

IN MASSACHUSETTS
413-586-4407
PO BOX 4690
SPRINGFIELD, MA 01101

THE SEDITION COMMITTEE

OHIO / ON TRIAL FOR SEDITIOUS CONSPIRACY

IN NEW YORK
212-969-0448
PO BOX 1418, CATHEDRAL STA
NEW YORK, NY 10025

NOVEMBER 1988 SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER 15
UMASS
Rm T.B.A.
7PM

ATTICA BROTHERS, BIG BLACK & AKIL ALJUNDI
reach out to educate. The film "TEACH OUR CHILDREN" will be shown together
with a discussion of US political prisoners and liberation struggles within our borders

NOVEMBER 16
NORTHAMPTON
Northstar Restaurant
9:30pm-12:30am

DANCE
FUNDRAISER IN SUPPORT OF
US POLITICAL PRISONERS and THE SEDITION COMMITTEE
DISCS SPUN BY JIM McD OF "SOUL FURNACE" FAME

THE CHILDREN'S FUND

Make the holidays easier for our comrades and their families.

Support the Ohio 7 and their children with donations sent to:

Atty William M. Kunstler / Special Accounts, 13 Gay Street, NY, NY 10014

COURT DAYS THIS MONTH

NOVEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

WHERE: Federal Courthouse, Springfield, Mass

WHEN: 9:30-1:00, 2:00-4:00

The Ohio 7 need your presence in the courtroom!

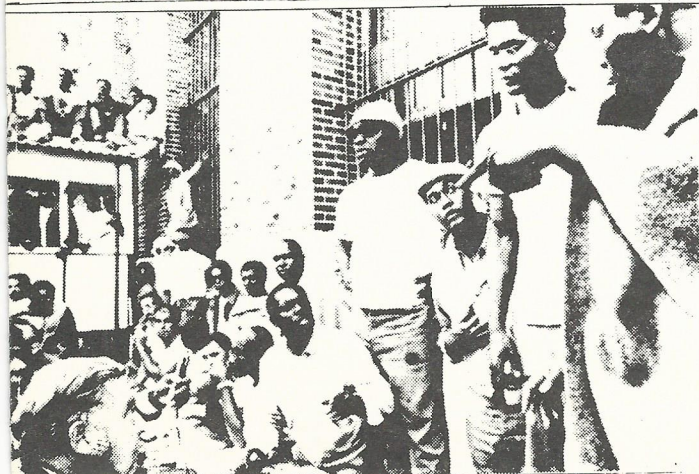
The marshals outnumber the defense lawyers and the
defendants combined. Come and support our move-
ment and our comrades. Don't let them stand alone!

CALL 586-4407 to arrange a ride or someone to go with you.

ATTICA REMEMBERED

We must not forget.

Seventeen years ago, Sept. 1971, the world discovered the nightmare of Attica. Hidden in the hills of western New York, 2400 men were warehoused in a heavily secured facility built for 1600 prisoners. Guard brutality, racism, grossly deficient medical care, severe censorship, horrible food, unbearable working conditions and no educational programs faced the prisoners always. Over the summer of 1971, pleas for improvements multiplied, but were answered with words, not actions. Given the political climate of this time, with the murder of George Jackson in San Quentin on Aug. 21, 1971, the Attica rebellion was no surprise.



Sparked by an incident between prisoners and white guards in the yard, prisoners seized control on the morning of Sept. 9th. Within hours, 1200 men had taken over Attica's huge D-Block yard. They occupied the space with 43 guard hostages, for the next 4 days. Leaders selected by the prisoners and authorities tirelessly negotiated about prison conditions. Discussions stalemated, however, when Gov. Nelson Rockefeller refused to come to the prison and negotiate his rockhard position of no amnesty and no guarantee of a reprisal-free surrender.

(cont. on next page)

Attica Prison Uprising D yard 1971

An observation team of eminent state leaders continued to press for a mediated resolution. Nonetheless, sitting in his mansion at Pocantico Hills on the morning of Sept. 13, Rockefeller ordered an all-out assault on the men in D-Block yard by state troopers, police and correction officers, all heavily armed with machine guns, shot guns, etc. The blood bath lasted 15 minutes. In those moments, the attackers killed 10 hostages and 29 prisoners and wounded 3 hostages and 189 prisoners. Faced with this state created carnage, the authorities response was to blame the victims for their actions - falsely reporting that the prisoners had killed the hostages by slitting their throats.

The Sept. 13th massacre at Attica caught the world's attention. But the horror of that morning paled in comparison to the reign of terror that followed. Hundreds of naked men were forced to run through a gauntlet as over 60 guards taunted them with racist slurs and beat them with clubs they called "nigger sticks". Guards brutalized and tortured those thought to be leaders. While prison authorities winked, atrocities by guards continued for weeks.

Two official reports blasted the state's conduct during the assault and aftermath. Only one state participant, a state trooper, was ever indicted, while 62 prisoners were named in 42 indictments charging them 1289 crimes. Of all those indicted only two Native American prisoners charged with killing the white guard were convicted. Not a single person responsible for the Attica carnage and aftermath was ever disciplined, although one trooper who murdered 2 prisoners in cold blood was allowed to resign with a pension.

We must not forget Attica because its history continues. A civil rights lawsuit for millions of dollars in damages on behalf of the men killed, injured and brutalized in D-Block yard was filed on the 3rd anniversary of the Attica tragedy. The action, pending before Judge J. Elfvin in the federal court in Buffalo, has not come to trial. The case is massive and expensive, yet chief attorney Elizabeth Fink presses it forward. She has read some 5 million pages of documents concerning the rebellion which the state finally ordered to turn over to her in '82. These documents reveal that Rockefeller knew his actions would result in slaughter, but he ordered the assault anyway because he believed his actions would enhance his chances of becoming the President of the United States.

Judge Elfvin just ruled that Rockefeller was not liable for the massacre continuing the tradition of the cover-up started on 9/13/71. Nevertheless, in July of '88 he ordered the plaintiffs' attorneys to publish weekly notices of the lawsuit in publications nationwide at a cost of \$29,000. The notice is intended to locate and encourage all people who were in D-Block yard during the massacre (or their families) to contact Ms. Fink at 294 Atlantic Ave., Brooklyn, NY. 11201. When the case finally comes to trial perhaps in late 1989, a jury will decide whether the state will be finally held accountable.

And we must not forget about Attica because it still exists.

Since the rebellion, some important changes for the better have taken place, but the fundamental problems still remain. Attica still crams nearly 2200 men between its walls; unchecked racist conduct and physical brutality by guards are still pervasive. The issue of the '80s, how to care for persons living with AIDS, has become a new megacrisis at Attica and other state prisons.

Attica must be remembered...

17 years ago brothers of Attica rebelled against inhumane and dehumanizing conditions.

The response of the state was to slaughter them.

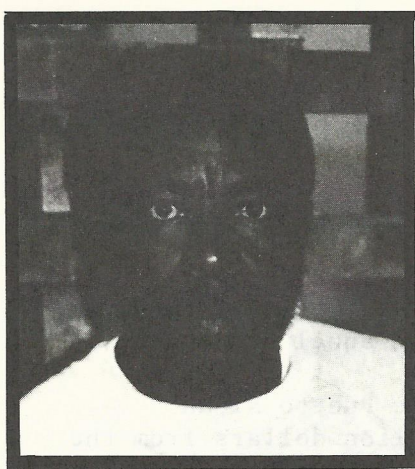
Today people who were in the yard are still in prison.

Attica must be remembered:

Today a judge finds Rockefeller not liable for the massacre.

Put the real criminals on trial!

Attica must be remembered - because Attica is all of us!



SUNDIATA ACOLI

New Afrikan/ Prisoner of War

Sundiata Acoli, a NewAfrikan political prisoner of war, mathematician, and computer analyst, was born January 14, 1937, in Dectur, Texas, and raised in Vernon, Texas. He graduated from Prairie View A&M College of Texas in 1956 with a B.S. in mathematics and for the next 13 years worked for various computer-oriented firms, mostly in the New York area.

During the summer of 1964 he did voter registration work in Mississippi. In 1968, he joined the Harlem, New York, Black Panther Party and did community work around issues of schools, housing, jobs, child care, drugs, and police brutality.

In 1969 he and 13 others were arrested in the Panther 21 conspiracy case. He was held without bail and on trial for two years before being acquitted, along with all other defendants, by a jury deliberating less than two hours.

Upon release, FBI intimidation of potential employers shut off all employment possibilities in the computer profession and stepped up COINTELPRO harassment, surveillance and provocations soon drove him underground.

In May 1973, while driving the New Jersey Turnpike, he and his comrades were ambushed by N.J. state troopers. One companion, Zayd Shakur, was killed, another companion, Assata Shakur was wounded and captured. One state trooper was killed and another wounded, and Sundiata was captured days later.

After a highly sensationalized and prejudicial trial he was convicted of the death of the state trooper and was sentenced to Trenton State Prison (TSP) for life plus 30 years consecutive.

Upon entering TSP he was subsequently confined to a new and specially created Management Control Unit (MCU) solely because of his political background. He remained in MCU almost five years in a stripped cell smaller than the SPCA's space requirement for a German shepherd dog. He was only allowed out of his cell ten minutes a day for

showers and two hours, twice a week, for recreation and was subjected to constant harassment and several attacks by guards. During one period he was not let out of the cell for six continuous months.

In September 1979, the International Jurist interviewed Sundiata and subsequently declared him a political prisoner. A few days later prison officials secretly transferred him in the middle of the night to the federal prison system and put him enroute to the infamous federal concentration camp at Marion, Illinois, although he had no federal charges or sentencing. An entrance physical examination by federal medical personnel disclosed that he had been heavily exposed to tuberculosis while at Trenton State Prison.

Marion is the highest security prison in the U.S., also one of the harshest, and there Sundiata was locked down 23 hours a day in a stripped cell containing only a stone bed, toilet, wash bowl, and a few personal items. Brutal conditions and violence are epidemic at Marion where murders and assaults by guards and prisoners alike are common occurrences. During one turbulent period in October 1983, Sundiata and all prisoners were confined to their cell blocks 24 hours a day for nine continuous months as wolf packs of guards roamed about the complex beating prisoners at random.

Sundiata spent eight years at Marion, longer than almost any other prisoner. In July, 1987 he was transferred to the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, where he is presently confined.

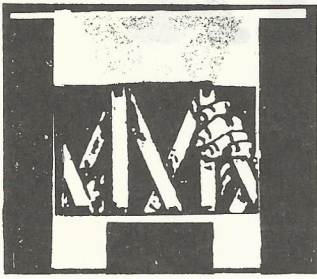
The information for this article was excerpted from CAN'T JAIL THE SPIRIT: POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE U.S. a collection of biographies published and available from Editorial El Coqui 1671 N. Claremont Chicago, IL 60647.

If you want to write Sundiata please contact the Sedition Committee for his address.

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NO TERRORISTAS

Juan Segarra, Hartford 15 defendant, Speaks Out!!

One week after the verdict in the first part of the so-called 'Wells Fargo' case, U.S. Attorney Stanley Twardy wrote an op-ed article in the Hartford Courant. In it he said, "The Wells Fargo trial in reality, was a model of due process".

Most knowledgeable observers of the trial give primary importance to the jury, then to the judge, and finally an equal but lesser importance to the defense and the prosecution.

The jury in the Hartford prosecution of the Puerto Rican independentistas charged with taking \$7.1 million dollars from the

Wells Fargo depot on Sept. 12, 1983 was designed to convict. Aware that a poll in Puerto Rico showed that 44% of the people regarded the Macheteros as patriots, Judge T. Emmet Clarie denied the defense motions to try the case in Puerto Rico, where the alleged conspiracy took place, in order to guarantee a jury that would convict. He did this despite the fact that all of the tapes and documents were in Spanish, and the tapes alone consumed 24 days in a 60 day trial.

Even though Hartford's population is 25% Puerto Rican, there were no Puerto Ricans on the jury. In addition, there were no Spanish-speaking jurors who could evaluate the testimony of the government's key witnesses, a translator who was paid over \$150,000. There were, however, three Polish-speaking Americans to serve as peers for the chief prosecutor who was Polish-American. One of jurors had crashed his car into President Ford's limousine in 1975, and it was prosecutor Dabrowski who had dismissed the charges against him, another was a sheriff's wife, another a court reporter...

On top of all that, the jury was anonymous and semi-sequestered, brought to court by U.S. Marshals who varied their routes and watched over them during their lunch hour.

How could all this happen given the excellent attorneys on the defense? The judge.

Judge T. Emmet Clarie was a classic case of "a wolf in sheep's clothing", the prosecution in judge's robes. At the beginning of the trial, an elderly gentleman in the spectator section came up to the defense attorneys and warned, "I was with Clarie in the state assembly, and he knows how to make white look black".

Clarie sanitized the government's case in the pre-trial hearings, inhibited all political arguments by the defense, prohibited the defense from bringing before the jury evidence of FBI misconduct with regard to the tapes and from presenting transcripts of the tapes made by a court appointed translator that differed from those made by the government's \$150,000 witness.

In addition, when government witness Anne Gassin failed to identify Antonio Camacho Negrón in court, she allowed her to try again after she had been shown a photograph of him and gone out for lunch break.

Claire frequently interrupted defense cross-examination to rehabilitate government witnesses himself, pretended to be deaf and asked for things to be repeated when they were particularly damaging, and criticized defense attorneys for "wasting time".

Finally, just as the clerk of the court had predicted—"Wait until you hear his jury charge, he'll blow you out of the water." he read his instructions with flair and dramatic emphasis to bring in the convictions that cost the gov't at least 18 million so far.

In Puerto Rico a survey conducted by a TV station showed that 70% of the people thought that the trial was unfair and the verdict an injustice. A telephone poll by a reporter for the Hartford Courant of the leadership in the Puerto Rican community revealed similar sentiments. Apparently Mr. Twardy was not aware of Abraham Lincoln's phrase—"You can fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all the people all of the time" when he said "The Wells Fargo trial was a model of due process".

Or is it that he is aware of how corrupt the system is and meant that it was a model of what a hypocrisy due process is?



Juan Segarra with Gloria Gerena and his oldest son, Amilcar

FILIBERTO OJEDA RIOS

On September 23, 1868, the people of Puerto Rico declared their independence as a nation. The flag, sewn in Lares in 1868, was returned this year for the annual commemoration of the uprising against Spain. And not just the flag, but the fighting spirit of those first Puerto Rican patriots was felt this year in Lares, September 23, 1988. With a speech written from his cell in MCC New York, Filiberto Ojeda Rios cleared the way for a new level of the independence struggle in Puerto Rico. Filiberto affirmed his history as a founder and leader of LOS MACHETEROS, in a speech read by Humberto Pagan before thousands of Puerto Ricans. Amid the cheers, the chant, 'TODO BORICUA MACHETERO!' (Every Puerto Rican, a Machetero!) The OHIO 7 had been invited to send a statement of solidarity with the struggle for Puerto Rican independence, and the Sedition Committee was honored to be on stage for this historic moment.

Filiberto Ojeda Rios continues to be held without bail at MCC New York. His attorneys are vigorously contesting the denial of bail. His supporters chant, sing and march with the flag of Lares outside of the jail demanding his release. The Sedition Committee joins the Movimiento Albizuista to make our conviction that he must be released shake the prison walls.

In Hartford, the trial of five codefendants began Tuesday, October 11, 1988. Prosecutors disrupted defense attorneys and pro-se defendant Roberto Jose Maldonado each time they mentioned the FBI's political mission and violent aggression against the Puerto Rican Independence Movement,, and every time they suggested that a trial before a jury containing no Puerto Ricans was less than fair. Juan Segarra Palmer stated that he had agreed to receive Wells Fargo monies as a donation to the independence movement. Segarra stressed his innocence of the planning of the incident, in fact of any crime. The 'star' witness against Segarra Palmer is a pathetic 44 year old man with a 35 year career of shoplifting, pimping and drugs. Once befriended by the Segarra family, he has collected \$15,000.00 to date, and hopes to collect \$100,000.00 in further compensation for his cooperation with the US government.



From Filiberto Ojeda Rios to the people of Puerto Rico, at Lares 1988

"They have prevented my physical presence, but I am nonetheless here with you. And today, together, we celebrate the anniversary of that act which, 120 years ago transformed an amorphous but profound national sentiment into self-consciousness as a people, into national conscience. That cry from Lares was in reality, the seal, the blood-bond that marked the indestructible existence of the Puerto Rican nation...Compatriots, today, the 23rd of September of 1988, we all must renew our commitment with this country, with this people, and with this struggle. Torturous days are approaching. Days in which our enemies will manipulate facts and events in an effort to cheat us for as yet uncounted times. It is up to us to prevent this. To succeed, we must unite our forces and broaden our efforts to include masses of people. We must also firmly put our convictions to the test of practice. Ours is a just cause, with truth on our side. The history of struggle of our people. from Lares in 1868, shows us the way."

(SHOW) TRIAL UPDATE:

Jury selection continued at an accelerated pace during the month of October. Feeling the media's focus on the length and cost of the trial, Judge Young "qualified" as fit for jury service the following individuals:

- **the wife and the brother of police officers.
- **two individuals employed by military contractors (including one corporation allegedly a target of the "seditious conspiracy").
- **two individuals with clearly anti-communist views.
- **an employee of the federal government.
- **a former bank employee.
- **a woman whose son was on the security detail for President Carter.
- **a woman who is an anti-abortion activist.

Outrageous "security" measures remain in tact even with the loss of two defendants and three lawyers from the case. Snipers carrying rifles and binoculars now patrol the parking garage most likely to be used by potential jurors. In perhaps one of the most prejudicial incidents u.s. marshal sat in the jury box with potential jurors while they received their instructions from the judge. An incident- like so many others-- the judge ruled was inconsequential.

Please add my name to your mailing list for information on the OHIO 7 trial & support activities.

To cover printing & mailing costs (our newsletter is free to prisoners) here is my donation of

☐ \$5 ☐ \$10 ☐ \$15

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____