

KPFA FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE RADIO SHOW

DECEMBER 1990

[INTRO: NINA SIMONE SINGING - I WISH YOU COULD KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO BE ME. THEN YOU'D SEE AND AGREE THAT EVERY MAN SHOULD BE FREE]

HEBER = H

LANDON WILLIAMS = L

H: GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME TO FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE. WE WILL CONTINUE TODAY A SUBJECT THAT WE BEGAN A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT THE IMPRISONMENT OF GERONIMO PRATT, AND THAT IS THE IMPRISONMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, A SUBJECT THAT IS VERY SELDOM AIRED ANY PLACE EXCEPT SOMEWHERE LIKE KPFA. I HAVE A GUEST IN THE STUDIOS HERE WITH ME. WE'RE GONNA BE TALKING ABOUT THE NEW YORK 3. MY GUEST IS A FORMER BLACK PANTHER PARTY MEMBER, CURRENTLY MEMBER OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY NEWSPAPER COMMITTEE, LANDON WILLIAMS. WELCOME TO FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE. CAN WE START THE DISCUSSION ON THE NEW YORK 3 BY GETTING SOME IDEA OF WHO THEY ARE AND WHERE THEY'RE FROM.

L: THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT. THE NEW YORK 3 ARE THREE BLACK MEN WHO WERE ARRESTED IN THE 1970'S AND HAVE BEEN INCARCERATED SINCE THEN. THEY WERE ALL LOYAL MEMBERS OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WHO LATER JOINED WHAT BECAME THE BLACK LIBERATION ARMY WHICH WAS THE ARMED WING OF THE BLACK PANTHER

PARTY. THEY WERE ARRESTED, CONVICTED OF SOME CHARGES IN NEW YORK, AND THEY'VE BEEN IN PRISON NOW FOR ABOUT 20 YEARS.

H: AND WHO ARE THEY, WHAT ARE THEIR NAMES?

L: THERE'S HERMAN BELL, ANTHONY JALIL BOTTOM, AND ALBERT NUH WASHINGTON. ONE THING I'D LIKE TO SAY IS THAT WHEN YOU SAY NEW YORK 3 SOMETIMES FOLKS, PARTICULARLY OUT HERE IN CALIFORNIA, THEIR EYES SORT OF GLAZE OVER YOU KNOW, AND YOU FIGURE NEW YORK'S A LONG WAY OFF, WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME. BUT AT THAT TIME IN THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, IT WAS AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION, AND PARTY MEMBERS CAME FROM ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY. HERMAN WAS BORN IN MISSISSIPPI IN A RURAL TOWN, CAME FROM THAT KIND OF BACKGROUND. JALIL, ANTHONY JALIL BOTTOM, CAME FROM A MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY RIGHT AROUND HERE IN OAK- I MEAN, HIS MOTHER RIGHT NOW LIVES IN SACRAMENTO. HERMAN'S WIFE LIVES IN SAN FRANCISCO, AND AL NUH WASHINGTON, HE GREW UP IN AN URBAN CENTER IN NEW YORK ON THE EAST COAST. BUT WE ALL MINGLED TOGETHER AND WE ALL CAME TOGETHER BECAUSE OF THE IDEAS OF WHAT WE WANTED TO DO. SO WHEN YOU SAY NEW YORK 3, IT SORT OF DEPERSONALIZES IT. THESE ARE FOLKS FROM RIGHT HERE, THEY'RE JUST LIKE YOU AND ME, JUST REGULAR BROTHERS.

H: SO, THEY WERE, I BELIEVE ONE OF THE THINGS THEY WERE CONVICTED OF WAS KILLING A POLICEMAN IN NEW YORK CITY, AM I CORRECT ON THAT?

L: THAT'S RIGHT.

H: COULD YOU GIVE ME SOME KIND OF, GIVE THE AUDIENCE, SOME KIND OF IDEA OF THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE OF THE TIME WHEN THEY WERE CONVICTED. THIS IS THE TIME OF COINTELPRO AND -

L: BEGINNING IN ABOUT MID 1968 OR SO, THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WAS TARGETED VERY HEAVILY FOR COUNTERINTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. IT BECAME KNOWN AS THE COINTELPRO PROGRAM, AND NOW A LOT OF THINGS THAT WE TALKED ABOUT THEN BUT WE COULDN'T PROVE ARE COMING OUT IN DOCUMENTS NOW. BUT AROUND THAT TIME, J. EDGAR HOOVER'S FBI AND THE LOCAL POLICE BEGAN TO INFILTRATE THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WITH WHAT WE CALLED AGENT PROVOCATEURS. BASICALLY PEOPLE WHO WERE SENT THERE TO DO DISRUPTIVE THINGS THAT WOULD THEN JUSTIFY SOME OF THE POLICE ACTIONS AGAINST THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY. ONE WELL KNOWN IS COURSE FRED HAMPTON IN CHICAGO WERE THE POLICE INFORMANT BROUGHT A STOLEN RIFLE INTO THE BUILDING AND THEN DRUGGED FRED AND GAVE THE FBI PLANS, AND THEY RAIDED THE BUILDING AND KILLED HIM. BUT IT WAS AT THAT TIME THE HEIGHT OF THE FBI'S ACTIVITIES AGAINST THE PARTY. THEY HAD BOMBED SOME OF OUR OFFICES IN DIFFERENT STATES. THE OFFICE IN LOS ANGELES HAD BEEN, THEY TOOK A HELICOPTER AND AN ARMORED CAR AND SHOT INTO THAT ONE FOR ABOUT SIX OR SEVEN HOURS. THE OFFICE IN CHICAGO HAD BEEN RANSACKED. FRED HAMPTON HAD BEEN MURDERED AND WAS DEAD. SO THAT WAS THE TIME WHEN THESE BROTHERS WERE ARRESTED, AND AT THAT TIME, THROUGHOUT THIS COUNTRY, AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND ALSO OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR BEGAN TO REALLY RESIST WITH ARMED STRUGGLE, AND AS A

RESULT, SOME OF THE POLICE, FROM THE MOST VICIOUS POLICE IN OUR COMMUNITIES, HAD BEEN SHOT AT OR HAD BEEN TAKEN OUT. AND SO WHAT HAPPENED WAS THE FBI HAD THIS PROGRAM CALLED NEWKILL, AND WHAT THEY TRIED TO DO WAS TO ARREST AND ELIMINATE AS MANY MEMBERS OF THE BLACK LIBERATION ARMY AND THE BLA AS THEY COULD.

H: YOU MEAN ARREST THEM WHETHER OR NOT THERE WERE CHARGES OR LEGITIMATE CHARGES OR WHAT?

L: DEFINITELY WELL, THOSE FOLKS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN A LOT OF OVERT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, BY THAT I MEAN OPERATING BREAKFAST PROGRAMS, CLINICS, AND THAT KIND OF STUFF, THEY WERE JUST ELIMINATED AND ARRESTED, TAKEN OFF THE STREET. IF YOU READ THE ARCHIVES OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY YOU CAN JUST SEE THE ARRESTS AND THEN LATER THE CHARGES BEING DROPPED. SO A LOT OF IT WAS JUST GETTING PEOPLE OFF THE STREET,

H: MAKING YOU SPEND A LOT OF MONEY -

L: USING UP THE RESOURCES. NOW THOSE FOLKS WHO WERE ON THE UNDERGROUND WING OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY OR WERE INVOLVED IN SOME OF THE MORE MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO RESIST SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WERE HAPPENING, THOSE FOLKS WERE TARGETED FOR MURDER AND ELIMINATION. AND SO YOU'LL STILL FIND THAT MANY OF THEM WERE KILLED, AND THOSE THAT WERE CAPTURED, LIKE THESE THREE BROTHERS, HAVE BEEN IN PRISON LONG TIME -- GERONIMO PRATT,

THESE BROTHERS, DHORUBA WHO WAS JUST RELEASED IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR AFTER ABOUT 19 YEARS.

H: AND WAS HE RELEASED BECAUSE OF SOME OF THIS INFORMATION IN THE DOCUMENTS AND STUFF THAT ARE COMING -

L: NEW DOCUMENTS THAT SHOWED CLEARLY THAT NOT ONLY WAS ILLEGAL EVIDENCE USED, BUT THAT THE JUDGE WAS AWARE OF IT, THE PROSECUTION, THE WHOLE LEGAL SYSTEM WAS AWARE OF IT. AND SO AS THIS EVIDENCE COMES TO FORE, AND PLUS MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED NOW, AND THAT THESE MEN HAVE SPENT - YOU KNOW IT'S, THE OPPRESSED - [?] USING A WORD LIKE THE OPPRESSED BUT -

H: WELL, YOU KNOW, I'M GONNA TELL YOU -

L: BUT, BUT -

H: WE WON'T CENSOR YOU HERE NOW.

L: YOU KNOW IT'S JUST THE SYSTEM SEEMS TO THINK THAT IF THEY, YOU KNOW, IF THEY CAN LOCK YOU UP FOR SOME TIME THAT SOMEHOW THE FIRE GOES OUT OF YOU. SO THEY LIKE TO LOCK THESE FOLKS UP AND KEEP THEM IN JAIL FOR 20 YEARS AND FIGURE THAT WHEN THEY LET THEM OUT THEY'RE GONNA COME OUT WHIPPED BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE THE FIRE ANYMORE, BUT I THINK THAT WHEN DHORUBA CAME OUT, TO ALL OF US, WE COULD SEE THAT THE FIRE WAS STILL THERE. AND WITH THESE BROTHERS

WHEN WE TALK TO THEM ON THE PHONE, WE COMMUNICATE WITH THEM, THE FIRE'S STILL THERE. BUT IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S NEW EVIDENCE COMING TO LIGHT, AND I THINK THERE'S SORT OF - I THINK IT'S PARTLY THE FOCUS THAT THIS POLITICAL PRISONER AND PRISONER OF WAR ISSUE HAS COME UNDER IN THE UNITED STATES IS THIS REKINDLED FOCUS. I THINK THAT'S STARTING TO MAKE THEM WANT TO RELEASE SOME OF THESE FOLKS, FORCE THEM TO RELEASE. I THINK THAT THE MORE THAT AFRICAN-AMERICANS SOLIDIFY TOGETHER AROUND OUR POLITICAL PRISONERS AND AROUND OUR LEGITIMATE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE STRUGGLE FOR IT, I THINK WE'LL SEE THAT MORE AND MORE OF THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS ARE COMING OUT.

H: COULD YOU TALK A COUPLE OF MINUTES ABOUT THAT BECAUSE YOU KNOW, THE POWERS THAT BE BASICALLY LABEL ANYBODY THEY WANT TO LOCK UP A CRIMINAL, AND THEREFORE THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY SUPPORT OR SYMPATHY IN THE BROADER COMMUNITY FOR THEM.

L: WELL IT'S CLEAR THAT THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY. WE WERE ATTACKED BY THE POLICE FROM DAY ONE. I CAN REMEMBER SERVING BREAKFAST AT THE BREAKFAST PROGRAM, THE FIRST ONE DOWN ON 27TH AND WESTON [?], HAVING THE POLICE COME UP AND JUST LITERALLY GET OUT OF THE CAR WITH THEIR SHOTGUNS PULLED, SAYING THEY HAD A REPORT THAT SOMEONE WAS IN THE BUILDING WITH GUNS. I MEAN WE HAD LITTLE SCHOOL KIDS FROM THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UP THE STREET EATING BREAKFAST, AND THEY TERRORIZED LIKE THAT, TERRORIZED THE PARTY LIKE THAT. BUT IT DIDN'T, SOME PARENTS WITHDREW THEIR

CHILDREN FROM THE PROGRAM, DEFINITELY, BECAUSE THEY WERE FEARFUL FOR THEIR KIDS. BUT OTHER PARENTS GOT INCENSED, SAYING HOW DARE THEY DO THAT, CAUSE WE KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH THAT BREAKFAST PROGRAM. AND SO MORE PARENTS CAME OUT AND THEN PARENTS BEGAN TO PARTICIPATE AND SERVE THE BREAKFAST IN THE PROGRAM. SO EVEN THOUGH WE WERE ATTACKED, EVERY TIME THEY ATTACKED US, THE PARTY GREW IN STRENGTH. WHEN THEY ATTACKED FRED HAMPTON AND MURDERED FRED AND MARK CLARK IN CHICAGO, BLACK FOLKS, AFRICAN-AMERICANS AND THE COALITION OF BROWN, PUERTO RICAN AMERICANS, AND WHITES WHO THEY HAD WORKED WITH IN CHICAGO, RATHER THAN FALLING APART, IT GREW STRONGER. SO WHAT THEY DID WAS THEY REALIZED IN ORDER - THERE'S THIS FBI MEMO THAT SAYS YOU KNOW WHAT WE GOTTA DO WITH THESE BLACK FOLKS IS WE GOTTA CRIMINALIZE THEM, RIGHT. WE CAN'T JUST, WE CAN'T SAY THAT THEY'RE DOING SEX CAUSE YOU KNOW, YOU KNOW THIS IS THE FBI'S, THEIR CLASSIC PICTURE OF BLACK FOLKS YOU KNOW IS LIKE SEX WON'T BOTHER THEM SO THAT AIN'T IT. WHAT WE GOTTA DO IS WE GOTTA CRIMINALIZE THEM. SO THEN WHAT THEY DID IS THEY THEN BEGAN TO CREATE AN IMAGE THAT THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WAS THIS CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION SO AS TO STOP OUR NATURAL AND OUR RIGHTFUL STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION. MALCOLM X WENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND WAS ABOUT TO RAISE THE ISSUE OF THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF BLACK FOLKS' NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS, BAM - THEY KILLED HIM. 1967, NO SORRY, 1968, A DELEGATION OF BLACK PANTHER PARTY MEMBERS WENT TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN. THE CUBAN DELEGATION HAD AGREED TO SPONSOR THE ITEM BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT KICKED THE AMBASSADOR OUT

OF THE UNITED STATES AND WOULD NOT ALLOW THEM TO SEE ANOTHER ONE UNTIL THEY WITHDREW THAT ITEM FROM THEIR AGENDA. SO THEY DON'T WANT TO LEGITIMIZE THE RIGHT OF BLACK FOLKS' STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION SO THEY TRY TO KEEP US IN THIS CRIMINAL THING.

H: WELL YOU KNOW I'VE DONE A COUPLE PROGRAMS OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS ABOUT THE STUDIES THAT THEY'VE DONE THAT SHOW THE INCARCERATION RATE FOR BLACK MALES FROM THE AGE OF 19 TO 34, AND THIS IS WITHOUT A VIABLE POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. AND THE AMOUNT THAT IS INCARCERATED IS ASTRONOMICAL. IT'S NOT, SO IT'S NOT JUST, THEN YOU WERE IDENTIFIED POLITICAL TARGETS. NOW EVERYBODY IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY IN GENERAL IS CRIMINALIZED.

L: WELL YOU KNOW PRISONS ARE A GROWTH [?] INDUSTRY, YOU WHAT I MEAN? THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT PRIVATIZING THE PRISONS. SO IT COSTS MORE TO KEEP A YOUNG BLACK MAN IN JAIL OR INCARCERATED THAN TO SEND HIM TO HARVARD OR TO YALE. BUT THIS COUNTRY HAS NEVER, FROM THE TIME THAT THEY COULDN'T COMMAND US WITH THE WHIP, REALLY HAD A USE FOR BLACK FOLKS HERE IN THIS COUNTRY. THEY'VE NEVER HAD A USE FOR US. SO IF THEY CAN FIND ONE BY SENDING US TO PRISON, THEY CAN MAKE JOBS -

H: WELL A LOT OF PEOPLE GET TO WORK THERE. THEY GET TO CONSTRUCT PRISONS, THEY GET THE PSYCHOLOGISTS AND EVERYBODY ELSE GET A CHANCE TO GET TO WORK. TALKING ABOUT THE NEW YORK 3. SO IT WAS IN THE MIDST OF THIS COINTELPRO PROGRAM, THIS NEWKILL THAT I'D ONLY HEARD

ABOUT IN RELATIONSHIP TO THIS CASE, THAT THEY CAME TO TRIAL. LET'S TALK SOMEWHAT ABOUT THE TRIAL, WHAT KIND OF TRIAL THEY GOT.

L: WELL TO TALK ABOUT THE TRIAL, YOU'D HAVE TO PUT IT IN THIS CONTEXT. IF YOU READ RICHARD WRIGHT'S NATIVE SON, THEN YOU KNOW THAT WHEN BIGGER THOMAS GOT ARRESTED, YOU KNEW WHAT WAS GONNA HAPPEN. THE TYPE OF CLIMATE THAT THEY HAD PAINTED AROUND HERE OR NATIONALLY ABOUT THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WAS CONSISTENT WITH THAT. THEY SAID THAT THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WAS THIS ARMED GROUP THAT WAS JUST WAITING TO ROB AND WRECK, NOTHING BUT MAYHEM IN THE WHITE COMMUNITY. THEY HAD WHITE FOLKS SCARED TO DEATH, SCARED TO THE POINT WHERE THEY'D ALLOW THEM TO DO ANYTHING. THEY ADMIT RICHARD NIXON TRIED TO STEAL THE GOVERNMENT, BUT IF HE'D DO THAT TO WHITE FOLKS, WHAT THE HELL DO THEY THINK HE WAS DOING TO US BLACK FOLKS? SO THEY JUST LET HIM RUN RAMPANT AND SAID OH WE ARE SCARED TO DEATH OF THESE BLACK FOLKS, YOU CAN DO ANYTHING THAT YOU WANT TO. SO IT WAS DURING THAT KIND OF PERIOD THAT THESE BROTHERS WENT TO TRIAL. THE WITNESSES AGAINST THEM, THERE WERE SOME SISTERS, THEY TOOK THE SISTERS AWAY FROM THEIR BABIES AND TOLD THEM THAT WE GONNA SEND Y'ALL TO PRISON FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME OR WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO IF WE CAN'T SEND YOU FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME, WE'RE GONNA HOLD YOU PRETRIAL FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME AND KEEP YOUR KIDS AWAY FROM YOU AND TAKE THEM PERMANENTLY AWAY FROM YOU IF YOU DON'T TESTIFY.

H: SO THEY WERE INCARCERATED LIKE OVER A YEAR.

L: OVER A YEAR AWAY FROM THEIR CHILDREN. THE OTHER WITNESS, HERMAN SCOTT, I MEAN RUBIN SCOTT, WHAT THEY DID TO THAT BROTHER IS THEY YOU KNOW, THEY -

H: TAKE YOUR TIME AND RUN THAT ONE.

L: WELL RUBIN WAS A FRIEND OF HERMAN'S -

H: HERMAN BELL.

L: HERMAN BELL. THEY ARRESTED RUBIN, TORTURED HIM, THEY ARRESTED HIM IN LOUISIANA. TORTURED THIS BROTHER, THEY PUT ELECTRICAL CATTLE PRODS TO HIS NUTS, RIGHT, BEAT THE BROTHER, MADE HIM SIGN A CONFESSION. SO THE BROTHER SAID YES, HERMAN HAD DONE THIS, HERMAN HAD TOLD HIM ALL THIS STUFF. WELL SEE, I READ A BUNCH OF THE FILES AND RECORDS THAT ARE AVAILABLE NOW, AND POLICE WERE GOING ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY TRYING TO FIND ANYBODY WHO WOULD COLLABORATE OR COME UP WITH THE STORY OF WHAT THEY FELT HAPPENED THAT NIGHT. SO WITH RUBIN, THEY GOT HIM TO SAY YES HE'D DONE THIS, HERMAN HAD DID THIS. BUT THEN WHAT RUBIN DID WAS WHEN THE TRIAL WAS GOING ON, RUBIN SENT A NOTE TO THE JUDGE, MET WITH THE JUDGE, TOLD THE SAID LOOK - THESE POLICE HAVE BEATEN ME, THEY BEEN TORTURING ME, THEY BEEN THREATENING ME AND THREATENING MY FAMILY, THEY HUNG THE BROTHER OUT OF A WINDOW, ABOUT A FOUR-STORY WINDOW, BY HIS FEET THREATENING TO DROP HIM DOWN TO THE GROUND. TOLD THE JUDGE ALL THE STUFF THAT HAPPENED. THEN YOU KNOW WHAT THE JUDGE DID? JUDGE

CALLED THE PROSECUTION IN AND SAID HEY, YOUR BOY'S ABOUT TO FLIP OVER ON YOU. TOOK THAT BOY BACK IN, LOCKED HIM UP FOR ABOUT THREE OR FOUR MORE MONTHS UNTIL HE WAS WILLING TO COMPLY, HE WAS A LITTLE MORE PLIABLE WHEN THEY BROUGHT HIM BACK THE NEXT TIME. BUT TODAY RUBIN IS READY TO -

H: YOU MEAN 1990.

L: 1990, RUBIN, YOU KNOW, HIS CONSCIENCE WON'T GO ON ANY LONGER IN THAT VEIN AND SO RUBIN'S BEEN TRYING TO HELP US OVERTURN THIS CASE AND TRY TO GET THE TRUTH OUT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. BUT THAT'S WHAT THEY DID TO RUBIN. THERE WAS THE FBI EVIDENCE ABOUT THE BALLISTICS ON THE GUN THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN USED TO KILL THE POLICE. THE FBI SAID THE GUN DIDN'T MATCH THE BULLETS. THAT EVIDENCE WAS NEVER GIVEN TO THE DEFENSE AND NEVER ALLOWED TO BE BROUGHT UP IN TRIAL. NOW WE FIND OUT THAT IT WAS, I MEAN THAT THE FBI'S EVIDENCE SAID IT WASN'T THE GUN, AND THE LOCAL POLICE'S EVIDENCE SAID IT WAS. AND THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OTHER KIND OF CONTRADICTIONS IN WHAT IN FACT HAPPENED AND WHAT THE JUDGE ALLOWED TO GO ON. NOW WHEN THE BROTHERS FILED AN APPEAL, AS MORE AND MORE OF THIS EVIDENCE ABOUT COINTELPRO CAME OUT, CAUSE ONE OF THE THINGS ABOUT COINTELPRO THAT FOLKS ARE REALLY JUST STARTING TO GET A GLIMMER ABOUT - IT'S HARD TO REALLY REALIZE, FOR AN AMERICAN TO ADMIT - IS THAT THE FBI WAS UNDER ORDERS TO LIE OR DO ANYTHING TO GET PEOPLE OFF THE STREET. DIDN'T MATTER IF IT WAS THE TRUTH OR NOT. NOW FOR AN AMERICAN THAT'S HARD TO BELIEVE, OH THERE MIGHT

BE ONE BAD CAP, BUT THEY DON'T KNOW IF THE POLICY COMES DOWN TO LIE, EVERYBODY LIES. WELL LET ME BACK UP. I THINK ALL AMERICANS KNOW THAT. THEY KNOW THERE'S A -

H: THEY JUST DON'T WANT TO KNOW IT.

L: THAT'S RIGHT.

H: WELL YOU KNOW LIKE IF THEY COULD DO IT TO YOU, THEY COULD DO IT TO ANYBODY, YOU AND ME TOO.

L: RIGHT. IT'S A LITTLE TOO FRIGHTENING TO ADMIT OUT OPENLY, BUT EVERYBODY KNOWS. SO PART OF THE EVIDENCE THAT CAME OUT WAS THE FBI WAS UNDER ORDERS TO LIE AND TO WITHHOLD EVIDENCE FROM THE DEFENSE WHICH COULD HELP THE BROTHERS AT TRIAL. SO THAT'S SORT OF THE ATMOSPHERE WHEN THESE BROTHERS WENT TO TRIAL. THEY WERE TRIED, FOUND GUILTY. NUH, ALBERT WASHINGTON, IS DUE TO GO UP FOR A PAROLE IN 2012. [?] PAROLE HIM. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN. SO THAT WAS THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND WHICH THE CASE HAPPENED. NOW WE'RE IN THE 90'S. OPENNESS IN GOVERNMENT, OH YEAH, EVERYBODY'S WILLING TO ADMIT THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS A LITTLE BIT SHAKY, A LITTLE BIT MAYBE THEY DID SOME STUFF THAT WASN'T QUITE RIGHT. SO WE GO TO THE JUDGE, THE SAME JUDGE, HE SAYS NAW, SO WHAT IF THE FBI WAS UNDER ORDERS TO LIE. THEY DIDN'T LIE HERE, I KNOW THIS WAS A FAIR TRIAL, I CONDUCTED IT. HE WON'T EVEN REMOVE HISSELF OUT THE LOOP. YOU KNOW HE'S PREJUDICED HISSELF.

H: SO THE APPEAL WAS FILED BEFORE THE SAME JUDGE.

L: NOT NOW NO, IT'S GONE BEYOND HIS COURT NOW. WHEN IT WENT BEFORE THAT JUDGE, HE DENIED IT, HE JUST DENIED THEIR MOTION.

H: LEGALLY WHERE'S THE CASE NOW?

L: UH LEGALLY NOW THEY FILED A FEDERAL HABEAS CORPUS, AND I'M NOT WELL-VERSED IN ALL THE LEGAL JARGON SO WHAT A HABEAS CORPUS TECHNICALLY MEANS IS ALL Y'ALL COULD GIVE ME -

H: WELL IT MEANS BRING THE BODY, [?] WHILE YOU GOT IT, YEAH.

L: YEAH FOR SCREWING IT UP, BUT IT SAYS YEAH, TELL US WHAT REALLY WENT DOWN, PRODUCE THE EVIDENCE THAT NOW SHOWS THAT IN FACT THESE BROTHERS WERE NOT DENIED DUE PROCESS, NOT DENIED THEIR RIGHTS. THE TYPE OF MOTION THAT THEY HAVE FILED IS SIMILAR TO THE ONE THAT DHORUBA FILED IN HIS CASE, THAT IS YOU KNOW WE FOUND, WE ARE TRYING TO PROVE THAT THERE WAS PERJURED EVIDENCE USED, THAT THE JUDGE KNEW IT, THAT THE TRIAL WAS THEREFORE PATENTLY UNFAIR, AND GET THE CONVICTION OVERTURNED, TRY TO GET THESE BROTHERS BACK, OR HOME REALLY.

H: THERE'S A COMMITTEE THAT WORKS WITH THAT?

L: THERE IS, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF COMMITTEES - THERE'S ONE ON THE EAST COAST AND THERE'S ONE ON THE WEST COAST. THE NEW YORK 3 FREEDOM CAMPAIGN, THE WEST COAST COMMITTEE IS AT 3543 - 18TH STREET, #4, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, 94110. AND IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THAT THE STRUGGLE ALSO GOES ON ON THE EAST COAST AND IN THE OTHER AREAS WHERE WE HAVE COLLEAGUES WHO ARE CONTINUING TO STRUGGLE FOR THESE POLITICAL PRISONERS. BUT THOSE WHO ARE OUT HERE ON THE WEST COAST WHO WANT EITHER FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THESE BROTHERS OR WANT TO SEND A DONATION CAN SEND IT TO THAT ADDRESS. THERE'S A VIDEOTAPE AVAILABLE ON THEIR CASE AND ON THE TYPE OF PERJURY AND FALSE EVIDENCE THAT WAS USED TO TRY TO CONVICT THEM. THERE ARE PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE, THEY GIVE YOU THEIR ADDRESSES. AND THERE ARE ALSO OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS THAT WE CAN GIVE YOU THE ADDRESSES FOR SO YOU CAN TALK FIRSTHAND WITH THEM AND FIND OUT THEIR STORIES. AND ALSO, ONE THING THAT ALL OF THESE POLITICAL PRISONERS -- THE NEW YORK 3, GERONIMO PRATT, DHORUBA MOORE, RESISTANCE CONSPIRACY, THE PUERTO RICAN BROTHERS -- WHAT THEY ALL, THE POINT THEY WANT TO TRY TO GET ACROSS TO FOLKS IS THAT THEY'RE NOT LOCKED UP FOR A STRUGGLE THAT HAPPENED YEARS AGO. THEY'RE LOCKED UP FOR A STRUGGLE THAT WE'RE STILL ENGAGED IN RIGHT NOW TODAY. THAT THE THINGS THAT THEY WERE LOCKED UP FOR WERE RESISTING DRUG ADDICTION IN OUR COMMUNITY, FOR RESISTING POOR HOUSING, FOR RESISTING SYSTEMATIC MISEDUCATION AND SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF PEOPLE OF COLOR THAT'S GOING ON TODAY. THEY STRUGGLED AGAINST IT THEN, WE MUST CONTINUE TO STRUGGLE AGAINST IT TODAY.

H: WE GOT ABOUT FIVE MORE MINUTES. WHY DON'T WE TAKE A COUPLE OF MINUTES OF NINA SIMONE AND THEN COME BACK WITH A LAST WORD, OKAY?

[NINA - I WISH I KNEW HOW IT WOULD FEEL TO BE FREE, I WISH I COULD BREAK ALL THE CHAINS HOLDING ME . . .]

H: WE WERE TALKING HERE TODAY ON FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE ABOUT THE NEW YORK 3. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE UNITED STATES. MY GUEST IS LANDON WILLIAMS. SOME FINAL COMMENTS, AND AGAIN HOW PEOPLE CAN GET INVOLVED IN THE CAMPAIGN.

L: OKAY, THE CAMPAIGN, THEY CAN REACH US AT THE WEST COAST COMMITTEE OVER IN SAN FRANCISCO, WE WILL SEND THEM DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT THESE BROTHERS. WE'RE AT 3543 - 18TH STREET, #4, SAN FRANCISCO, 94110. OTHER THINGS THEY CAN DO IS YOU CAN KEEP THESE BROTHERS' NAMES OUT THERE, KEEP TALKING ABOUT THEM. THERE'S MUMIA ABU-JAMAL WHO RIGHT NOW IS IN PENNSYLVANIA ON DEATH ROW. THIS BROTHER WAS IN THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY. HE LATER BECAME A NEW REPORTER AND FOLLOWED THE MOVE STORY VERY CLOSELY. BECAUSE OF HIS INVOLVEMENT ON THAT HE WAS FRAMED ON A MURDER IN PHILADELPHIA AND HE'S NOW ON DEATH ROW. SO WE GOTTA KEEP THESE BROTHERS AND SISTERS RIGHT BEFORE OUR PEOPLE AND CONSTANTLY TALK ABOUT THEM.

H: ALRIGHT I'M GONNA CLOSE HERE WITH A QUOTATION FROM ONE OF THE

NEW YORK 3, HERMAN BELL. IT STATES - "I JOINED THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY INSPIRED BY MALCOLM, DR. KING, AND THE LEGIONS OF BLACK MEN AND WOMEN UNSTINTING IN THEIR COURAGE AND COMMITMENT WHO OFTEN SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES IN THE HISTORICAL STRUGGLE TO FREE AFRICAN-AMERICANS FROM RACIST ATTACK AND ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL DOMINATION. I FELT MYSELF COMPELLED BY AN HISTORIC MANDATE LEFT BY THOSE WHO WENT BEFORE ME WHO, HAVING DONE THEIR SHARE, WOULD REST A BIT EASIER IN KNOWING THAT I AM DOING MINE." YOU HAVE BEEN LISTENING TO FREEDOM IS A CONSTANT STRUGGLE, THANKS FOR LISTENING.