INTRODUCTION

Constantly people of color are confronted with the reality that death is our ever present companion. We've had to live with the conditions that make us more prone to high blood pressure, diabetes, high infant mortality, strokes, heart attacks, etc. for so long that we see these things as part of our heritage. It has become commonplace to hear that someone known to or related to us was killed in an argument, gambling or trying to take someone off. Even more commonplace is us spending our lives in the living death of prison.

We're not shocked or surprised by this. In fact, we've become complacent with this as the status quo. We've begun to plod along waiting for our number to come up. On a very real level we are the walking dead -- people without a future and an extremely chaotic past. We have been aimlessly wandering through life, purposeless, directionless -- slaves to other people's whims, ideas and desires.

Throughout history, voices rose out of and above the quagmire and declared themselves men and women. Human beings with souls, who wanted to know how it felt to be free and live outside the shadow of death. Cinque, Nat Turner, Gabriel Prosser, Harriet Tubman, Denmark Vesey -- men and women who lived and died to the tune of, "O Freedom, O Freedom, O Freedom in my heart. Before I live and be a slave I'll be buried in my grave and go home to my Lord and be free".

There is no equivocation when we recall those heroes. Why? Because it's safe to remember them. They are far removed from our day and time so we can glory in their battles and victories vicariously with no threat to us.

While we are busy recanting the glory of our long dead heroes, new heroes are going forth into battle to carry our struggle for dignity, freedom, independence and humanity one step closer to reality in the spirit of Claude McKay's "If We Must Die".
If we must die, let it not be like hogs
Hunted and penned in an inglorious spot,
While round us bark the mad and hungry dogs,
Making their mock at our accursed lot.
If we must die, O let us nobly die,
So that our precious blood may not be shed
In vain; then even the monsters we defy
Shall be constrained to honor us though dead!
O kinsmen! we must meet the common foe!
Though far outnumbered let us show us brave,
And for their thousand blows deal one deathblow!
What though before us lies the open grave?
Like men we'll face the murderous, cowardly pack,
Pressed to the wall, dying, but fighting back!

You may put out the light in my eyes,
You may deprive me of my mother's kisses.
You may curse my father, my people.
You may distort my history,
You may deprive my children of a smile
And of life's necessities.
You may fool my friends with a borrowed face.
You may build walls of hatred around me.
You may glue my eyes to humiliations,
O enemy of the sun.

But
I shall not compromise
And to the last pulse in my veins
I shall resist.

O enemy of the sun
The decorations are raised at the port,
The ejaculations fill the air,
A glow in the hearts,
And in the horizon
A sail is seen
Challenging the wind
And the depths.
It is Field Marshall Dedan Kamathii (Mau Mau)
Returning home
From the sea of loss

It is the return of the sun,
Of my exiled ones
And for her sake, and his
I swear
I shall not compromise
And to the last pulse in my veins
I shall resist,
Resist — and resist.

The last thirty years has seen some doors crack for blacks
and other people of color in America. These changes didn't
occur in a vacuum. They were political moves in an attempt
to undermine the rising tide of Black unrest and our demands
for civil and human rights. No concrete changes in the very
real condition of Black people occurred. We're still at the
bottom of the totem pole.

With the advent of the twentieth century the Black man
in America has begun to take a decided shift away from
quiet acquiescence to our plight. We had begun, in massive
numbers, to say No More. Our leaders, Marcus Garvey, Elijah
Muhammad, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Malcolm X,
arbitrated the determination of our people to wait no longer
for the realization of people of African descent as human
beings in the eyes of mankind.

The twentieth century became the time to take a stand.
Four hundred years of racist oppression and economic
exploitation was enough -- not one more century -- not one
more generation without a collective, organized resistance.
Either -- or become the battle cry. America was put on notice,
the choice is the ballot or the bullet!

Realizing that no concessions would be gained without
a fight, brothers and sisters determined to lay down their
very lives, if it became necessary, to achieve our freedom.
The following is a chronicle of those unsung heroes who
have given the only thing that was theirs to give — THEIR
LIVES!
TO THOSE OF US WHO HAVE DEDICATED OUR LIVES TO THE
LIBERATION OF BLACK PEOPLE, WHO HAVE DARED TO SAY, "WE
SHALL HAVE OUR FREEDOM OR THE EARTH WILL BE LEVELLED BY
OUR ATTEMPTS TO GAIN IT", DEATH IS A COMMON OCCURRENCE.
IT IS SOMETHING WE HAD TO ACCEPT, FOR WE KNEW THAT IN
WAGING STRUGGLE TO FREE OURSELVES FROM THE CHAINS OF
SLAVERY OUR CHOICES ARE SMALL, EITHER TO BE JAILED OR
ASSASSINATED - BUT WE HAD NOTHING TO LOSE AND
EVERYTHING TO GAIN.

WE KNOW THAT WHERE THERE IS STRUGGLE THERE'S
SACRIFICE. THE DEATH OF OUR COMRADES WAS A SACRIFICE,
FOR IN OUR STRUGGLE SOME DEATHS ARE LIGHTER THAN A
FEATHER AND OTHERS ARE AS WEIGHTY AS A MOUNTAIN.
EVERYONE OF THESE DEATHS ARE WEIGHTY AS MOUNTAINS, FOR
THEY NOT ONLY PRACTICED THE PRINCIPLES OF REVOLUTIONARY
WARFARE - THEY TAUGHT OTHERS TO DO THE SAME. IN THEIR
LIVES AND IN THEIR DEATHS THEY SAID:

I MAY - IF YOU WISH - LOSE MY LIVELIHOOD
I MAY SELL MY SHIRT AND BED,
I MAY WORK AS A STONE CUTTER,
A STREET SWEeper, A POKER.
I MAY CLEAN YOUR STORES
OR RUMMAGE YOUR GARBAGE FOR FOOD.
I MAY LAY DOWN HUNGRY,
ENEMY OF THE SUN,
BUT
I SHALL NOT COMPROMISE
AND TO THE LAST PULSE IN MY VEINS
I SHALL RESIST.

YOU MAY TAKE THE LAST STRIP OF MY LAND,
FEED MY YOUTH TO PRISON CELLS.
YOU MAY PLUNDER MY HERITAGE.
YOU MAY BURN MY BOOKS, MY POEMS
OR FEED MY FLESH TO THE DOGS.
YOU MAY SPREAD A WEB OF TERROR
ON THE ROOFS OF MY VILLAGE,
ENEMY OF THE SUN,
BUT
I SHALL NOT COMPROMISE
AND TO THE LAST PULSE IN MY VEINS
I SHALL RESIST.
ARTHUR MORRIS - member of the Southern California Chapter, Los Angeles Branch, of the Black Panther Party. Arthur was the first member of the Black Panther Party to die in the struggle for Black liberation. ASSASSINATED March 1968.

MTYARI SHABAKA SUNDAJATA (Samuel Smith) - became a citizen of record in the Republic of New Afrika in 1968. Tyari worked among the youth in the Ocean-Hill Brownsville section of Brooklyn. In 1970 he was incarcerated as the result of a shootout with the police. Upon his release he joined the ranks of the BLA. It was in this capacity of a people's warrior that he was SLAIN IN COMBAT - October 1981.

BOBBY JAMES HUTTON - affectionately known as Lil' Bobby Hutton, was born April 25, 1950. He was the first person to join the Black Panther Party. He joined when he was 16 when the Party was founded in 1966. He

I make love at a fraction of an inch
outside my window bars
I make love with freedom
And she invites me to be with her
and she's right outside my window bars

My love is great
I cherish her
and she's right outside my window bars
I dance with death
But my mind is set ....

FREEDOM!
We're going to get it on a fraction of an inch
outside my window bars
I love you freedom
I dance with death.

to Martyr,
Pama Obongaba, B.I.G.

[Signature]
SERVED AS FINANCE CO-ORDINATOR. He was one of the Panthers arrested on May 2, 1967 at the Sacramento legislature protest where Bobby Seale read the Party's position on self defense for oppressed people (Executive Mandate NO. 1). Bobby was murdered, two days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., by dozens of Oakland police. He was unarmed, but with utmost courage, sacrificed his life so others might live. ASSASSINATED April 6, 1968.

STEV E BARTHOLOMEW - 21, ROBERT LAWRENCE - 22, and TOMMY LEWIS - 18, - They were riding in a car when they noticed they were being followed by a Los Angeles police squad car. They stopped at a gas station so that any incident could be witnessed. The squad car stopped also. As Steve was getting out of the car a volley of police gunfire killed him instantly. The Panther returned fire and Robert was killed. Tommy died later at LA Central Receiving Hospital from peritonitis (severe intestinal inflammations) caused by stomach wounds and loss of blood. ASSASSINATED August 25, 1968.

WELTON ARMSTEAD - member of the Seattle Washington Branch of the Black Panther Party. Known as Butch. Welton was 17 years old when he was killed. ASSASSINATED October 15, 1968.

ALFRED BUTLER - known in struggle as Kombozi Amistad. Became a member of the Black Panther Party in his youth and functioned out of the New Rochelle office. Kombozi later transferred to the West Coast from whence he went underground to carry the struggle to the next level - armed struggle - as a member of the ABA. It was in his capacity as a soldier in this formation that he was SLAIN IN COMBAT in Norfolk, Virginia January 25, 1975.

TIMOTHY ADAMS - known to his comrades in arms, friends and family as Red. Red was critically wounded in a battle with the enemy after attempting to liberate fellow comrades from the infamous Tombs (the Manhattan House of Detention for Men), in 1973. For many years he was confined to a wheelchair as a result of these wounds but his spirit was undaunted. Even though his death came years after the battle it was directly related. His life and struggle to overcome, and death was a source of inspiration to us all.

Above, Melvin Kearney, killed... in a build.
ASSASSINATED December 30, 1968.

FRANK DIGGS - LA Chapter Black Panther Party, 40 years old. Frank was shot to death and left in an alley on the outskirts of Los Angeles by unknown assassins.

ASSASSINATED November 7, 1968.

Sidney Miller was about to rob the store, West Seattle Grocery Store. The owner said he was leaving a short time. police murdered Sidney Miller, 21 years old. He was found dead in the boot of a car. The Seattle Police Department said the man was a criminal.

SIDNEY MILLER - Twenty two days after the Seattle

FRANK DIGGS - LA Chapter Black Panther Party, 40 years old. Frank was shot to death and left in an alley on the outskirts of Los Angeles by unknown assassins.
ZAYD MALIK SHAKUR - known as Dedane Olugbala, Zayd was the Minister of Information of the New York Black Panther Party. He spent months and years educating the people to what must be done to secure our freedom and liberation. On May 2nd Zayd died the way he lived, in combat, resisting the forces of oppression. He was killed in a shootout on the New Jersey Turnpike, in which Assata Shakur was injured and captured and Sundiata Acoli was captured. Zayd was a soldier in the people's liberation army. SLAIN IN COMBAT - May 2, 1973.

TWYMAN MYERS: 'the elusive Twyman Myers' is what he came to be known as - to the oppressors. To the people he was friend, comrade and defender. Twyman was no superstar, he just did what had to be done and faded into the night. He cared about everyone, especially the children. He believed that the only way to achieve freedom was to be willing to fight and die for it. If it wasn't worth fighting for it wasn't worth having and you didn't really want it. On November 14, 1973 a combined force of New York Police and FBI agents surrounded Twyman on a Bronx street and opened fire. Eighty bullet riddled his body. As he lay dead a police officer stood over him and shot him again in the head. The police rallied in front of the 44th precinct celebration. Twyman Myers was a warrior we can all be proud of. SLAIN IN COMBAT - November 14, 1973.

Bunchy was shot from behind and killed on the steps of UCLA while organizing and educating Black students around self-determination and student control of the Black Student Unions in preparation for community control. Though the fingers that pulled the trigger on Bunchy were members of Ron Karenga's US organization, in the final analysis, Bunchy's death is the responsibility of the racist American government.
George James, a police agent who infiltrated the party, was killed by a Black Panther Party member of the New York chapter, Harlem.

Alex Rackley, a member of the Black Panther Party in California, was killed in 1969.

John Hughes, a member of the Black Panther Party in California, was killed in 1973.

Mark Essel, a member of the Black Panther Party in Southern California, was killed in the struggle for Black liberation while still within the US military.
He was shot through the head and heart, in New Haven Connecticut. The New Haven Police Department also had an informer on the scene at the Soms engineered/ordered execution but no effort was made to prevent it. ASSASSINATED May 21, 1969.

RONALD CARTER - the response of the government to the BLA was to close ranks and consolidate their forces. For the first time they realized that every act of aggression they launched upon the black community would be met with an act of revolutionary justice. The FBI launched a nationwide manhunt for BLA soldiers and ordered them killed on sight. Ronald Carter was killed in one of these confrontations in St. Louis, Missouri. SLAIN IN COMBAT - February 15, 1972.

JOSEPH WADDELL - Joseph Waddell, or "Joe-Dell" joined the BPP in September 1970 while in the city jail in High Point, North Carolina. Before going to jail, he had functioned as a community worker. Joe-Dell was transferred to Central Prison in Raleigh, NC and because of his revolutionary posture, was frequently beaten by prison guards. On June 13, 1972, 21 year old Joseph Waddell was pronounced dead by prison officials. They said the cause of death was a heart attack. Joe-Dell was physically healthy before his death and had never suffered from heart trouble before. Prison inmates close to Joe-Dell said he was the victim of prison authorities, who had probably drugged or poisoned him to induce the attack. Joe-Dell's internal organs were removed by prison authorities before they released his body to his family. (no picture available)

ANTHONY WHITE - known affectionately and in struggle as Kimu Olugbala. Kimu had been captured and seriously injured in the process, but his spirit had not been broken. While incarcerated at the infamous Tombs in New York he escaped to rejoin his comrades in struggle. On Monday January 22, 1973 Kimu was killed in a shootout with New York police, choosing death over slavery. SLAIN IN COMBAT January 22, 1973

WOODIE GREENE - known in struggle as Changa Olugbala. About Brother Woodie all we need to know is that he was a warrior in the people's army. He was a young man who'd once been bound and gagged and caged in the white man's zoos (jails), and vowed never to return. He was slain in the same shootout which saw the death of Kimu. SLAIN IN COMBAT January 22, 1973.
1969

†ASSASSINATED September 4

Sylvester, 34 years old-assassinated. In an attempt to intimidate witnesses at the trial, Sylvester was shot dead. The murder came at a time when the trial of John Hahm, recently acquitted of the murder of the Black Panther Party member, was nearing completion. It led to the arrest of John Hahm again.

Larry Rosenberg - on the morning of July 14, 1969 Larry

Larry Rosenberg
WALTER 'TOURE' POPE - as soon as he was released by the California Youth Authority from Tracy, Walter joined the Black Panther Party. Toure, 20, was singled out for constant harrassment by the LAPD because of his effectiveness as Distribution Manager of the Black Panther Black Community News Service in Southern California. In three months he increased the circulation from 1500 a week to over 7000 a week. Walter was brutally gunned down in broad daylight as he left a store where he had just dropped off some newspapers. According to eyewitness reports, the police suddenly came upon him and opened fire. Toure never had a chance. ASSASSINATED October 18, 1969.

SPURGEON WINTERS - 'Jake' was an honor student in school and a revolutionist. He worked on the Chicago Chapter's Breakfast Program, Free Health Clinic and was

SAUNDRA PRATT - wife of Geronimo. Known as Red to her comrades and friends. The death of Sandra was especially heartfelt because of its senselessness, beastiality and brutality. The sister was pregnant with new life blood for the people's struggle. The reactionary forces that slew the sister mutilated her and placed her body in a mattress cover and dumped her in an intersection in Los Angeles. ASSASSINATED Fall, 1971.

FRANK FIELDS - known to his comrades as Heavy, was a member of the Olugbala Tribe of the BLA. Open war had been declared between the US government and the BLA. Frank was killed in one of the FBI's search and destroy missions in Florida. SLAIN IN COMBAT - December 31, 1971.
SAM NAPIER - Circulation Manager BPP. Lived and breathed the Black Panther Newspaper. He would constantly intone "Circulate to Educate to Liberate". Sam was another casualty of the internal split of the BPP. Fanon talked of the contradictions in Wretched of the Earth when he referred to Colonial War and Mental Disorders. Oftentimes we lose sight of who our real enemies are and give vent to our emotional responses. In the death of Robert Webb and Sam Napi er the people's liberation struggle lost two of it's staunchest supporters. Psychologically COINTELPRO scored a bullseye. Sam died April 17, 1971.

MARK CLARK - was a Defense Captain for the Peoria, Illinois Branch of the BPP. He made frequent trips to Chicago to confer with the leadership of the Party's Chapter there in order to help him organize in downstate Peoria. Mark made one such trip in December of 1969 and stayed at Fred Hampton's apartment. Chicago police raided Fred's apartment on the morning of December 4th. Mark was murdered by the raiders as they crashed through the apartment door. He was shot through the heart. Several other occupants were wounded by indiscriminate police gunfire. Mark Clark was 22. ASSASSINATED December 4, 1969.

GEORGE JACKSON - George Jackson spent the last eleven years of his life behind prison walls, seven of them in solitary confinement. During his imprisonment, George attained an extraordinary level of revolutionary political consciousness. He was appointed Field Marshal of the Black Panther Party. He was an eloquent writer. He authored two important books: Soledad Brother and Blood In My Eye, the latter was completed shortly before his assassination. On August 21, 1971, nameless guards of California's San Quentin Prison assassinated George Jackson. They said he was trying to escape, but the brothers inside said George gave his life to save the life of others. The people of the oppressed communities of the world know that the San Quentin prison officials carried out a premeditated plan to silence a voice that was so full of revolutionary humanism they could no longer bear it.

part of the Education Cadre. He was killed when 100 policemen opened fire on him and Lance Bell was wounded. Three policemen were killed and seven wounded in the attack on the deserted building where the two took refuge. Jake was 19. ASSASSINATED November 13, 1969.
FRED HAMPTON - the name Fred Hampton has secured a permanent place in the annals of people's struggle, because, sadly enough, this was one of the hundreds of thousands of Black deaths America chose to publicize. A young, outspoken critic of America's treatment of Black and poor people, Fred's dedication to the cause of freedom led him and others to organize in Chicago. The organizational and speaking abilities of Fred Hampton won him national attention. Political persecution of Fred Hampton included numerous false arrests. He was convicted of a $70.00 ice cream truck robbery in 1969 but community pressure forced his release. Such persecution culminated on December 4, 1969 at 4 o'clock in the morning when a raiding party of Chicago police invaded Fred's apartment and shot him several times as he slept. He was 21 years old. The Black Community lost a beautiful warrior for human dignity, but Fred often said, "You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill the revolution." ASSASSINATED December 4, 1969.

ROBERT WEBB - deputy Minister of Defense of the BPP. Spent years organizing coast to coast, building the discipline and security of the Party and community in preparation for liberation. When it became apparent that there were corrupt forces operating within the BPP Robert took a stand for principles first. That stand was to bring about his death on March 8, 1971.

STERLING JONES - Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were only days in their graves when the Chicago Police Department struck again. On Christmas Day, Sterling Jones, 17, a member of the Illinois Chapter responded to a knock at his family's apartment door. As Sterling opened the door, he was shot directly in the face by an unknown assailant. The bullet killed him and his assailant fled into the night. ASSASSINATED December 25, 1969.
for a while. I guess what I'm saying is, that's more than most of us can
bear. When the shooting ended, Jonathan Jackson made his way
across the tracks to find his wife, Joyce. She was alive, but
injured. They had a sense of relief knowing that she was
alive. However, the news of her pregnancy was a source
of joy and hope in the midst of the chaos.

"It's a beautiful day for healing," she said, holding his
hand. "We'll get through this. Together."
CARL HAMPTON - Brother Carl was the Chairman (coordinator) of the People’s Party II, a revolutionary organization in Houston, Texas. Carl was the motivating force of the small organization which followed the example and the policies of the BPP. At the time the Party was not organizing in the South, so Carl, seeing the need for a party that would serve the people's needs and desires started the People's Party, which sold the BPP newspaper. Culminating a series of incidents on July 28, 1970, Houston police surrounded the Dowling Street area where the People's Party II office was located and attacked the entire community. Carl was killed at 2:00 a.m. in defense of it.

FRED BENNETT - Pieces of the body of Fred Bennett were found in April, 1971, in a mountaneous region near Oakland, California. Fred had been the coordinator of