

WHO ARE

LOS SIETE de la RAZA ?



FREE LOS SIETE DE LA RAZA

On May 1, 1969 several young Latin brothers from the Mission were moving a TV when they were stopped and hassled by two men. A fight broke out, and one of the two was killed with the gun carried by the other. The two were later identified as policemen Joseph Brodnik and Thomas McGoran, notorious for harassing brothers on the block and the brutality they had shown during the SF State strike.

After the incident, over 150 rounds were fired into the house of Jose Rios, wounding his younger sister in the hip, and the house was repeatedly teargassed. In the following days, Jose's mother was fired from her job, hundreds of students at Everett and Mission were interrogated, homes were broken into without warrants, and many people in the Mission were frisked, arrested, even beaten on almost no pretext. Five days after the fight, six young men, Nelson Rodriguez, Mario Martinez, Tony Martinez, Jose Rios, Gary Lescallet and Bebe Melendez, were arrested near Santa Cruz, and charged with murder. Another brother, Gio Lopez, is still being sought. These seven are Los Siete de la Raza (Seven of the Race). After their arrest they were the victims of a vicious press attack, including the publication of widow Brodnik's appeal for the death penalty, all of which was clearly designed to railroad them to the gas chamber. Several of the brothers were not even on the scene May 1. Why have they been singled out for attack?

WHO ARE LOS SIETE?---The Seven were involved in the College Readiness Program at College of San Mateo, and the struggle that had gone down there in the fall of 1968. They were active in recruiting young brown people to take part in the program at CSM, and generally they were leaders in the struggle for the liberation of their people and for freedom from poverty and suffering. Because they were known, the Seven often got hassled by cops. This got worse as the downtown businessmen and politicians saw their plans for turning San Francisco into a "Wall Street West" of high-rise

office buildings and luxury apartments threatening to go up in smoke. The working people of San Francisco, especially black and brown people, are resisting urban "redevelopment" that destroys their homes and forces rents up. The attack on Los Siete is an attempt to make an example out of these seven brothers, to try to scare people from coming together to fight for their rights and the needs of the people.

WHAT IS LOS SIETE?---Los Siete de la Raza is also the name of an organization formed immediately after the brothers were busted. It decided the best way to get the brothers free was to continue and expand their work of serving the needs of the community, so the people would want to defend them. Los Siete started a Free Breakfast for Children program, a community newspaper, and a community restaurant (the Basta Ya at 14th and Valencia). Soon they will have a Free Health Clinic. Every day more people in the Mission see that the Seven got busted because they were fighting for their people's survival and basic needs, not because they were "Latin hippies" or "hoodlums."

HOW DOES THIS AFFECT POTRERO HILL?--- We feel the people of the Hill should get behind Los Siete. If it's not a matter of survival yet, it soon will be. Potrero Hill will eventually be hit by redevelopment, too. Already, many people have had to move because of high taxes, high rent, and little housing. Like the saying goes, "Either we hang together, or we hang separately." Only when people from the different poor and working communities are together and ready to fight the corporations downtown can we hope to defeat redevelopment. Only then can we begin the fight to take the wealth and resources that belong to the people and put them in the hands of the people. Los Siete are on trial for fighting that fight.

FREE LOS SIETE !!!

RALLY --

10:30 A.M.

16th & BRYANT

FEBRUARY 16, 1970

FRANKLIN SQUARE

(BRYANT PARK)

VIVA LOS SIETE
de la RAZA!