

THE FUSE

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NEW AFRIKAN PRISONER ORGANIZATION



UPDATE ON THE PONTIAC 31

The 17 Pontiac Brothers charged with murder and facing the death penalty were transferred to the Cook County Jail in Chicago on Aug. 1, 1979, where their trials will be held.

All 31 Pontiac Brothers urged their attorneys and supporters to fight to have all the trials held in Chicago. But the colonial state has divided the Brothers in an attempt to weaken the effectiveness of their in-court battles and the strength of their families and supporters.

Fighting to have all the trials in Chicago was based on the reality that a "fair trial" is totally impossible anywhere in amerikkka for black people, but that in Chicago, with its large black population, the Brothers would have a better chance of obtaining a "jury of their peers", the assistance of trusted counsel and of

an organized black community. But, this is possible only if the appropriate trial strategy is employed, and if the black community can be rallied behind the slogan of "Free The Pontiac Brothers--Put the Colonial State on Trial".

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'II. Gov. James Thompson' is, in reality, a Colonial Administrator.

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Pre-trial motions for the 17 are scheduled to be filed in September, and the state is trying to rush it through before the support for the Brothers builds on a national and international scale.

continued

On Tuesday, Aug. 7, 1979, three of the Pontiac Brothers--Larry Hoover, David McConnel and Ike Taylor--met with two International Jurists representing the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

On the day before, the same Jurists had visited Stateville prison kamp, and left with the clear understanding that the situation faced by the 31 Pontiac Brothers and black prisoners generally is a clear example of the practice of genocide and colonial domination of black people--New Afrikans--inside present u.s. borders. (see next issue of *THE FUSE*)

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The colonial state of illinois is also trying to rush the trials of the 14 other Pontiac Brothers, altho it is clear that they would like to railroad the 14 before trying to railroad the 17.



--John Lee and Lamont Richards are charged with two counts of aggravated battery, one count of mob action, and three counts of armed violence. Lamont Richards, if convicted on the armed violence charges, faces sentencing under the new genocidal "class x" law, which could mean an additional 60 years in prison.

They are to be tried in Bloomington, by Judge Townley, and pre-trial motions are due Aug. 30th, and trial has been set for Nov. 5th. Townley has refused to appoint Lee and Richards counsel of their choice, despite the appropriation of funds for that purpose by the illinois legislature.

--Larry Johnson is charged with one count each of mob action, burglary, and correctional code violation.

Update

To be tried before Judge Harrod, who'll hear pre-trial motions--including a motion asking for change of venue from Livingston County, where Pontiac prison kamp is located--on or before Aug. 30th.

--Robert Tosado is charged with two counts of burglary and correctional code violation. He, too, is to be tried by Judge Harrod. Pre-trial motions, and one asking for change of venue, are due on or before Aug. 30th.

--Authur Jones, Frank Frizzell, Allen Mack, Jr., Mike Mitchell and Bruce Jefferson are all charged with mob action and correctional code violation. Judge Glennon granted a change of venue to Bloomington. Pre-trial motions are due Aug. 30th, and a trial date has been set for Oct. 22nd.

--Lee Clark is charge with burglary and looting before Judge Knecht in Bloomington. Trial has been set for Sept. 17th.

--Willie Hardy and Hurries Johnson are charged with arson and correctional code violation (Willie Hardy faces two indictments on these charges!) before Judge Knecht. Trial has also been set for Sept. 17-Sept. 21st.

--Luis Perez and Manuel Santiago are charged with aggravated battery and mob action before Judge Dearborn in Bloomington. Discovery motions are pending, pre-trial motion are due Aug. 30, and Trial has been set for Sept. 4th.

Financial contributions should be made out to:
Pontiac Brothers Defense Fund, and mailed,
%N.A.P.O., P.O. Box 6020, Chicago, Il, 60680
For More information or to volunteer your time and skills to freeing the Pontiac Brothers, write to: Concerned Families and Friends of Prisoners,
% N.A.P.O., P. O. Box 6020, Chicago, Il. 60680

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Comrade Zakia (s/n/ Robin Elliott) is still locked in segregation in the prison kamp at Somers, Ct., for coming to the aid of a blood who had been attacked by a group of reactionary North American prisoners. Comrade Zakia writes that: "... the administration has a protracted plan to harass me as much as they can in an attempt to break the spirit of the true soldier that i am." Letters of support should be sent to:

Bro. Robin Elliott, 24941, P.O. Box 100
Somers, Ct., 06071

In December of 1978, several guards at Somers attacked a group of prisoners. The result has been six of the prisoners--now known as the Somers Six--were charged with rioting and assault, and now face a railroad/trial in what has been described as an "openly racist, rural Connecticut county." The six--Malik Muhammad (s/n Ernest Bradshaw), Jerando Castillo, Larry Harper, Abraham Lee, Michael Reynolds, and Louis Roque, have been denied proper legal assistance and a change of venue. Bro. Malik Muhammad has also been charged with attempted murder and possession of a dangerous weapon. Letters of support for The Six and Bro. Muhammad should be sent to: Bro. Ernest Bradshaw, 83772, P.O. Box 100, Somers, Ct., 06071

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The political Prisoners Revolutionary Solidarity Movement (PPRSM) has issued *A CASE AGAINST UNITED STATES DOMESTIC (NEO) COLONIALISM, FOR THE NATIONAL PRISONER OF WAR AMNESTY CAMPAIGN*. The document provides the orientation for a national Amnesty Campaign for Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War.

It provides the historical foundation for recognizing black people inside the u.s.--New Afrikan people--as comprising a dominated colonial possession of the u.s. It also provides the International Law applicable to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War, and for oppressed nations/colonies such as the Republic of New Afrika, who struggle against all forms of colonial domination. The document can be obtained by writing: Bro. Jalil Abdul Muntaqim, National Coordinator, NPO/UF of PPRSM, P.O. Box 736, Cathedral Station, New York, N.Y. 10025

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THE PEOPLE'S NEWSLETTER, P.O. Box 50334, Washington, D.C. 20004, is running a very enlightening and educational series on: *THE REPUBLIC OF NEW AFRIKA: IT'S DEVELOPMENT, IDEOLOGY AND OBJECTIVES*. The *NEWSLETTER* is published by THE PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION... they do some very positive and needed work, and can use our financial contributions so that they can continue.

BTW!
FTL!

WHERE IS OUR FUTURE?



About three years ago myself and about five (5) other women who are prisoners here at the Virginia Correctional Center for Women formed a group called the Community Involvement Group. One of the activities this group was involved in was one in which one night a week at least two of us would be taken outside the prison (handcuffed, shackled--in my case--and escorted) to the Diagnostic Center for Girls (ages to 16) and try to help them.

Some of the girls there were pregnant, some run-aways, a few were there for setting fires in the schools, refusing to go to school, etc. What they all

had in common though was the feeling that they were all alone, no one cared and they had nowhere to go from there that they could truly call home.

i initially got involved in this activity because a lot of those girls from the Diagnostic Center were being sent to VCCW for one reason or another and once here, were being victimized by the women and the correctional officers. i got tired as well as sick of watching these young girls being used as marks and fall guys by the women and scapegoats by the co's. i wanted to do whatever i could to help them...because once they'd been through this double wringer once, they were either conditioned to accept it and live with it, or Central State (state psychiatric hospital) material.

A fact: There are ten (10) women on the Segregation hall that i live on; of these ten (10) women, eight (8) of them started off in the Diagnostic Center when they were between nine (9) and twelve (12) years old...and all of them went from there to the School for Girls and graduated to here. Of the eight, only one is thirty (30) and all of them have been here at least once before.

What i'm trying to say is that our youth is our future, they're the next generation of fighters and if we don't begin to place them on our agenda, we'll be defeating our own purpose.

Ours is, by its very nature, a protracted struggle...

it took me a while to understand that...so We must lay the necessary foundations to ensure its successful outcome. If our youth are stolen from our communities and placed in juvenile shelters, training schools (junior grade prisons), etc., without our doing anything to combat this, then We will have no future.

Recently, all across the country, politicians have been trying to get the legislatures to enact measures calling for stiffer sentences for juvenile offenders. Only this morning i heard the attorney general for the state of virginia ask for children between the ages of thirteen (13) and seventeen (17) to be tried as adults for certain crimes.

We must begin to look to our youth and assume the responsibility of preparing them for what lies ahead.

We cannot do this by not recognizing what's happening to them and to us. Our youth are being neglected and We're allowing them to run wild and by so doing, We're allowing them to be carted off to institutions by the bus-loads and their minds destroyed.

We have to begin to educate them, discipline them and train them to carry on the struggle...for if We don't, then those who come behind us will be met with an even tougher hurdle to surmount then We met, for they will be missing an entire generation that We allowed--through omission--to be destroyed.

Our youth is our Future--We must protect them and through protecting them, ensure our victory.

Build to Win!

Safiya Asya Bukhari



THE NEW AFRIKAN CREED

1. i believe in the spirituality, humanity and genius of black people, and in our new pursuit of these values.
2. i believe in the family and the community, and in the community as a family, and i will work to make this concept live.
3. i believe in the community as more important than the individual.
4. i believe in constant struggle for freedom, to end oppression and to build a better world. i believe in collective struggle; in fashioning a victory in concert with my Brothers and Sisters.
5. i believe that the fundamental reason our oppression continues is that We, as people, lack the power to control our lives.
6. i believe that the fundamental way to gain that power, and end oppression, is to build a sovereign black nation.
7. i believe that all the land in amerikkka, upon which We have lived for a long time, which We have worked and built upon, and which We have fought to stay on, is a land that belongs to us as a people.
8. i believe in the Malcolm X Doctrine: that We must organize upon this land, and hold a plebiscite, to tell the world by a vote that We are free and our land independent, and that, after the vote, We must stand ready to defend ourselves, establishing the nation beyond contradiction.
9. Therefore, i pledge to struggle without cease, until We have won sovereignty. i pledge to struggle without fail until We have built a better condition than man has yet known.
10. i will give my life, if that is necessary. i will give my time, my mind, my strength and my wealth because that IS necessary.
11. i will follow my chosen leaders and help them.
12. i will love my Brothers and Sisters as myself.
13. i will steal nothing from a Brother or Sister, cheat no Brother or Sister, misuse no Brother or Sister, inform on no Brother or Sister and spread no gossip.
14. i will keep myself clean in body, dress and speech, knowing that i am a light on a hill, a true representative of what We are building.
15. i will be patient and uplifting with the deaf, dumb and blind, and i will seek by word and deed to heal the black family, to bring into the Movement and into the Community mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters left by the wayside.

NOW, freely and of my own will, i pledge this CREED, for the sake of freedom for my people and a better world, on pain of disgrace and banishment if i prove false. For, i am no longer deaf, dumb and blind. i am--by grace of Malcom--a New Afrikan.

