



Black Panther Party

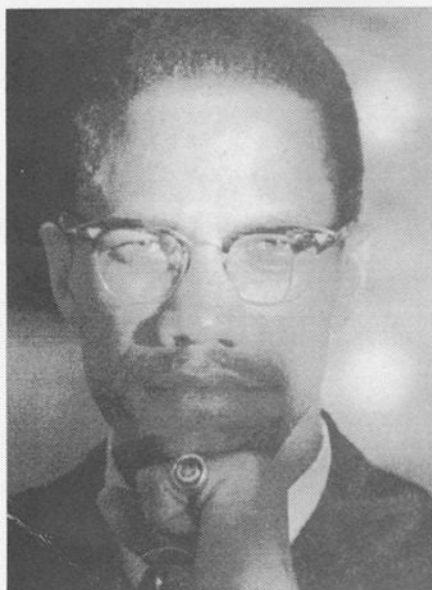


35TH ANNIVERSARY & REUNION CONFERENCE

Theme: Cointelpro & Political Prisoners

**WORKSHOPS • BANQUET • ENTERTAINMENT • FILM FEST
MEMORABILIA • PHOTO EXHIBITS • ART EXHIBITS • SPEAKERS**

April 18-20, 2002 • Washington DC



THE IT'S ABOUT TIME COMMITTEE is committed to hosting an inclusive, non-sectarian, memorable event that celebrates the founding principles, platform, and programs of the Black Panther Party (BPP). We will commemorate the historic legacies of the BPP as well as the many sacrifices and constructive contributions that all of us made while serving the people body and soul.

As we approach the 35th anniversary of the Black Panther Party's founding, not only do we have the opportunity to celebrate, we have the responsibility to place our own experiences into historical context. We have the privilege and obligation to acknowledge the support of our elders, friends and families during those turbulent times and we must commemorate the sacrifices of those who fell in body and in spirit to the prevailing internal and external forces of those times; especially our political prisoners.

After 27 years of court battles, we recently celebrated the release of our comrade geronimo jijaga from Amerika's gulag. During the course of that struggle, information about the FBI's COINTELPRO program of dirty tricks and blatant set-ups came to light. This has been the focus of recent Congressional Black Caucus hearings, sponsored by Cynthia McKinney. We must rededicate ourselves to the struggle to seek justice for the many other victims of COINTELPRO who continue to suffer behind bars, and all political prisoners. We will have our own hearings on Cointelpro and look into the possibility of a class action lawsuit.

Unless we former members do otherwise, the legacy of the BPP will be rendered moot - largely ignored, dismissed and distorted by today's commentators and tomorrow's historians. We need to tell our stories and the stories of those of us who we lost or remain imprisoned.

Those of us who continue to struggle for justice in our communities need to come together as a unified force. We must get beyond the divisions, orchestrated by the COINTELPRO forces, among others, to render us ineffective or destroy us as a viable movement.

Let us come together to celebrate our contributions to the Black Liberation Struggle, to the struggle for all peoples for justice and humanity, to preserve our history, set an example for today's youth, and to Unite in our dedication to seeking justice for our political prisoners - It's About Time!



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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