

WHICH WAY FORWARD?

In 1985, the question facing the Black Liberation Movement is - WHICH WAY FORWARD? The NY Eight's answer to that question ensured Black folk's liberation and thus was seen by the U.S. government as a threat. We were arrested and are being prosecuted for our political beliefs and practice - for our commitment, consistency, and refusal to be "bought off" with anything short of our people's unconditional freedom - "by any means necessary." In short we dared to seek self-determination and self-defense for the Black Nation.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- * Call or write the NY Eight Defense Committee to receive further information on the case.
- * Call or write U.S. District Judge Robert Carter to express your feelings about this government's attempt to derail the Black Liberation Movement: United States Federal Court House, 40 Centre Street, New York, N.Y., (212) 791-0950
- * Call or write your Congressional and Senatorial representative and demand that 1) Congress strike down the 1984 Bail Reform Act and 2) Congressional hearings be held on the illegal use of Federal grand juries for political repression.
- * Join the NY Eight Against Fascist Terrorism Defense Committee. Meetings are held every Friday at 7:00 P.M. at Harlem Fightback, 2033 Fifth Avenue (125th St.) (212) 831-6561.
- * Come out to the monthly vigil in support of the NY Eight, Grand Jury resisters, and all political prisoners at Metropolitan Correctional Center (MCC) 150 Park Row, NY (behind One Police Plaza). The vigil is held on the last Sunday of each month from 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- * Come to court so you can see for yourself what's going on. To find our court dates, call (212) 431-4600 and ask for the NY Eight Court Dates.
- * Give to the New York 8 Defense Fund.



- I would like to join the NY Eight Defense Committee. Please send me more information.
- I would like to be on your mailing list.
- I have enclosed a donation payable to the NY Eight Defense Fund \$ _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____

ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

(please print)

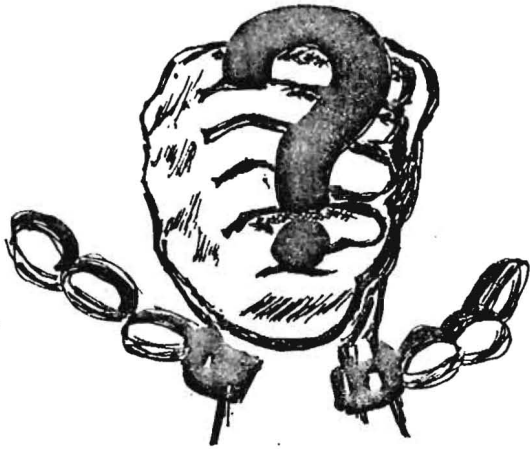
NY Eight Against Fascist Terrorism Defense Committee

2415 Coney Island Avenue

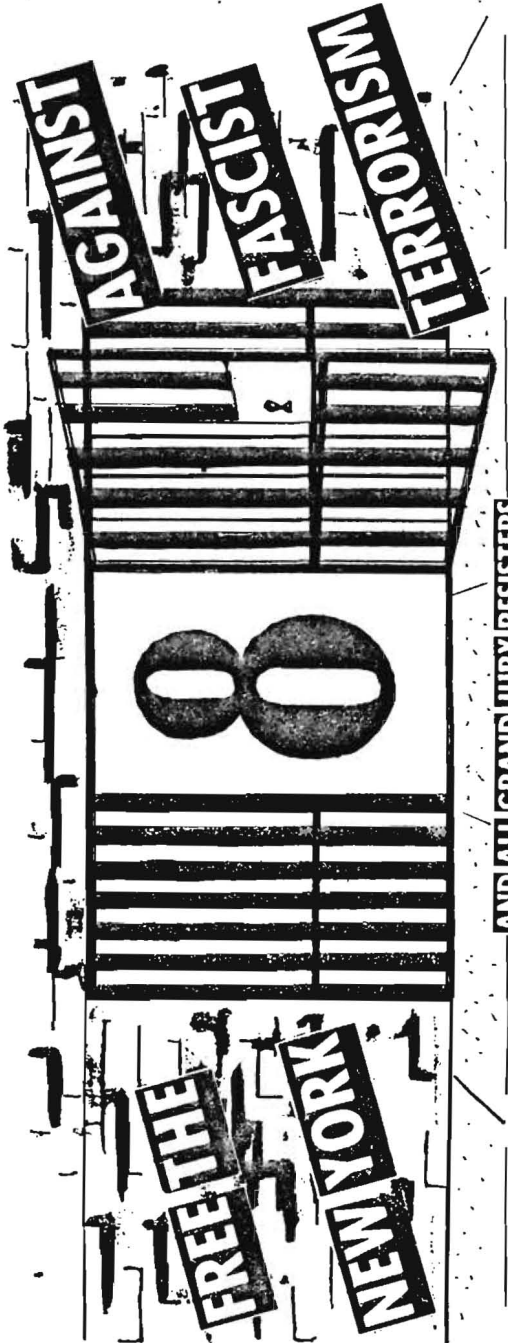
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11223

(718) 998-4336 (for messages)

WHICH WAY FORWARD



Freedom or Death!



FREE THE NEW YORK EIGHT

THE KIDNAP

Midnight, October 17, 1984. In an operation much more efficient than the invasion of Grenada, the U.S. government sent out 500 heavily-armed members of the FBI/NYPD Joint Terrorist Task Force into the Black community of N.Y.C. to arrest eight unarmed Black revolutionaries. As part of this operation six residences were raided, their occupants, including infants, held at gunpoint and their friends and neighbors terrorized by these "law enforcement" agents and their awesome display of firepower.

THE CHARGES: "THOUGHT CRIMES"

Conspiracy to rob armored cars and to engineer a jailbreak. Despite 22 months of FBI surveillance, using up to 100 agents a day, no crimes were ever committed. We have been charged with conspiracy only: an *alleged* THOUGHT, an *alleged* PLAN, an *alleged* AGREEMENT. As 1984 comes to an end, it is only fitting that we were charged with a "THOUGHT-CRIME."



THE REAL CRIME:

Currently, a vicious swing to the right is occurring in this country. It's goal is to crush the dissent which has arisen and which will inevitably continue as the current capitalist economic and political crises deepen and people's condition worsen. This move to government terrorism (fascism), to destroy our constitutional, civil and human rights can be seen in the new laws passed by Congress and the recent decisions made in the courts.

LEGALIZED GOVERNMENT TERRORISM

THE RICO CONSPIRACY:

The Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO) was passed by Congress in 1970 to halt the influence of *organized crime in the labor union movement*. However, in recent years the U.S. government has increasingly used "conspiracy to violate RICO" as the principal indictment in its attempt to criminalize the political efforts of activists in, and supporters of the Black, Puerto Rican and Chicano national liberation movements. The U.S. Attorney has already said that he fully expects the "impartial" grand jury to charge us with "conspiracy to violate RICO."

POLITICS = CRIME

1984 NO BAIL ACT = PREVENTIVE DETENTION

The week before our arrest, the U.S. Congress passed the Bail Reform Act of 1984, which says that if a person poses a "danger" to the community or is a great "risk of flight" he can be held *without* bail. The purpose of this bill was to prevent those people with a criminal history from getting out on bail and continuing to commit crimes. The first application of this attack on the U.S. Constitution was to the N.Y. Eight despite the fact that none of us had any prior criminal record. The FBI's saying we were dangerous was enough to be held. Although seven of us have now made bail, one of us, Coltrane Chimurenga is still being held in preventive detention. The U.S. government has determined that under no circumstances can it allow him to have bail set, as it is determined to make him the chief culprit in the conspiracy.

Seven of us, out on bail, are subject to other conditions set by the Bail Reform act - a 9 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. curfew, subject to random checks: a daily call to Pre-Trial Services to verify our presence in the NYC area. All this despite the fact that the court found that none of the 8 of us were "dangers" to the community.

— SOUTH AFRICA LIVES IN THESE UNITED STATES. —

THE GRAND JURY WITCH HUNT - A RETURN TO MCCARTHYISM

The flimsiness of the government's "conspiracy" case can be seen by the fact that despite 22 months of surveillance, over 12,000 phone intercepts, nearly 700 hours of taped conversations, and 80 hours of videotapes, it is still using the Grand Jury in a massive witch hunt to get evidence. At the same time, the threat of Grand Jury subpoenas and the certainty of going to jail for refusing to testify is being used by the government in a blatant attempt to intimidate anyone who is politically active, or who associates with political people.

So, far nearly 40 people - friends, relatives, babysitters, co-workers, as well as political associates have been subpoenaed to appear. Many have taken the political stance of refusing to collaborate with this political Grand Jury and face 18 months imprisonment. At least 21 children, most of them under 10 years old, face separation from one or both of their parents.

The government's goal is to isolate people, destroy them politically and organizationally, break up their families and tie up their resources. The government has even subpoenaed the NY Eight for handwriting samples (which they already have), knowing that we will refuse to collaborate as a political principle. This would accomplish the government's plan to hold us in jail, an attempt to sabotage our ability to defend ourselves.

Black Nation's Freedom Fighters



WHO ARE THE NEW YORK EIGHT AGAINST FASCIST TERRORISM?

We, Omowale Clay, Viola Plummer, Colette Pean, Roger Wareham, Robert Taylor, Yvette Kelly, Coltrane Chimurenga and Lateefa Carter are eight Black revolutionaries sprung from the depths of our people's historical struggle for freedom. Our entire adult lives have been spent working in all areas of the Black liberation movement - political education, housing, health care, civil rights education, voter registration, anti-war, police brutality, anti-KKK/Nazi work, the Urban League, SNCC, African People's Socialist Party, Congress of African People, African Liberation Support Committee, etc. We are average people with families and jobs who understand that our struggle, like the daily struggle of our people to survive, can only be solved by fighting against the system that is destroying us. We believe, as it was once said that, "*our duty is to change the world, not observe it.*"