

# FREE THE AUGUST 8th BRIGADE FIGHT THE KU KLUX KLAN



*"After a long train of abuses, including intolerable living conditions, racist oppression and open Ku Klux Klan aggression, prisoners rose up in righteous resistance on August 8, 1977 from every nationality and political persuasion to protest these barbaric conditions by the only means of redress left open to them, the seizure of the Napanoch Prison complex..."*

From the first declaration of the August 8 Brigade

Throughout New York State, Black and Latin prisoners are waging a battle against the Ku Klux Klan and repressive prison conditions. For the past four years, a center of that struggle has been the Eastern Correctional Facility Napanoch, N.Y. It was 4 years ago that Black and Latin prisoners unmasked Earl J. Schoonmaker, a teacher at the prison, as the Grand Dragon of the N.Y. State Klan. Schoonmaker bragged of organizing a Klavern among white guards and was caught smuggling Klan literature to white prisoners.

Three years later, Klan organizing was still going on at Napanoch and prison conditions worsened. As prisoners escalated their demands for decent food and an end to racist brutality through strikes and petitions, more white guards openly or covertly participated in the violent white supremacy of the KKK. Finally on August 8th, 1977, the Dept. of Corrections could no longer repress the righteous anger of the prisoners. Over 200 prisoners rebelled and seized a wing of the prison and 14 hostages. They demanded:

1. Decent food and an end to unsanitary messhall conditions.
2. Firing of suspected Klan members, Sts. Budd and Sluka.
3. Passage of the "good time" bill for parole reform.
4. Amnesty for all involved in the rebellion.

The seige lasted 12 hours. The Dept. of Corrections fired rifles and tear gas in an effort to create another Attica. Gov. Carey took the same position as his predecessor Rockefeller did at Attica and refused to talk with the prisoners. The Department of Corrections refused to allow the press to get near the prison. They did not want the public to hear of the dehumanizing conditions and of Klan organizing. The Department of Corrections promised a thorough investigation of the charges and a full airing of the problem. As soon as hostages were released unharmed, they locked up all the prisoners, refusing to allow even lawyers to visit the prisoners for a week.

45 prisoners were charged with a variety of "crimes" stemming from the rebellion; 10 have been indicted for felonies such as coercion, riot and assault carrying terms of 7-15 additional years. Hundreds of prisoners, including all 10 of the indicted prisoners, were transferred all over the state. Some were placed in solitary confinement for 6 months at a time. Their legal mail has been opened, read, and confiscated. Many of them have been purposefully put under the control of Klan guards. Currently a law suit has been filed by the 43 Napanoch brothers to expose and end the state conspiracy to prevent them from developing their legal and political defenses by tampering with their legal mail.

The Napanoch brothers are continuing their resistance to the Klan and prison repression by organizing themselves as the **August 8th Brigade** to carry on the struggle inside the prison and to direct

the legal and political defense of the August 8th Rebellion in the courts and the streets.

### History of the Anti-Klan Struggle

The Napanoch struggle against the Klan and repression in the prison is rooted in centuries of resistance to national oppression. For the U.S. empire to develop and grow, the European settlers seized the land, resources and labor of Black, Puerto Rican, Native American and Mexicano/Chicano peoples. This oppression and exploitation of whole nations and peoples has been resisted every step of the way – the terms of this war for survival are liberation or genocide. With the intensification of the struggle for Puerto Rico's independence – both on the Island and in the U.S. – comes the steady growth of national consciousness in Puerto Rican communities here and the heightening of struggles for democratic rights and self-determination. As the resistance and growing unity of the Puerto Rican, Black, Native American, and Mexicano/Chicano liberation struggles threaten the U.S. empire, repression becomes essential to its maintenance. For Third World people, prisons are the concentration camps of war. Today, killer cops shoot down Black and Latin youth. Revolutionary leaders are murdered and jailed. And hundreds of thousands of Third World people are thrown into prison for acts of survival. In New York alone, there are 24,000 women and men in state prisons and another 3,000 in NYC jails; 90% are Black, Puerto Rican and other Third World people. The struggle at Napanoch rises out of the conditions of repression and is part of the general struggle for self-determination, liberation and an end to exploitation.



In 1971 prisoners at Attica exposed the extent of racist brutality and debilitating conditions of the NYS prison camps. Many paid with their lives. N.Y. State tried to justify its crimes against prisoners by indicting Attica rebels. It was only the sustained struggle by the prisoners and the support they received from their communities that finally crumpled the state's lies. One brother, Dacajeweah (John Hill) is still serving time for the so-called "crimes" of the Attica Rebellion.



### The August 8th Brigade: A Call for Solidarity

The August 8th Brigade is composed of all the brothers charged with "crimes" from the Rebellion. While misdemeanors against many of the brothers were recently dropped, ten brothers still face felony charges. They have decided to make their trials in Ulster County another step in the war against the Klan. They have called for solidarity and concrete support.

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The August 8th Brigade Defense Coalition is composed of individuals and groups who support the August 8th Brigade and the demands of the Rebellion. Under the leadership of the indicted brothers, the Coalition is organizing legal, political, and financial support outside the prisons. We believe that all progressive anti-racist people have a stake in the acquittal of the brothers and the exposure of the Klan and the oppressive prison conditions.

Each of us who supports the struggle of the August 8th Brigade has the responsibility to figure out how to best support them. Everyone can write a letter of protest to the Dept. of Corrections demanding that the charges be dropped against the brothers. Money - lots of it - will be needed for the defense work; it can be sent to and made out to the Defense Coalition. People should go to demonstrations in support of the brothers and make sure to go to the trials; information can always be gotten from the Coalition. Those who have time and energy to do more work on the case should contact us.

The Defense Coalition - which includes several brothers who have earlier given leadership to the struggle at Napanoch is interested in speaking to community, school, church and political groups. We would also like to speak with small groups of friends or neighbors. If you can arrange such groups, please let us know.

***DROP THE INDICTMENTS!  
SMASH THE KLAN!  
FREE ALL PRISONERS OF WAR!***

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To support the August 8th Brigade, please contact:  
The August 8th Brigade Defense Coalition  
Box 84A  
244 Flatbush Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11217

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*"Those men singled out as the "criminal" leaders of the August 8th takeover were in fact those chiefly responsible for averting a major blood bath, articulating the just demands of the prison population and facilitating the safe release of the hostages..."*

The 10 indicted members of the August 8th Brigade:

Chino (Andre Nieves)  
Yang King (Eddie Pacheco)  
Flaco (Lorenzo Perez)  
Shorty (Luis Torres)  
Felix Castro  
Cisco (Ronald Tacardon)  
Kika (Enrique Suarez)  
Khali (Frank Abney)  
Curly (Jacques Roberts)  
Scorpio (Hector Semidey)

Show your support. Write to the brothers at:  
Green Haven Prison  
Drawer B, Stormville, NY 12582

**FREE THE AUGUST 8th BRIGADE**

**FIGHT THE KU KLUX KLAN**

# SOLIDARITY WITH THE AUGUST 8th BRIGADE

Black, Puerto Rican and other Third World men at Greenhaven Prison in Stormville, New York, are under increasing attack for their struggle against the Ku Klux Klan and white supremacy. Ten men who were indicted after the August 8th Rebellion at Eastern Correctional Facility (Napanoch), facing charges ranging from unlawful imprisonment to assault, are currently at Greenhaven. They are preparing for their trials, in which they will expose the vicious attacks of Klan guards against Black and other Third World prisoners.

Prior to the Brothers' arrivals at Greenhaven, the Department of Corrections transferred certain Klan guards, most notably Sgts. Krom and Sluka, to Greenhaven. Since the Brothers' arrival there, the attacks and provocations that led up to the Rebellion have continued. This is a clear attempt to create an excuse for the prison administration to put the Brothers in segregation and find other ways to hamper their collective defense.

To support the Brothers and take action against the administration's strategy, you can write letters to the officials named below, stating as follows:

"I demand that you fire Sgt. Sluka and all white supremacist guards. I hold you responsible for any attacks against the 10 indicted members of the August 8th Brigade presently at Greenhaven and all Third World prisoners there."

Commissioner Benjamin Ward  
Dept. of Correctional Services  
State Office, Campus  
Albany, NY 12022

Steven Chinlund  
Chairman  
Commission on Corrections  
State Office, Campus  
Albany, NY 12022

Supt. David Harris  
Greenhaven C7  
Stormville, NY 12582

Solidarity with Sisters Inside Committee, in solidarity with the August 8th Brigade Defense Coalition. Box 291, 161 E. Houston Street, New York, NY 10002