

Everyone who believes in freedom and justice for Black people have a responsibility to support Mutulu Shakur. Whether for civil obedience in resistance to oppression, refusal to fight for the U.S. military against other people of color, organizing the masses to throw off oppression or taking up arms for self-defense and national liberation, Black people all over the world have faced imprisonment and character assassination at the hands of the government whose racist and unjust policies they opposed. This list includes Rev. Martin Luther King, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, Malcolm X, the Reverend Ben Chavis, Elmer Geronimo Pratt, Huey Newton, Bobby Seale, Assata Shakur, Nelson Mandela, Angela Davis, the Honorable Marcus Garvey, Prime Minister Robert Mugabe.

All of the above have at some point been imprisoned for their political beliefs and activities. They have been called criminals by the establishment, but Black people have historically seen through this tactic and have accorded them the status of freedom fighters. We must treat Mutulu Shakur in the same manner. He is not a criminal or a thug, only someone who believes deeply that our people must be free.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

### COME TO COURT

1. The presence of supporters in the courtroom has a significant impact on the judicial process. You can help by attending pretrial hearings and by being present as often as possible during the trial.

### GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

2. The establishment media often cooperates with the FBI in character assassination of revolutionaries and by publicizing false accounts of events such as those to which the government has tried to link Mutulu Shakur. We need your financial support in order to counter FBI propaganda. Checks and money orders should be made out to:

**The Campaign to Free Dr. Mutulu Shakur**  
**P.O. Box 3171, Manhattanville Station**  
**New York, N.Y. 10027**  
**(718) 771-7306**

# MUTULU SHAKUR

## *A Life Of Struggle*



**“I tried to struggle for respect and dignity for our people in any way that my development allowed.”**

The progress that Black and oppressed people have made in the United States and throughout the world has come about because there have always been people who were not content with the status quo. Instead of working for their individual benefit, they chose to devote their time, energy and lives to the development and advancement of their people.

The list of such people is long, and while they have used different tactics and methods, they shared a common hope of seeing people of African descent around the world living in peace and dignity. One such person has been **DR. MUTULU SHAKUR**. He has devoted his life to the cause of Black liberation and because of this he is currently being held at Metropolitan Correctional Center.

The federal government plans to try him under the RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) law, charging him with conspiracy and participation in several expropriations (taking money from banks and armored trucks) and in the liberation of Assata Shakur (Joanne Chesimard) from prison on November 2, 1979. But in the eyes of the state, the real crime that he committed was to struggle for the human rights and dignity of Black people in America and throughout the world. The RICO laws were originally passed by the federal government in order to prosecute organized crime figures. However, in recent years, they have found these laws to be a useful weapon against radical political organizations.



**“People struggle for liberation because they love people.”**

Shakur's political and social consciousness began to develop early in his life. His mother suffered not only from being black and female, but she was also blind. It was Shakur's first confrontation with the state. The experience of helping his mother negotiate the social service system made him realize that the system does not operate in the interests of Black people and that Black people must control the institutions that affect their lives.

It is not surprising then that one of the first struggles in which he became involved was Ocean Hill Brownsville in Brooklyn, where Black parents were struggling to control their children's educational destiny. His participation was also based on his own experiences in the New York public school system. “I was involved because I had been miseducated, abused and disrespected,” said Shakur. “Ocean Hill Brownsville was similar to the struggle in Soweto in 1976 in which the people struggled against the system of Bantu education.”

It was during that same period that Shakur became a member of the Republic of New Afrika. His decision to become a New African came as a result of individual and collective attempts to “define the most peaceful and efficacious way for us to have peace and justice as a people.” Shakur saw clearly that whenever Black people tried legal means to obtain their rights, they were attacked militarily, psychologically and chemically. He realized that we must have clear aims and objectives. “People who are oppressed must have a specific goal and objective. The only way Black people in America will be recognized in the world will be if we have a nation which operates in the interests of our people. . .

In 1970, Shakur was asked to give political education on the Black national liberation movement to victims of drug addiction at Lincoln Detox. During that same period, his children were also seriously injured in an accident. Looking for alternative treatment, he approached activists of the I Wor Kuen, who ran a health service for the older Chinese community. An Asian woman who was a traditional acupuncturist cured his children.

Discussions with the Chinese and his sessions with addicts showed Shakur the similarities between the struggles of the Chinese against opium addiction which had been brought to China by the British colonizers and the struggles in the Black community against genocidal drugs.

Shakur began to work at Lincoln Detox because of its close ties to the community, Lincoln Detox provided the community with a healing, non-chemical solution to the detoxification of addicts, trained the community in the theory and use of acupuncture and provided political education about the drug plague, who controls the drug empire and how to resist. Because the program exposed the conspiracy of government agencies, law enforcement agencies, organized crime and drug companies in the waging of chemical warfare through drugs and methadone maintenance programs, the state began to attack it.

Consequently, Shakur, who had been trained by the Quebec Association of Acupuncture and received a Doctor of Acupuncture degree, became one of the founding members of Black Acupuncture Advisory Association of North America (BAAANA). Under Shakur's directorship, BAAANA became famous in the Black community in New York City for providing quality, alternative health care for a variety of ailments.

The Black Liberation movement began to make significant strides. Shakur began to notice that those who spoke out against injustice were often targets for government attacks. Further analysis revealed a pattern “too coincidental to be accidental.” For Shakur, the Panther 21 case, the murder of Fred Hampton, the New Bethel attack “all prompted collective evaluation and analysis that there must have been a broader conspiracy against the revolutionary nationalist movement.”

While working on the defense committee of Assata Shakur and Sundiata Acoli, Shakur and others began to see the need to investigate the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO). He said, “Doing the defense work we realized we were infiltrated by agents of the Red Squad, the FBI and the New York Police Department. We felt that the establishment of the National Task Force for Cointelpro Litigation and Research would render an important service to the revolutionary nationalist community and to all progressive communities subject to attack by the state. We felt and feel that the more we know about counterinsurgency the better we will be able to build organized resistance.”

It was as a result of massive attacks on the movement in the aftermath of the Brinks expropriation in October 1981 that Shakur decided to go underground.

Mutulu Shakur was captured by the Joint Terrorist Task Force in Los Angeles, California on February 11, 1986. He is being held without bail and is scheduled to go to trial on February 9, 1987.

