



IN MASSACHUSETTS

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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

VICTORY!!

After 21 days of deliberations the jury returned "not guilty" verdicts on the seditious conspiracy charge as to Ray, Pat and Richard and an additional "not guilty" verdict as to Pat on racketeering.

The jury remained deadlocked on the remaining counts for which judge Young declared a mistrial.

The government has lost one of the most significant political trials of the decade and the longest sedition trial in the history of the United States. There are no limits to the government's abuse of power other than what we the people place upon it.

The jury has spoken. They have refused to convict.

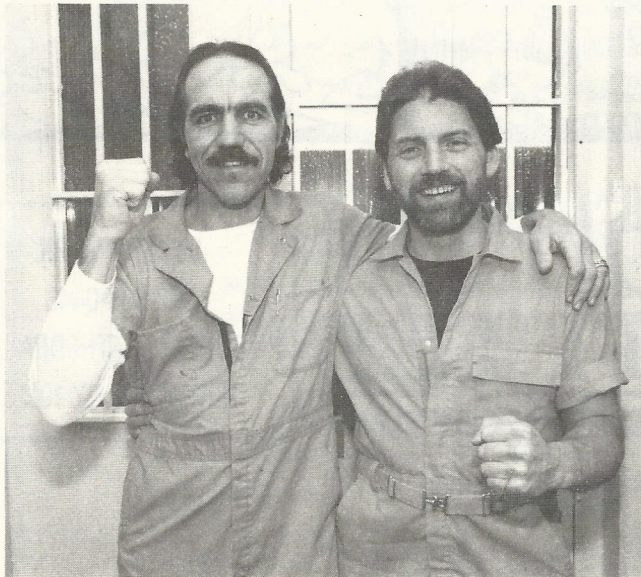
They have refused to accept the government's 'bright shining lie' that the Ohio 7 are criminals and racketeers.

We commend the courage of the jury in the face of a very vindictive and politically motivated prosecution.

We made U.S. foreign policy a central focus of this trial and sought to bring to the attention of the American people, the criminal activity engaged in by our own government, particularly in Central America, South Africa and the colonization of Puerto Rico.

This trial went beyond stagnant facts and became a search for the truth.

This trial represents a victory for all who cherish human rights and struggle for justice.



Excerpts from Ray Levasseur's closing statement

My first overt act in these conspiracies the government says I'm a part of, was being born into a particular class of exploited workers. What I refer to as the laboring class. I can trace my anger back that far. Back to the insufficient wages and working conditions I experienced.

The government alleges this conspiracy begins sometime in 1974. I say the conspiracy goes back much further than that.

By way of illustration let me say this. There was a time when I was in a prison cell in the Tennessee state penitentiary. I was feeling isolated and god awful lonely. It was like bearing continuous pain. In that prison cell I met two men. Their names were Sacco and Vanzetti. They were Italian immigrants to the United States. They were workingmen and they were radicals. They were executed in Massachusetts in 1927 in the wake of a "red scare" in which foreigners and those in radical political organizations were persecuted. I met them in the pages of a book on the labor movement. When I first read this, "The taking of our lives -- lives of a good shoemaker and a poor fish peddler -- all! That last moment belongs to us -- that agony is our triumph." [from The last speech to court by Bartolomeo Vanzetti.] I started to think, I'm part of this laboring class too. I worked in the mill making shoe heels. I had worked as a farm worker. I had worked on the fish pier. Then I thought, this is part of my history. This is the real conspiracy. The real history of our people....My co-conspirators: Emma Goldman, Rosa Parks, Malcom X,

Assata Shakur, those who fight for Puerto Rican Independence. Some were charged with sedition. Some paid for their commitment with their lives....I will tell you I was a soldier at war in Vietnam and I'm a soldier still at war. I took sides then and I'm taking sides now. I'm taking the side of justice, and I'm down with it.

The way I see it there's a ruling class and the rest of us. Among the rest of us there's some that got it all right, they got it pretty good. But there's a whole lot that ain't got it so good. Or we ain't got nothing at all. And those of us who don't have anything, don't have anything in common with the ruling class. I have much more in common with a peasant or laborer in El Salvador than I do with Ronald Reagan or George Bush or Rockefeller or DuPont. Each laborer has a common bond with others who labor and that bond exists beyond any individual country. It is an international bond.

The way I see it is the property of the wealthy is not worth the price of one laborer's life. Not on the factory floor, not on the farm, not on the field of any imperialist war. My understanding of class struggle and class conflict comes from my own life experiences. I've worked jobs from can't see in the morning until you can't see at night. Maybe some of you have. I didn't get paid to good for it either. I've been to their wars and I've been to their prisons. I know that it takes as much courage to pick up a lunch pail and work in a sweat shop to feed your children as it does to pick up a gun. I know that because I've done both. If the government wants to consider me a traitor then so be it. But I'd rather be considered a traitor to my country than to my class. That's honestly how I feel. I didn't feel that way in 1967 when I went to Vietnam, But that's how I've felt for a long time. That's how I feel today....I ask myself, what terrible crimes has this government committed that they fear the voice of one man? What terrible crimes is this government trying to hide that they fear the wrath of the United Freedom Front?

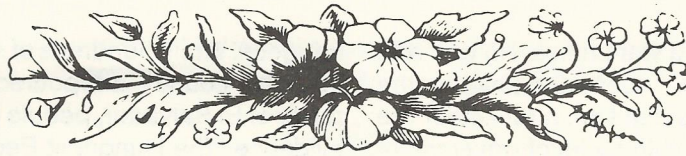
The US government tries to hide the existence of political prisoners in this country. We challenge the image that the US is a truly democratic and humane society. Is it that with the use of racketeering and corruption charges against political activists and revolutionaries the government tries to hide its own record of human rights abuses and atrocities?....So' when faced with trial I decided to do what I've been doing for 20 years. Organize. To alert people in our communities and movements to the danger of this kind of prosecution; to build support and to raise political and human rights issues presented by a trial of this nature. And this is a political trial.....I want to add my voice to those of all the people who suffer and die because of this government's foreign and domestic policies. I am not about to let this government take the issue of human rights and denigrate it into an issue of criminality in this trial...As long as this government is responsible for committing

crimes against humanity and war crimes, I'm going to organize and fight them until I don't have any breathe left in this life....The charges that I am a racketeer are a lie. What I call the bright shining lie of government hypocrisy and deceit. I am not a drug dealer. I'm not an arsonist for hire. I am not a murderer. I don't engage in extortion. I don't run gambling houses and I don't infiltrate legitimate business to corrupt them. That's not me. I've never done anything for my own personal gain or profit in the 21 years I've been politically active. Nothing....The government knows this. What's important to them and their own propaganda is a conviction of activists and revolutionaries under the RICO laws. They want to discredit us. They want to criminalize us. They want to criminalize those who present a serious opposition to them and their policies. And they want to scare the hell out of a lot of other people.

I want to show you a document that's in evidence: "A Massacre in El Salvador's Morazan Province, Dec. 1981." These photographs are of peasants from Morazan Province. There are approximately 1,000 which I referred to. This is what's left of them after US trained soldiers with US weapons visited these villages. Look at this one, here where they've been decapitated. These are children, they are not adults. Do any of you know a child that's guilty of anything? Children are innocent, unless they come in the way of US foreign policy. I know this is not pleasant to look at. And you might say "no", my government can't be involved with anything like that. You may want to consciously or subconsciously just not deal with it. But you see, that's the problem I had when I got back from Vietnam. People didn't want to deal with it. We were Vietnam veterans. We came back and said this is what's happening but all they wanted to do was train some more 19 year old guys how to kill and send them back There is a quote in a UFF communique which says, referring to the people of El Salvador, "TODAY, THE SUFFERING INFLICTED ON OUR PEOPLE IS OF ANOTHER DIMENSION. IT IS REAL GENOCIDE."....Genocide is the deliberate extermination of a national, ethnic, religious, or racial group of people. It can include killing, which is usually the favorite form, but also involves causing serious bodily or mental harm to people, deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction. In El Salvador it involves a policy of slaughtering animals, destroying food crops, destroying grain supplies, destroying any resource which can sustain life. Again, I saw this in Vietnam. I saw what they call "the scorched earth policy", designed by some of our higher ranking officials. It's not pretty at all. It wipes everything right out, whether they're using bombs, Agent Orange, napalm or whatever. There is nothing left. I used to fly helicopters in 'Nam. You look down and there's nothing left where people used to be. That's another aspect of it. It creates a country of

refugees. While hundreds of millions of citizens dollars' from this country are poured into the pockets of the rulers of El Salvador, people go hungry. This item is in evidence, "The Hungriest People in Latin America, El Salvador" Look at this picture inside. These are 2 women that have been bound behind their backs. You see their thumbs are tied with wire and they've been shot and left on the side of the road by one of the Salvadoran death squads. This is a common method of execution in El Salvador. I believe that US policy in El Salvador is deliberate and calculated. It is directed from the highest levels of US government, including our president, who is commander of chief of the armed forces. What is the response of the United Freedom Front? Look at the communiques. For example, the communique involving the bombing of General Electric Corporation's offices of the Aerospace Strategic Planning and Aircraft Division in Long Island, New York....What was the intent and purpose of the United Freedom Front? If you look at the communique, it says "This action is in response to the vicious escalation of the air war in El Salvador which in recent months alone has caused the deaths of hundreds of Salvadoran civilians, primarily children, women and elderly people who remain in villages that are bombed". There is a quote from George Jackson at the end, "People are already dying who could be saved, if you fail to act." "US out of El Salvador."...I look at that and it tells me the intent and purpose of the bombing against the General Electric Corporation....Is it the intent and purpose of the United Freedom Front to stop genocide? Is it to stop the slaughter of innocent people/ to pull away the mask from the GE corporation whose slogan says it "brings good things to life"?

I believe, and maybe some of you do, because it brings us closer to the truth, that apartheid for Black people in South Africa is slavery. It is slavery. If you were living in a country where there was slavery, what would you do? What would you have done in this country in the 1800's? Would it make any difference if you were Black or white? Rich or poor? In 1976 the Sam Melville-Jonathan Jackson Unit exercised its responsibilities....The SMJJ action was in response to a massacre which took place in Soweto South Africa. This is a picture of Hector Pieterse, the first person killed in that uprising. Just a child. Soweto is a watershed point in the history of the people of South Africa in their struggle for their freedom. Thousands of Black students called a strike to boycott classes to protest the forced teaching of what they called the Afrikaans language in their schools....Afrikaans is the language of apartheid. It is the white man's language. To impose that language on African students who were denied using their own language was viewed as another step in destroying their culture. To destroy a people's culture is part of what constitutes genocide. Those students marching [in Soweto], were marching peacefully

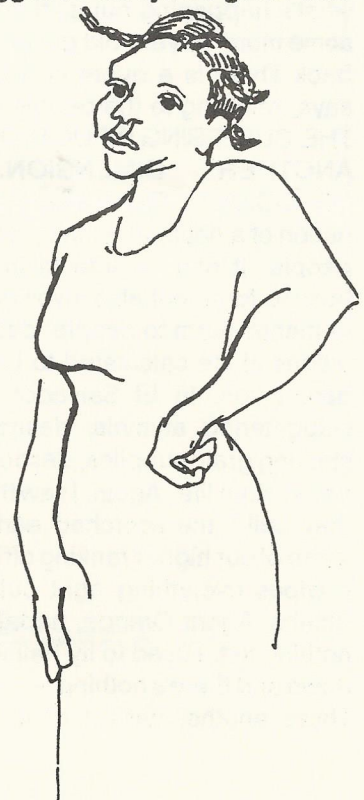
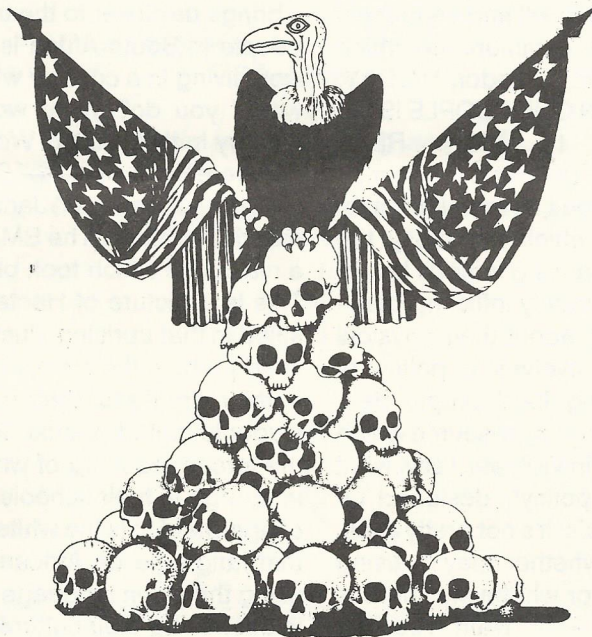


and they were attacked by South African police. Within weeks approximately a thousand Black people were killed. Most were just school children and many were shot in the back. African students caught in the crosshairs of fascist police. A thousand people, mostly children, shot in the back. I ask you, you live in and around Springfield, Massachusetts. Ask yourself what would happen if a thousand people were killed in this city? If the police opened up on them because they were protesting a particular injustice. What would your reaction be? What would you do? Are the lives of people in Soweto, South Africa any less important than the people of Springfield, Massachusetts? I don't think so. I think we are all human beings and deserve the right to live....Again, I want to direct your attention to SMJJ and UFF communiques. After the Soweto massacre. The SMJJ communique states this action is done, "to protest the brutal massacre of Black people in South Africa". It also states that this action is done to "support the struggle of African people in South Africa for basic human rights and self-determination"....Does this sound like the goal of a racketeering and corrupt organization? Does it seem like a pattern of racketeering?

Che Guevara said that "above all, always be

capable of feeling deeply any injustice committed against anyone, anywhere in the world. This is the most beautiful quality of a revolutionary". As a revolutionary, I take this sentiment very seriously. This is the way I think. This is the way I feel. I believe the mind knows only what lies near the heart....Every day when I get up, when I rise, I feel the suffering of the people in South Africa, Central America, and on the streets of this country. Every day the violence being inflicted on these people is staggering. The victims are primarily peasants and workers...I am the factory worker. I am the farm worker, the prisoner, the veteran, the unemployed. The person living on the edge of someone else's dream. I want to do everything I can, however small a contribution that might be, to bring this suffering to an end.... I believe in civil disobedience when the time, place and conditions warrant it but I also believe in civil resistance. By that I mean we can't let the illegal and immoral acts of our government go unpunished. If it takes armed actions or armed resistance to make this government accountable to the needs of the people, then isn't it just should be done. It will be done.

The history of the human race has been a struggle. A struggle for the removal of the physical and sometimes spiritual oppression that exists among so many of us. I feel I would have failed had I not made a contribution to that struggle. I'll always be glad I did.



*EXCERPTS FROM
PATRICIA LEVASSEUR'S CLOSING STATEMENT/
GIVEN BY ATTORNEY LIZ FINK*

Now, let me start with the indictment. But you'll have it. The judge will tell you that the indictment is evidence of nothing. The reason for that is because the grand jury which returned it only hears one side. It's totally controlled by the government, and it uses a different standard of proof, one much less.

Both Linda Coleman and Felipe Noguera told you about their grand jury experiences, without anyone there but them, the prosecutors, and the grand jurors. However, the indictment is coming back to the jury room as the government's road map of what it expected to prove in this trial. Read it. Review the evidence as to Patricia Levasseur and you will see that the government has not proved, under any standard, its own road map.

Now, even though they couldn't even convince the grand jury to name Patricia Levasseur in the predicate act of Suffolk County courthouse, they now argue on summation before you -- or not they, Mr. Loucks, but I suppose I should say they, they're the government -- they now argue that she was the female caller there without a scintilla of proof to support that contention. And this is really telling, ladies and gentlemen, because it shows their bias. It shows their desperation and the bankrupt nature of their current prosecution against Patricia Levasseur.

You remember the government asking the judge to read the charges to you from Mrs. Levasseur's Ohio trial. And the charges were harboring Raymond Levasseur and possession of false i.d.. Agent Petersen came in and he told you that the Ohio trial, which he testified in, took place in February of 1985. Four

months after her arrest. Four months after the seizures in Deerfield. Two months after the notebooks were analyzed by Markey and company in Cleveland and Boston.

All the evidence which they refer to and admitted in this trial, was in their possession at this time except for that found in Norfolk and New Haven. And what do they charge her with? Do they charge her with possession of weapons and explosives? No. Do they charge her with any conspiracy? No. Do they charge her with any of the i.d.'s from Brattleboro? No....With all this material in their possession, the blasting caps, the guns, the weapons, the bomb kits, the manuals, all of this, they charge her and they convict her of harboring Raymond Levasseur and possession of false i.d..

Now, having been convicted of that, she did her time and now she's free on bail. But she's not guilty of these charges and the government knows it. So they have to lie to you and distort to you at every opportunity in order to try and convince you, shade it a little bit so that you'll go back and not really look at the evidence.

Can you imagine their embarrassment and frustration when year after year they were unable to find him, believing as they did that he was out there thumbing his nose at them, the government, promoting armed revolutionary activity. Imagine their desire for revenge when he's caught and you can understand why Mrs. Levasseur is sitting there now. Even though the government knew in Ohio and knows now that the only case where they can meet their burden of proof was harboring.

Finally, I say to you, you've watched Mrs. Levasseur all these months, you've seen her, you've watched her demeanor, you've watched her dignity, you've watched her composure. Go back into the jury room, consider all this evidence and I believe that you will find that you will return with only one verdict, not guilty on all charges. Thank you.



EXCERPTS FROM
RICHARD WILLIAMS'S CLOSING STATEMENT/
GIVEN BY ATTORNEY KEN KING

You will be the last voice in this case because you will speak a verdict. There's a Chinese proverb that says the last voice is the loudest voice. And I will ask you to speak loudly and to speak clearly and to find Richard Williams not guilty, to find Raymond Levasseur not guilty and to find Patricia Levasseur not guilty.

In the courts of the Commonwealth when a case goes to a jury the clerk rises and says the defendants place themselves upon their country. Richard Williams places his hands, his faith in your hands, the hands of his country.

Now, throughout this trial you've heard Mr. Loucks and Mr. Douglass stand up and say the United States calls this witness. The United States offers this exhibit. The United States does something or another. One of the things that I'm going to be talking about over today and tomorrow are the ways the government stretches and misstates evidence. And one of the first things I want to make sure that you understand is they are not the United States. Neither is the judge. They're the government. And most specifically, they're Article II of the government, the executive branch. The Justice Dept. The President, the Meese Justice Dept in this case. The judge is Article III. Defense lawyers have a separate constitutional provision.

Now, the United States is in this courtroom. They're out there in the audience, the people who are watching us, they're here at the table with Mr. Williams, Mrs. Levasseur and Mr. Levasseur. But more importantly they're in front of me. It is you, the jury, that are the United States. Go back to Civics 1 in high school, preamble to the constitution. "We, the people, of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union to ensure the domestic tranquility, to provide for the domestic defense", et cetera. The people of the United States are what make this country what it is. And it has been the people and you, the people, that we place our trust.

You agreed that the fact that people are vociferous critics, strongly critical of this government, of its policies, of its actions, of its inactions, does not alone make them more likely to commit any of the offenses charged in this indictment.

You'll see when you read this indictment what the government wants here is three for one. They want three convictions based on one pile of evidence. They want to part their evidence three different ways. That's the law, if you believe their evidence. If you believe there was a racketeering conspiracy, that's the law, I'll ask you if it's fair.



But what the Government basically is seeking to do here is to make a political movement into a racketeering enterprise, into a racketeering conspiracy. This movement, as Mr. Levasseur has more eloquently than I could hope to, told you, argued to you, is not a racketeering conspiracy. The Government hopes by this indictment that other people of strong opinion will be discouraged from associating together to achieve social change.

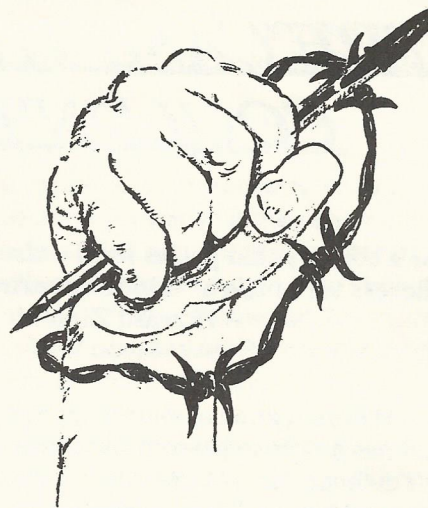
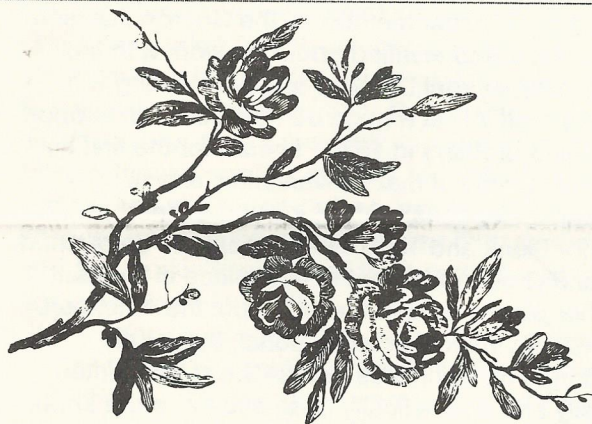
You know somewhat about who Richard Williams is. You know that he's a man who hates racist violence. You heard that from Ms. Butler and Ms. Horowitz. You know that he sat in the homes of people in Boston who were threatened by racists. You know that he helped form the Amandla securities force so that people could go into their community and protect themselves. You know that his organization was threatened by the South Boston Marshals, a very real threat in Boston. You know that he was motivated by his concern about racist police violence, trying to stop it, a real threat in Boston. Much like Raymond Levasseur who was threatened by the death squads, the marshals threatened Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams made a choice to go underground. He made a choice to become part of an underground organization. He did not, however, join a racketeering conspiracy.

It was undoubtedly proven that Richard Williams distrusts his government; that Richard Williams believes in the need for fundamental changes in his government, fundamental changes in the economic system of this country. Is that seditious conspiracy? Did he use force against the very underpinnings of the government, the foundation of the government with the intent that it crumble, with the intent that it be overthrown? I submit that he did not. But you will decide. I think what this case proves is that Voltaire was right when he said years and years ago that it is very dangerous to be right when the government is wrong. You have seen what the government can bring to bear on its critics. You have seen the masses of evidence that it can bring in. You are asked to find the truth in all of that piles and piles of evidence. You are asked to look through that evidence and determine what was in

Mr. Williams' mind, Mr. Levasseur's mind. You know what their circumstances are.

I'm asking you to leave an opening for Mr. Williams. I'm asking you to send Patricia Levasseur home. Richard Williams places himself upon his country. Upon you, the jury. As the country I ask you to speak loudly, to speak clearly, to reject these far flung paranoid charges of conspiracy. To tell your government to use its prosecutorial resources wisely, correctly, to bring charges that can be made, to bring charges that relate to actions but not to bring far flung conspiracy charges, not to engage in grandiose paranoid fantasies of overthrowing the government and of racketeering.

I ask you with your verdict to send a very loud and a very clear message to your government. That is your heritage. That is your tradition. That honors the highest calling of the law, the highest tradition of fairness, the highest tradition of justice. Speak clearly. Find Richard Williams not guilty. Thank you.



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THE CASE THAT COULDN'T

"For a country that prides itself on free speech,
there is very little of it in the courtroom.!!
— — Howard Zinn

There's a popular misconception that a defendant has a right to present witnesses as a part of his/her defense. Not so! It's more like a privilege and how much of the privilege you get is entirely up to the discretion of the judge.

During the defense part of this trial, the judge excluded the testimony of many witnesses. Excluded were witnesses who had testimony concerning international law, colonialism in Puerto Rico, counterintelligence programs of the FBI (COINTELPRO), the history of social movements, U.S. complicity with apartheid, clandestinity, etc.

All were excluded without the jury ever having seen them. Two, Viola Plummer of the December 12th Movement and Harriet Tubman—Fannie Lou Hamer Collective; and respected historian/writer Howard Zinn were given hearings outside the presence of the jury. However, when the judge heard the strength and truth of their words he excluded their testimony. *****

VIOLA PLUMMER— (on the meaning of "self-determination"): People, as nations of people, as communities of people, as human beings, have a right to determine the quality of their life, their culture, their economy, their right to associate.... is a basic human right."

Viola also gave an eloquent presentation concerning the lack of political and economic control within Black communities — which directly affects the quality of life — as being the central reason for continuing oppression of Black people in this country.

HOWARD ZINN— (on the meaning of the phrase "free all Political Prisoners and POWs" in UFF communiques) "The term political prisoners has long been used in social movements. Radicals, socialists, people who commit civil disobedience, people who are imprisoned for protesting government policy, are considered political prisoners by the movements they come out of and very often by people outside those movements who recognize that they've been put in prison not for common crimes, but for their ideas or social actions intended to bring about change."

once the judge heard Mr. Zinn's definition of various words and phrases in the communiques, he excluded his testimony.

SUNDIATA ACOLI— (New Afrikan POW and former member of the Black Panther Party) Sundiata was allowed to testify in front of the jury although his testimony was severely limited by the judge. Not to be deterred, Sundiata was able to outline his experience with the Black Panther Party including the method of organizing in African communities, the party's emphasis on community control of schools and housing, campaigns against drug pushers and police brutality. Sundiata placed particular emphasis on the free breakfast program for children in which churches were organized to provide space to feed the children and resources developed to provide food. Sundiata also testified about police attacks against the Panthers and the need for community self-defense. "Black people" said Sundiata, "must control their own lives."

Sundiata is co-defendant of ASSATA SHAKUR, granted political asylum in Cuba

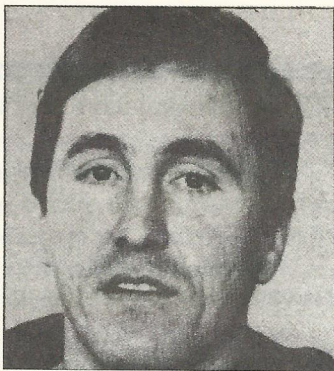
ED MEAD— (Former member of the George Jackson Brigade) Ed Mead testified about his work with the Attica Brothers Legal Defense and his meeting with members of SCAR at a huge demonstration in support of the Attica Brothers in 1974. "I heard for the first time during the course of that conversation, a term, "American exceptionalism", which you defined as, it's alright for Black and Third World people to be gunned down and shot and for that to take place in Vietnam and other places around the world but the American Left seems to think their exceptional, they're an exception to the sacrifices people are making internationally and domestically in an effort to bring about a better world."

"We were outraged at the things taking place in South Africa, the events that had unfolded at Attica and elsewhere in the world, which were crimes by the United States government against oppressed peoples."

Ed also testified about another George Jackson Brigade member, Bruce Seidel, who was shot in the back and killed by the police.

When Ed refused to answer questions from the government about his activities underground, the judge held him in civil contempt.

Fourteen other witnesses were called by the defense who had varying degrees of success in testifying about the involvement of Ray, Pat and Richard in many years of community work centered around organizing the poor, prisoner's union, anti-racist work, women's rights, opposition to the war in Vietnam, anti-apartheid organizing, worker's rights, etc...



Joe Doherty/ Irish Political Prisoner

Joe Doherty has been in the federal lock-up for more than six years even though he has never been tried or indicted. For all that time the Justice Dept. has been trying to deport the IRA militant to Britain, where he will go to prison for life if he's not assassinated. He and his lawyers have won every hearing on his deportation, but the Justice Dept. has been able to keep him locked up by overruling or appealing every adverse opinion.

The Justice Dept.'s most recent move to send Doherty to a British jail came last June 30, when Atty. General Richard Thornburgh overruled a Board of Immigration Appeals decision that Doherty deserved a hearing on his claim of political asylum in the U.S.

Now Doherty is awaiting a hearing on an appeal of his deportation order, which is expected to be taken up in January. Should he lose that appeal, Doherty could be rushed out of the country and into Britain before his lawyers and friends even know he is gone.

A (Provisional) Irish Republican Army combatant on active duty, Doherty was captured following a 1980 Belfast firebomb that killed an undercover British Special Air Services officer. In 1981, Doherty was sentenced to life imprisonment by a juryless "special powers" court. But Doherty and a group of comrades broke out of "escape-proof" Crumlin Road Jail in Belfast. A "most wanted man", Doherty made his way to New York City where he enjoyed relative freedom until the FBI arrested him in June 1983. He was incarcerated on an immigration warrant at the Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC), a Federal facility in lower Manhattan which normally houses pre-trial detainees for up to 90 days.

Doherty's lengthy incarceration without sentence or bail is unprecedented, but it could set a very ugly precedent. Doherty's legal battle is frightening in its implications for other activist refugees seeking political asylum here.

The British Govt. requested Doherty's extradition in Aug. 1983. This request was denied in Dec. 1984 by Federal Judge John Sprizzo, who viewed Doherty's alleged offenses in Northern Ireland as part

of a political rebellion and, therefore, as a "classic" instance of offenses to be excluded from consideration as extraditable under the political-crimes exemption clause of the then-existing extradition treaty between the U.S. and the U.K.

The State Dept. appealed Sprizzo's extradition denial, but, in June 1985 Judge Charles Haight ruled that Sprizzo's order was not subject to review. This decision was confirmed by the U.S. Court of Appeals. In Sept. 1986, acting on Doherty's request, U.S. Immigration Judge Howard Cohen ordered Doherty deported not to the U.K. but to the Republic of Ireland, where Doherty also holds citizenship and where he felt he would be in less danger. Despite an unprecedented pair of appeals by the INS, Judge Cohen's ruling was upheld by the Board of Immigration Appeals.

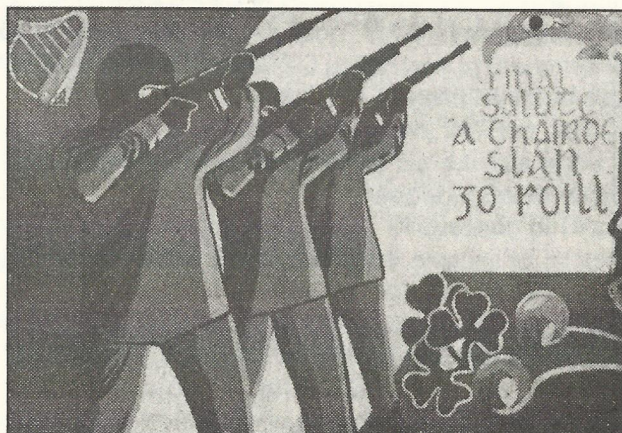
Then U.S. Atty. General Meese intervened. In June 1988, Meese ordered Doherty deported to the U.K. overruling the earlier decisions. Meese's order was condemned by the ACLU, and by several U.S. senators as a denial of due process.

While his lawyers, Mary Pike and Stephen Somerstein, persist in their appeals for his release on bail, a groundswell of outrage has developed at the executive branch arrogance that has reversed 7 judicial and BIA decisions favorable to Doherty.

In a recent interview, Mary Pike said, "The implications of this case go far beyond the matter of Ireland. What is at stake here is whether or not the executive branch will be permitted to violate due process and to threaten the legal protection of the U.S. Constitution".

For further information: National Committee for Joseph Doherty, P.O. Box 20474, Midtown Station, New York, N.Y. 10129.

excerpted from Bill Nevins' Nov. 8, 1989 Guardian article



WITH MUCH LOVE AND APPRECIATION

TO;

***The Sedition Committee, whose tireless work in
our communities
helped build support for political prisoners.***

Those who stood with us at trial

***Our comrades in the December 12th Movement,
whose support has never wavered***

***Those who visited us in prison and sent letters and
cards***

Our comrades in the DC conspiracy case

Attica Brother Big Black

***Those musicians and artists who brought some
cultural rhythm to hard times***

Our friends in New York and Madison

Companero Filiberto Ojeda Rios

***Those attorneys who worked hard to ward off the
government's attack***

***Our mothers and grandmothers, for their loving
hands***

Our children for their smiles. We love you forever

***All who helped make the ordeal easier for our
children***

Those in clandestinity and exile

***Our comrades — the political prisoners and
POW's***

The Ohio 7

updates:

Mumia Abu-Jamal faces the death penalty because of his political actions and beliefs. Mumia is a former member of the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Panther Party. He became a well-known and respected journalist and president of the Philadelphia chapter of the Association of Black Journalists.

In 1982 Mumia was the subject of a racist frame-up and unjustly convicted for the killing of a Philadelphia policeman.

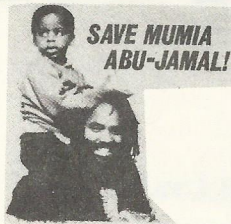
Mumia Abu-Jamal, the man known as "the voice of the voiceless", was sentenced to death for his political activities and beliefs, including statements he made as a Black Panther Party member 12 years earlier.

A growing defense campaign is determined to save his life. On October 14, 1989 a rally at Temple University brought out community activists, trade unionists, students and others who spoke movingly of Mumia's work in defending poor and third world people.

Now we must work to save Mumia from a "legal lynching" at the hands of the state.

There are petitions to be circulated; letters to be written, speaking engagements to be organized. YOU can help!

For more info. or to send donations, contact
Partisan Defense Committee, PO Box 99, Canal
Street Station, NYC, NY 10013.



Freedom Now! Campaign for Amnesty and Human Rights for Political Prisoners in the United States.

Freedom Now is initiating a campaign for amnesty for all the women and men imprisoned in this country as a consequence of their political actions.

We are bridging the walls with a common effort that includes the active participation of the prisoners and their families, along with political activists, clergy and professionals. Join us in stopping the continued imprisonment and mistreatment of political activists in the United States. Human Rights must begin at home.

National office: 5249 N. Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60640
(312) 278-6706

East Coast: 1560 Broadway, Suite 807,
NYC, NY 10036

West Coast: 3543 18th St. #17
San Francisco, CA 94110

We extend our condolences to human rights activist Yuri Kochiyama, whose daughter was struck and killed by a car in New York.

***The Ohio 7
The Sedition
Committee***

TEXAS DEATH ROW PROTEST

On March 15, 1989 prisoners under sentence of death began a continuous (chain) hunger strike. The protest has since been joined by some prisoners from general population.

The prisoners are striking against the inhumane conditions and racism to which they are subjected continually. The Texas prison system has long been known for its widespread brutality and racism.

You can help by writing a letter of support for the prisoners to: James A. Lynaugh, Director TDC, P.O. Box 99, Huntsville, Texas 77340

BASHIR HAMEED/ SOLITARY!!

Black Political Prisoner Bashir Hameed has been housed in solitary confinement at Shawangunk Correctional Facility in New York for more than one year. Bashir was one of approximately 50 prisoners who participated in a strike protesting the creation of a "Close Supervision Unit" (CSU) designed to house politically active prisoners. When Bashir's prison disciplinary "sentence" was due to expire permitting his return to general population, prison authorities notified him that he would remain in solitary confinement indefinitely. Bashir was told that due to his alleged ties to "militant" organizations (Bashir is a former member of the Black Panther Party) and his ability to organize other prisoners, he is a "threat" to prison security. Bashir's case is the latest example of efforts by prison authorities across the country to isolate and torture political prisoners.

You can help by writing to Commissioner Thomas Coughlin protesting indefinite placement in solitary confinement of Bashir Hameed (s/n James York, #82 A 6313) and demanding his return to general population. Letters should be sent to the following:

**Thomas Coughlin
Commissioner
Department of Correctional Services
State Campus, Building #2
Albany, N.Y. 12226**

WILL YOU HELP US?
— — — WE ARE FAMILIES AND FRIENDS
OF POLITICAL PRISONERS — — —

This is the 20th issue of the Sedition Committee Newsletter. It comes to you free as it has to thousands of other over the last two years.

With the conclusion of the Ohio 7 trial it is our intention to continue publishing and distributing a newsletter with a focus on political prisoners, trials, struggle from inside the prisons and related issues.

Will you help us? We are in a desperate financial situation. We have never before asked you for money, but now it is necessary to do so if we are to continue our work.

We ask that you donate \$5 (more if you can afford it)

We ask that you contribute some of your time, energy and ideas to the publication of this newsletter.

Without your support there will be one less voice for political prisoners.

Solidarity,

The Sedition Committee