

# **Release Eldridge Cleaver!**

**An appeal for  
letters  
demanding  
justice from  
the California  
Adult Authority**

**By  
Mrs. Kathleen  
Cleaver**



Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of Information for the Black Panther Party, author of the best-seller "Soul on Ice," staff writer for Ramparts Magazine, and member of the State Steering Committee of the Peace and Freedom Movement, is now being held a political prisoner at the State prison hospital at Vacaville, California. In a massive attack by 50 police on a group of Black Panthers in West Oakland on the night of April 6, Eldridge Cleaver and Bobby Hutton were trapped in the basement of a house that was bombarded with machine guns, tear gas, and finally set afire. Seventeen-year-old Bobby Hutton was murdered by the police while surrendering. Eldridge Cleaver was shot in the leg. Seven other Panthers, including the National Captain, David Hilliard, were arrested.

After being transported by ambulance and treated with kicks and beatings to Highland Hospital for summary first aid, whisked away after his attorney arrived for perfunctory booking at the Oakland City Jail, he was sped off to San Quentin for "security" reasons and arrived there around 4:30 a.m. as a parole violator, a state prisoner. When his lawyer attempted to contact him at San Quentin, where the best medical facilities are located, having been eluded at the City Jail, he finally located him several hours later at Vacaville, where, he was informed, Eldridge Cleaver had been sent for "medical treatment." Unable to move except in a wheelchair, seriously asphyxiated by the massive amounts of tear gas he had inhaled, his face and eyes tremendously swollen from tear gas burns and his body covered with cuts, bruises, and burns from the fire, gassing, and beating, Eldridge was confined to 'the hole' at Vacaville, a room without ventilation and too far away from the main facilities to call for help when his attorney found him.

Before any criminal charges were filed against him or any parole violation charges stated, the order to imprison Eldridge transmitted by phone, Eldridge Cleaver was treated as a convict.

Presently imprisoned in a hospital cell, the buckshot yet to be removed from his leg, Eldridge Cleaver is being kept under a specially invented "maximum security" at Vacaville that surpasses the security on all other prisoners. He is locked in his cell all the time, unable to leave for meals or exercise. Only when his attorney or family visits him is he allowed to leave his cell — about once or twice a week. He is not allowed to receive any books, newspapers, or magazines; the prison authorities have refused to let him have his typewriter, and prohibit him from mailing any manuscripts out. The many requests for interviews from newspapers, magazines, and TV stations have all been denied. Letters from friends have been returned. Visitors are limited to his immediate family and employer. And, although attorneys are permitted to see their clients at any time for whatever length they see fit, the prison officials consistently attempt to force his lawyer to leave at the close of regular visiting hours.

## **Defend Cleaver's Parole!**

After serving ten years of a 1-14 year sentence in California prisons, Eldridge was released on parole for four years. He had been consistently denied parole by the Adult Authority during his imprisonment as punishment for his political activities while in prison, and was only granted parole after tremendous political, legal, and financial pressure was applied to the Adult Authority by many literary and political figures who became impressed with his writings. Due to the restrictions imposed upon him, "Soul on Ice," which was written and sold while Eldridge was in prison, had to be smuggled out.

After he was released on parole in December 1966, Eldridge Cleaver was placed under intense surveillance by the adult Authority who had every intention of continuing to silence and eventually to imprison him again. When Eldridge Cleaver spoke at the Spring Mobilization Against the War in Vietnam Rally at Kezar Stadium last April, that speech made the Adult Authority prohibit him from making public speeches without their censorship and even from leaving the confines of San Francisco without their

permission. When he accompanied the Black Panther Party to Sacramento last May as a reporter from Ramparts Magazine, he was also arrested and the Adult Authority attempted to return him to prison then, but again, his parole was reinstated. Unable to conjure up sufficient charges, they were forced to release him, but diligently awaited another chance.

## Oakland Police Did This:



RUINS OF BASEMENT of 28th St. house where Eldridge Cleaver was wounded and Bobby Hutton was killed during a ninety-minute siege by over fifty Oakland police Apr. 6.

In order to revoke parole, at least two members of the Adult Authority must meet and bring charges against the individual on parole. In Eldridge Cleaver's case, however, his parole was revoked by 3:00 a.m. before any possible investigation could have been made and by the time he arrived at Vacaville Sunday morning there had as yet been no charges filed. The request for revocation came directly from the Oakland Police Department.

The clearly calculated attempt to liquidate the leadership of the Black Panther Party, starting in October with the attempt to murder Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense, in the streets, followed by the frame-up of Bobby Seale, Chairman, in February, and the raid of twenty armed policemen accompanied by a Captain, a Catholic priest and a black preacher, on the church in which Bobby held public meetings in March, culminating in the attempt to murder Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of Information, and the arrest of six other Panthers in April has intensified as the political power and organizational strength of the Party has grown. This, coupled with the flagrant irregularities in the arrest and charging of Eldridge Cleaver, the generalized harassment of the Black Panther Party, and the recent move to bring a Grand Jury indictment against the Panthers involved in the shootout focusing on Eldridge Cleaver reveals a planned and

consistent attempt to destroy our organization. The fact that this last and most flagrant attack on April 6 happened one month prior to Huey P. Newton's trial is no accident.

Eldridge Cleaver initiated almost single-handedly the now massive support campaign for Huey P. Newton. He organized, coordinated, and consistently developed our coalition with the Peace and Freedom Party. The political leadership he provided was of highest and most sophisticated calibre. It is also key to know that it was not until after he presented our demand for a U.N.-supervised plebiscite to determine the status of Afro-America to the Peace and Freedom Party Convention in March that the attempt to assassinate him was made. It was also after Malcolm X advocated taking our problem to the U.N. that he was assassinated. This tremendous artist, this eloquent spokesman and brilliant theoretician and deeply compassionate human being must be returned to our community to provide his unique and invaluable political direction.

WRITE A LETTER OR SEND A TELEGRAM TO:

Mr. Henry W. Kerr, Chairman  
California Adult Authority  
State Office Building Number 1  
Sacramento, California

demanding the reinstatement of Eldridge Cleaver's parole and condemning their collusion with the Oakland Police Department in its attempt to liquidate the leadership of the Black Panther Party. Send copies to Mrs. Kathleen Cleaver, c/o the Black Panther Party and the California Peace and Freedom Movement, 2860 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, Calif. 94705. Contributions to the Black Panther Party Defense Fund should be sent to P. O. Box 8641, Emeryville Branch, Oakland, Calif. 94608.

**ELDRIDGE CLEAVER**  
**MUST BE SET FREE!**