

May, 1973

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COURTS

By Yuri Kochiyama

The fact that the best of our warriors are being taken away is real. The loss is heavy. Prison, exile and the grave have been the stop-gaps. But the never-ending line of warriors fill the ranks. Those captured rebelling against the hostile state of U.S.A. become POWs. From the number of cases in court, POWs are becoming too numerous, but none must be neglected, forgotten or relegated to the past. POWs never stop fighting. They function on a different level while incarcerated. They don't vegetate or acquiesce. Their role and tactics change, but not their objectives and purpose in life. Politics being priority, they become teachers. They reach out. Their integrity to the struggle is manifested in practice in prison in their relationship with brother/inmates, and one of the most intensive high-level struggles is that which is going on in the concentration camps of amerikkka. Like in South Vietnam where prisons are called "Ho Chi Minh Universities," the prisons here are also "schools for revolutionaries" or should become so.

On the other hand, a part of the responsibility of every movement activist on the outside should be to try to make some of the docket dates when POWs are brought into court. They need our visibility for support and morale. Their freedom, of course, will have to come from other channels. The court system's role is to destroy them physically, mentally, or/and psychologically--by discrediting them legally, denigrating their image publicly, finding them guilty of whatever charges that they can be put away behind steel bars to be silenced and stifled. We must not let them be isolated. Our communication could well be their needed life-line. Letters, literature, and commissary money are the least we can give. There's always bail money and lawyer's fees that must be considered too. Most of all, must be our sincere, keen interest in every POW, and love and concern for their welfare and survival in these days of highly sophisticated methods of genocidal "medical/psychiatric treatment." We repeat--their freedom must come from other channels.

Go to the courts and show them you care! See what's happening in the courts.

EDDIE JAMAL JOSEPH, RICHARD DHARUBA MOORE, MICHAEL D. HILL, IRVING BUTCH MASON. They are back in court on the Sam Napier murder and arson charge....now in the process of selecting a jury. Kew Garden Supreme Court, Part 3, 3rd floor. Queens Blvd. near 82nd Ave. (Union Turnpike stop on the E Train).

SAM PETTY, LEVI VALENTINE, RAP BROWN, ARTHUR YOUNG: Sentenced May 9. Rap received 5 to 15 years; Levi and Arthur--5 to 20 years; Sam--postponed til May 24 on grounds of new evidence on robbery charge. Attorney William Kunstler also pulled an ace from his sleeve with a startling statement of an affidavit equivalent to a confession letter which will be entered on May 24. 100 Center Street, Part 38, 11th floor.

MUHAMMAD AHMED: Has been recently charged with assault on an inmate, but he has been the target of an intensive provocative harassment behind the wall. Another \$2500 has been added to his cash-bail. He has also been transferred back to Rikers from Bronx. Next court date, May 31st. Kew Gardens Supreme Court, Part 5, 3rd floor.

MILTON ELLIS, GEORGE SAMUELS, ABE TAYLOR (PART OF THE NEW YORK 17 CASE) denied guilty plea to possession of weapons. Will be brought to trial along with HAMPTON ROCKARD who previously decided to fight the charge. Others still pending.

ing are--MERLE STEWERT, MANDOLA MACPHERSON, ARTHUR HARRIS AND HERMAN FERGUSON.

PEDRO MONJES AND MARIAM HODLAND MONJES, charged with possession of explosives. Will appear in Brooklyn Supreme Court, May 14. Miriam is 3 months pregnant. These interested in helping with bail money, please call: 864-8961. Bail reduced to \$25,000.

OSCAR WASHINGTON. Arrested about the same time as the MONJES in February, with charges of alleged distribution of arms to the Black Liberation fighters. Being held at the Feds. Bail: \$100,000.

SISTER FRANKIE ADAMS. Arrested as working in concert with Brother OSCAR. Recently released from Rikers on bail. Charge: possession of gun.

ALBERT WASHINGTON, ANTHONY BOTTOM, FRANCISCO TORRES, GABRIEL TORRES (known as THE NEW YORK FOUR) To appear in court May 31st, 100 Center, Part 37. Lawyers are Bill Megulescu and Bob Bloom. Albert Washington will represent himself. This case will be one of the most serious, and will be setting the precedence for similar cases that will follow. The charge: the killing of two policemen. Penalty: death! The brothers were apprehended in California; shackled, bound, and transported here. Total support is needed. Don't let them be railroaded to the electric chair. Their high-level politics and practise make them top warriors in the struggle, brothers to emulate. We need them more than they need us. If we cannot free them, we do not deserve them!

CALLING ALL BROTHERS AND SISTERS TO RALLY AROUND OUR MOST COMMITTED DEDICATES. THE INTENSITY OF THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE STRUGGLE IS WHY THEY WERE MARKED FOR CAPTURE. SUPPORT ALL OUR POWS BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

* * * * *

ATTICA BROTHERS. The 37 indictments involve 60 men. Seventeen are out on the streets on bail. The rest are in Auburn and the Erie County Jail. About a dozen lawyers are now on the case. Indictments took 15 months. The state is looking for the best location for the trial. It will probably be Rochester, Buffalo, or Syracuse. Be watching in the papers for the venue.

THE HARLEM FOUR--WILLIAM CRAIG, WALLY BAKER, RONALD FELDMAN, WALTER THOMAS. Free finally on time served after reluctantly taking a "pragmatic" plea of guilty. As Craig said in simple eloquence: "We've said all along we are not guilty and what we feel the world should understand now is that we are still not guilty. We hope our friends, our mothers, fathers, anybody who cares, will understand why we had to do this, why we had to make this decision." (And brothers, we do understand! We're glad you're home!). Now, we must push harder....to get ROBERT RICE and DANIEL HAM out. They have already served 9 long years.

CARLOS FELICIANO, reknown Puerto Rican Nationalist. Will again be called to make the same 'trip' only this time in Manhattan Court. Same charge: possession of explosive and bombing. Beginning June 6.

JUAN OTERO, a respected community activist who was organizing Puerto Rican construction workers, now appealing two robbery convictions from last year. His case will begin in July. A support-rally is tentatively scheduled for June 23 at the Plaza Borinquen, on 138th Street near Brooks Ave. A dance and cocktail party is also slated to raise bail money and legal funds.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE COURTS?

The importance of what's happening in the courtroom is that it reflects the same racism, paranoia, injustices, and cruelties that is physically inflicted on Black and Latino brothers behind the prison walls.

Around the country, incidences that were front-paged in the last 2 and 3 years are now finally making the court scenes. Much of the news write-ups were one-sided, distorted, sensationalized and inflammable. Thus, a fair trial would be impossible.

The postponements, adjournments, and delays have been called for many reasons: to break the will and morale of the defendants; to lose or dilute the support of the people; to divide the unity of brothers on the same indictments by placing them in different concentration camps (as in the cases of the Tomb 7, Harlem 6, Rap Brown 4); to tempt brothers to testify against one another (like in the St. Albans 3, the Panther 5); and also because of lack of sufficient evidents (as in the Carlos Feliciano ~~case~~ and the current Dharuba Moore case); and blatant frame-ups (as in the Daniel Turner ^{trial} ~~case~~).

Following are some of the brothers' cases we must keep abreast of and support:

RAP BROWN, SAM PETTY, LEVI VALENTINE, and ARTHUR YOUNG. Trial beginning November 15 in Part 37, 100 Center Street. These four brothers were arrested in the vicinity of the Red Carpet Lounge on West 85th Street on October 13, 1971, and brutalized. Rap, then unidentified, was found shot on a roof.

DHARUBA MOORE. This former Panther brother is being accused of one of the many unsolved incidences in the city. Two policemen were shot at in May, 1971 on Riverside Drive in front of D.A. Hogan's home. No witness

ses have identified him as the assailant, and no ballistic tests have been produced, but he is the accused. He is in Part 36.

FRED FERNANDEZ. One of the St. Alban's Three, Brother Sol's charge of a Dec. 24, 1970 bank robbery is being appealed in the courts at 900 Ellison, Old Westbury. The case just began, Nov. 8. All 3rd World students from Westbury, Stonybrook, and Farmingdale are asked to support him. Jerome Reide and Hassan Howard, also of the St. Alban's 3 are being held at the Feds at 427 West Street.

KEN MILLER. Brother Kahlil, as he is known in the struggle, will be going for his sentencing on November 13 in the White Plains court, 1st floor. Although no weapons were found on him and he was not arrested at the scene of the robbery, he was found guilty of a 12-count indictment, including armed robbery. Brothers and sisters in the New Rochelle, White Plains, Mt. Vernon area, please support him.

PANCHO CRUZ. Pancho, who once headed the Puerto Rican students at City College, was put away for 7 years on a possession of explosive charge on flimsy evidence. Now in Comstock, he is going blind in his right eye. Medical attention is urgently needed. Puerto Ricans are organizing a Cultural Show to take to Comstock on Nov. 19th to project his case. Anyone interested in performing for this occasion is asked to contact the Puerto Rican Political Prisoners Committee, El Comite, 874-9162.

JAMES RICHARDSON. A Lincoln Hospital worker, James Richardson, is being charged with creating a situation in a subway where an off-duty cop was killed by fellow-policemen. The fabricated frame is an oblique way of making Richardson the murderer to hide the trigger-happy move by the cops. Watch for his case to appear in the Bronx Supreme Court.

DANNIEL RAHMAN TURNER. Brother Rahman was convicted early this year

on a murder charge and sentenced in April for 20 years even though a confession letter was written by his co-defendant, William Johnson, absolving him. The two co-defendants never knew each other and never saw each other until the day they were hauled into court before the judge. Johnson accused Turner of murder; then wrote a letter in remorse explaining he implicated Turner because he was threatened by a police officer if he did not do so. This letter was never allowed to be produced in court during trial. Six months later, a minister, Chuck Yerkes, went to Sing Sing to obtain the written evidence. This blatant frame must be exposed.

When DANIEL RAHMAN TURNER'S case comes into the Brooklyn court, all bloods, please show and support him and see that justice, cruelly delayed, be forced to surface.

* * * * *

CLASS ACTION SUIT INITIATED BY BROTHERS AT THE TOMBS. Now in session at the Southern District, Federal Court at Foley Square. Attend these hearings, brothers and sisters. After next week, they will be postponed til January.

PSYCHIATRIC MEDICINE PROGRAM AT BOX A, CLINTON, DANMORA. A genocidal program! Pressure for investigation of tests and surgeries being planned for in-mates in maxy-maxy.

IN OTHER AREAS AROUND THE COUNTRY: the SAN QUENTIN SIX in San Francisco; RUCHELLE MAGEE, also in San Francisco; Republic of New Africa's, PRES. IMARI OBADELE in Jackson, Mississippi; MARTIN SOSTRE in Buffalo, New York; MAX STANFORD (MUHAMMAD AHMAD) in San Diego, California; and KWAME BEN CHANEY in West Palm Beach, Florida. They are not just political prisoners. They are PRISONERS-OF-WAR! SUPPORT THEM! SALUTE THEM! FREE THEM!