

"The principal reservoir of revolutionary potential in Amerika lies in wait inside the Black colony." —George Jackson

GEORGE JACKSON

was the living embodiment of the Black Liberation Struggle. Condemned to spend the rest of his life in prison for a \$70 robbery and his political activism, Comrade George refused to buckle under to his oppressors. A skilled organizer and a national leader of the Black Panther Party, the central passion of his life was the freedom of Black people. Subjected to years of solitary confinement and brutality, George rose above the moral decadence of his captors to become one of the most influential political writers of his era. He wrote two books that have been widely read and studied: "Soledad Brother: The Prison Writings of George Jackson" and "Blood In My Eye." These writings reflect centuries of rage and suffering experienced by Black people since the first African slave was brought to this country in chains. George wrote that Black people continue to this day to be victimized by white racism and economic exploitation. He outlined various strategies of political organization and resistance that he felt would better enable the Black community to survive and defend itself.

George was a teacher and a revolutionary; a writer and a warrior. He was articulate and courageous, but most of all George was a friend and comrade who paid the supreme sacrifice in service to the people. His spirit will always live!

George Jackson was shot to death by prison guards on August 21, 1971.

‘Born to a premature death, a menial, subsistence-wage worker, odd-job man, the cleaner, the caught, the man under hatches, without bail—that’s me, the colonial victim. Anyone who passed the civil service examination yesterday can kill me today with complete immunity. I’ve lived with repression every moment of my life, a repression so formidable that any movement on my part can only bring relief, the respite of small victory or the release of death. In every sense of the term, in every sense that’s real, I’m a slave to and of property.’
George Jackson

‘There should, I feel be one branch that is purely political, operating the rent strikes, the breakfast programs, the People’s Bazaars where all sorts of food and clothing, utensils and tools are sold, hospitals or clinics (free, of course) . . . and the cottage shops to employ those who make clothing and canned food. Then there should be . . . the military.’
Jonathan Jackson

JONATHAN JACKSON

was George's younger brother. For two years he worked tirelessly to free the "Soledad Brothers" (including George) and other political prisoners. For two years he faced the brutal reality of continued killings of prisoners by guards and death threats against his brother George.

Jonathan was killed by police gunfire on August 7, 1970 as he attempted to free political prisoners, including Ruchell Magee, from a courthouse. He was 17 years old. Of Jonathan's death, George wrote, "We recognize all time in the future from the day of the manchild's death. Manchild, gun in hand, he was free for awhile. I guess that's more than most of us can expect." Jonathan never reached his full adulthood in a chronological sense but he certainly did with his spirit and commitment. He had the heart of a freedom fighter. He loved the people and was totally committed to removing the jackboot of oppression and racism from the neck of Black people. He challenged those of us who are white to fight white supremacy and support the Black Liberation struggle. He had the foresight to outline back then, at age 16 and 17, the necessity of building a movement that had clandestine organizations as an essential aspect of it. He was the best of the best.



From the moment George Jackson and other Black men and women begin to assert effective leadership, they become targets of assassination and imprisonment. From those fallen leaders of slave revolts to the murders of Medgar Evers, Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, Fred Hampton & dozens of members of the Black Panther Party, this country has demonstrated time and again that it will not tolerate a movement that fights for the aspirations and human rights of Black people.

The time of George Jackson was time of intense repression against those who struggle for social change. The U.S. invaded Vietnam. Anti-colonial wars in Southern Africa were on the verge of victory. The Sandinistas and other Latin revolutionaries were demanding an end to the dictatorships that ruled their countries.

Eighteen days after George Jackson was killed there was an uprising at Attica prison (N.Y.) led by Black and Latino prisoners. They sought minimal improvement in their conditions and stated they were men and not beasts and refused to be driven or beaten. New York state police stormed the prison and massacred 29 prisoners and 10 guards—all killed by police gunfire.

In 1971, information obtained from FBI files, lawsuits and a congressional investigation revealed a U.S. government campaign of sabotage, disruption, infiltration and assassination aimed at the political opposition in this country. The campaign was called COINTELPRO (Counter-intelligence Programs). One of the primary targets was, and remains to this day, the Black Liberation movement.

In the 1980's, the struggles for human rights and social change continue but at a tremendous cost in human life and suffering. The U.S. backs the contra attacks against Nicaragua. El Salvador's death squads and bomber pilots are trained by the U.S. military. African people are butchered every day in the streets of South Africa by a racist regime supported by the U.S.

Here in this country there are police forces that attack the very lifeblood of Black communities—the people. There is little difference between ku klux klan lynchings and the brutal murders of Black people by killer cops and vigilantes. Once again Black leaders that organize for the survival and freedom of Black people are killed and imprisoned. They are under attack because a system that allows people to suffer and die from the social neglect of homelessness, poor medical care and inadequate nutrition cannot withstand an organized resistance led by those whose hearts carry the indestructible beat of

FREEDOM.

“The hypocrisy of Amerikan fascism forces it to conceal its attack on political offenders by the legal fiction of conspiracy laws and highly sophisticated frame-ups. The masses must be taught to understand the true function of prisons. Why do they exist in such numbers? What is the real underlying economic motive of crime and the official definition of types of offenders and victims.” —George Jackson