

MESSAGE FROM A REVOLUTIONARY FREEDOM FIGHTER:

A Letter from Judy Clark

OCTOBER 1981



Judy Clark, July 18th, New Afrikan Freedom Fighter Day

This is my second attempt to write a short letter to everyone. The first one unfortunately got stolen by the prison in the course of our transfer; along with all our books and legal papers -- part of the daily petty harassment that only helps to clarify things politically. First let me say that I am doing fine (all things considered - smile). Seriously though, I know that everyone is concerned and I want you all to understand that I am physically okay and politically and spiritually strong. I love you all very much and that gives me much added strength.

What has been most important is hearing about the full political mobilization, which has been the response to the current situation -- and the fact that this is happening on many political fronts all at once -- in terms of supporting us, fighting the Anti-Springbok 5 case, fighting the continuous attacks on the Black Liberation Struggle and continuing to carry on the ongoing political work. This is important on many levels. Because fundamentally, what is being attacked and what is at stake in this struggle is the ability of revolutionaries and anti-imperialists to maintain the struggle for our political goals -- this level of full mobilization can be our only response to the onslaught of the state. And because continuing the struggle as the contradictions heighten forces each and all of us to transform ourselves and push our political commitment and understandings to a higher level. I do believe that we can come out of this storm stronger and more capable of forging a revolutionary path of protracted struggle. And because now, more than ever, it is so critical and concrete to fight for the strategic leadership of the Black liberation struggle and the struggle to free the land.

I've thought alot about the period of the early 70's and the heightened struggles and attacks on the Black struggle and revolutionary nationalists. There are clearly many parallels. But also important changes. Revolutionary nationalists are more advanced and stronger, having fought through and survived, changed and grown through the 70's. And the world is different with national liberation struggles heightening and winning internationally. And also, rooted in the lessons of the Third World and the leadership of national liberation struggles, we have significantly changed. I think it is very, very important to the balance of forces, that white revolutionaries and anti-imperialists are struggling to be full allies of the national liberation struggles and the Black Liberation Struggle in particular. And based in that, fighting to build revolutionary organization and practice that plants us firmly among the revolutionary forces in the War in Amerika. With all of our weaknesses and inadequacies, this is a qualitative advance that we must commit every ounce of our beings into nurturing and building. Now more than ever, I understand the importance of July 18th. The political issues it challenged us with speak exactly to the realities that we now confront.

Now we must internalize and realize more fully the lessons from those struggles to take responsibility for the commitments we made and the collective strength we represented on that day. For myself, these are the lessons that I am struggling to draw upon. I feel very much part of a collective process we are all a part of, and I want very much to continue to be a part of that process.

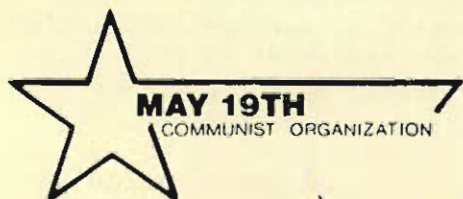
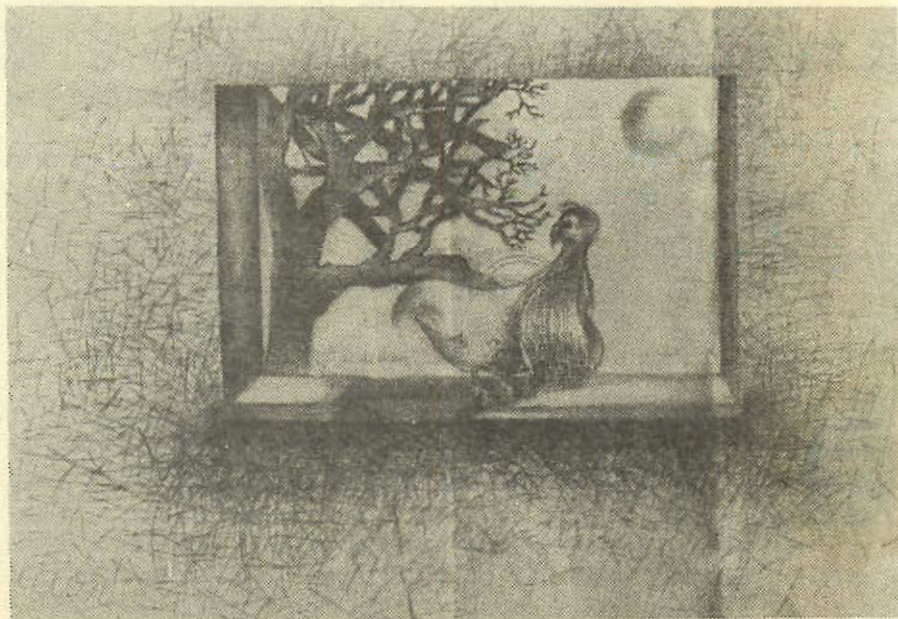
These past 9 days have seemed like a lifetime to me. I have felt a lot of things -- not all of which I am able to express. I have felt fear and questions and heartache. But primarily, I have struggled for consciousness and understanding on objective terms because that is the greatest weapon we have. I have felt more concretely than ever how our proletarian internationalism is a profound source of strength in our struggle. Being a POW is a profound struggle that I appreciate now more deeply. I think incessantly of the 11 and the lessons we are learning from the protracted peoples war of Puerto Rico. We draw immeasurable strength and spirit from their expressions of solidarity. And I've thought about Comrade Pokela, emerging from 13 years in Robben Island to help build the PAC and the struggle to free Azania. And I've thought about Assata and countless others. I've thought about how they have tortured Solomon and Sekou and cold-blooded murdered Mtayari and realized that even in my circumstances, it is important to recognize the fullness of the realities brought to bear.

The hardest part is definitely all the emotions about my child. It's been amazing to not have had to have one moment of worry about her safety and happiness and to feel secure in the knowledge that she is among her/our comrades/family. It's pretty amazing to hear about the children and how much they are struggling to take responsibility for the politics. Right on to the Clifford Glover Brigade!

The conditions of our confinement have tightened up since we were brought here. We are in segregation boxes all the time. One hour out each day - to shower and walk around a corridor - not together. But in some ways the sharper conditions have made us stronger and clearer. And the women in here have gone out of their way to be friendly and supportive. I'm wondering if Eve will be brought here, if she doesn't make bail. What an outrage her arrest is! Not to speak of the others! Send her our love and greetings and solidarity. And the same to our anti-Springbok 5. Their unflagging militancy and spirit in the face of intimidation and attack has been really great and heartening. Tell the sister her drawing was wonderful and inspired me to go back to my cell and draw - but somehow - nothing I did came out looking quite like hers!

Tonight I heard about the funeral of Brother Mtayari Shabaka Sundiata and saw the Brother's picture and poem. I cried a long time when I came back to my cell box, tears of anger and sorrow and pain. He was clearly a beautiful, strong Brother who lived and died a New Afrikan totally committed to building an army to free the land. I think each of us must take his spirit and his life and plant it deep inside us to become a fire that the enemy cannot quench, that burns with love for the people and hatred for the enemy and commitment to CARRY IT ON.

I love you all and miss you incredibly.



P.O. Box 3111 • Cadman Plaza Station
Brooklyn, New York 11202
(212) 522-7294

"The Revolution Knows No Darkness" - a drawing in solidarity with Samuel Brown, Kathy Boudin, Judy Clark and David Gilbert by one of the Anti-Springbok 5.