WHICH IS SAID BASICALLY THAT A WHITE LIFE IS MUCH MORE VALUABLE THAN A PERSON OF COLOR. AND THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE CASE, AND WE NEED TO BE CLEAR ON THAT AND UNDERSTAND THAT ONLY BY BUILDING A MASS MOVEMENT TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS AND THE INTERESTS OF OPPRESSED PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY CAN WE BEGIN TO GET ANY TYPE OF FAIR TREATMENT UNDER THE EXISTING LEGAL SYSTEM.

KIILU: I'D ALSO LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT THIS SO-CALLED WAR ON DRUGS HAS BECOME NOTHING BUT A WAR AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE BECAUSE THE STEEP RISE IN ARRESTS ALL ACROSS THIS COUNTRY IS DUE TO THE FACT THAT OUR COMMUNITIES ARE FLOODED WITH DRUGS. DRUGS NEED TO BE DECRIMINALIZED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE EVERYONE IN AMERICA IS ON DRUGS IN ONE FORM OR ANOTHER. WE ALL TAKE ASPIRINS - LEGAL DRUGS, ILLEGAL DRUGS - ALCOHOL IS A DRUG, AND I COULD GO ON. BUT THAT'S BESIDE THE POINT. THE POINT IS THAT THE WAR THAT'S BEING WAGED, THE SO-CALLED WAR THAT'S BEING WAGED ON DRUGS IS BEING WAGED ESSENTIALLY AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE AND OTHER OPPRESSED PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY TO TAKE THEM OFF THE STREETS AND LOCK THEM UP AND INCARCERATE THEM IN THESE CONCENTRATION CAMPS.

DHORUBA: WELL I THINK THAT THAT'S, I MEAN THAT'S CLEAR. SINCE THE DECLARATION OF WAR ON DRUGS BY THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION, IRONICALLY GEORGE BUSH, FORMER CIA AGENT, WAS A MAJOR TRAFFICKER,

KIILU: DIRECTOR.

DHORUBA: I MEAN EXCUSE ME, FORMER CIA DIRECTOR, WAS A MAJOR TRAFFICKER OF DRUGS INTO THE UNITED STATES FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY. I MEAN THIS IS DOCUMENTED. HE HAS SUPERVISED VARIOUS OPERATIONS IN WHICH DRUGS WERE INTRODUCED INTO THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND INTO THE UNITED STATES. SO I FIND IT VERY IRONIC THAT HE WOULD DECLARE A WAR ON DRUGS. BUT IN ANY EVENT, WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE CURRENT WAR ON DRUGS AS IT'S BEING BALLYHOOD ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAS TARGETED THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN GENERAL AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN YOUTH IN PARTICULAR. AND IT HAS CREATED THE TYPE OF FASCISTIC AND REACTIONARY BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES THAT IN ANY OTHER SOCIETY WOULD BE REPREHENSIBLE. I MEAN, WE HAVE SITUATIONS IN THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY WHERE THE POLICE CORDON OFF ENTIRE SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY AND PROCEED TO RAMPAGE THROUGH THE COMMUNITY, ARRESTING AND BEATING INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE ON THE STREETS AND WHO DO NOT RESPOND TO THEIR ORDERS QUICK ENOUGH. WE HAVE HAD SITUATIONS I KNOW PERSONALLY FROM EXPERIENCE IN DETROIT AND IN OTHER CITIES WHERE THE POLICE HAVE KICKED DOWN THE DOORS OF INNOCENT PEOPLE, THREW THEM OUT INTO THE STREETS, AND LOCKED THEIR HOMES UP AND BOARDED THEIR HOMES UP - NEVER ARRESTING THESE INDIVIDUALS AND NEVER BRINGING CHARGES AGAINST THEM. AND ALL OF THIS IS DONE IN THE NAME OF THE WAR ON DRUGS. SO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE WAR ON DRUGS IN MANY WAYS SERVES THE SAME FUNCTION AS THE CATCH-ALL PHRASE OF LAW-AND-ORDER IN THE 1960'S. IT IS CLEAR, IT HAS BEEN MADE CLEAR, AND EVERYONE KNOWS NOW THAT THE TERMS LAW-AND-ORDER, COINED BY J. EDGAR HOOVER AND RICHARD NIXON AND THE OTHER CRIMINALS WHO WERE A PART OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, WAS COINED IN ORDER TO CAMOUFLAGE REPRESSION OF MILITANT POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN THE POOR COMMUNITIES. IT WAS A CAMOUFLAGE BUZZ-WORD FOR "LOCK BLACK FOLKS UP." AND THE WAR ON DRUGS IS SERVING MUCH THE SAME PURPOSE TODAY. THE WAR ON DRUGS

IS A CAMOUFLAGE, IS A SMOKESCREEN TO MASK THE EROSION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND TO CARRY OUT RACIST ATTACKS AGAINST PEOPLE OF COLOR.

KIILU: YOU'RE LISTENING TO KPFA - 94.1 FM ON YOUR RADIO. I AM KIILU NYASHA. AND WITH ME HERE IN THE STUDIO IS DHORUBA BIN-WAHAD, WHO WAS JUST RELEASED FROM A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON IN NEW YORK STATE AFTER DOING 19 YEARS FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT.

NOEL: AND YOU'RE LISTENING TO "YOU CAN'T JAIL THE SPIRIT - POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES." WE HAVE AN INCREDIBLE LINEUP THROUGH THE NEXT FOUR HOURS. THIS PROGRAM'S GOING ON UNTIL 11:00. WE HAVE UP NEXT APPROXIMATELY AT 8:00 GLORIA ALONZO FROM THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO FREE PUERTO RICAN PRISONERS OF WAR, AND WE ALSO HAVE A GREAT TAPE FROM THE PUERTO RICANS THEMSELVES, SOME OF WHOM ARE IN PLEASANTON FEDERAL PRISON RIGHT NOW. THAT'S GOING TO BE AN APPROXIMATELY 20-MINUTE TAPE. THAT'S COMING UP. WE ALSO HAVE COMING UP A TAPE FROM THE RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY DEFENDANTS, AND WE'RE GOING TO HAVE ONE OF THEIR SUPPORT COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN THE STUDIO TALKING ABOUT THEIR CASE. IT'S AN EXCELLENT TAPE. THE PLOWSHARES - WE HAVE AN INCREDIBLE TAPE. THERE'S SO MUCH INFORMATION THAT'S GOING TO BE HAPPENING THROUGHOUT THIS FOUR HOURS THAT I KNOW YOU'LL WANT TO STAY TUNED TO KPFA BECAUSE WE HAVE PATRICK CROTTY CROY IS GOING TO BE TALKING ABOUT HIS CASE. WE HAVE BOBBY CASTILLO FROM THE AMERICAN INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL. WE HAVE KATYA KOMISARUK LIVE IN THE STUDIO. BUT RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING THAT KEEPS ALL THIS HAPPENING. AND THAT'S A PLUG. A PLUG FOR KPFA. THAT MEANS THAT YOU SHOULD START SITTING DOWN, RELAXING, AND TRYING GETTING OUT THOSE FINGERS SO YOU CAN PUNCH THOSE BUTTONS AND CALL KPFA. WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO RIGHT NOW IS GO TO SOME MUSIC. I'LL LET YOU RELAX A LITTLE BIT. AND WE'LL COME BACK WITH DHORUBA AND KIILU AND PENNY ROSENWASSER WHO'S ALSO IN THE STUDIO. AND WE'RE GONNA ASK YOU FOR SOME MONEY.