

FREE THE NEW YORK 8

Dear Comrades and Friends:

As you probably already know, the U.S. government, represented by the Joint Terrorist Task Force (JTTF) has once again viciously attacked some of our most steadfast fighters in the Black Liberation and socialist movements in this country.

On Wednesday night, October 17, 1984, almost 500 FBI agents and NYC police swept across New York City simultaneously arresting Coltrane Chimerenga outside a Chinese restaurant where he had been eating, Roger Wareham on his way home, Lateefah Carter and Omowale Clay at a jazz concert at Smalls Paradise. They lined up 20 cars outside a home at 80 Midwood Street, calling the two women residents who were alone with their four children to "come out with your hands up." At the same time, they broke into an apartment at 1700 Bedford Ave., arresting Yvette Kelley and Colette Pean, knocking a 15 year old girl to the floor, handcuffing her and putting a gun to her head, mistaking her for the 47 year old Viola Plummer, a resident of Queens. Meanwhile they broke into the home of Viola Plummer, found her 23 year old daughter who was returning home. They handcuffed her, threw her into a police car and told her she was under arrest, also mistaking her for Viola, who was in bed. They put a shotgun to the head of the infant who was in his crib at the house. Not far from Viola's house these vicious storm troopers marched into her son Robert Taylor's apartment, arresting him at gunpoint while his wife and 2 children stood helplessly by.

What Is The Charge?

The JTTF has accused these comrades of plotting to break Sekou Odinga and Kuwasi Balagoon, two freedom fighters out of jail and to rob armored trucks.

What Is The Real Deal?

These comrades, like all political activists who are dedicated to the struggles of Black and other oppressed peoples and have spent years educating and organizing the masses to resist such oppression are clearly viewed as the enemy by the U.S. government and ruling class. These arrests mark the beginning of a new wave of government terrorism against dissent in America. The Reagan administration seeks to crush all dissent by criminalizing political movements and activists. Anyone who has the conviction to stand up and demand freedom is absolutely and definitely targeted for government terrorist reprisals. The hypocrisy of this system and the media is exposed when the cops who murdered Michael Stewart and Eleanor Bumpurs are allowed to go free while these eight comrades are indicted based on allegations that they "planned" to commit so-called criminal acts. Remember well that the same media has never called the KuKlux Klan or the Nazis terrorists.

What Is To Be Done?

Because these comrades are forced to defend themselves in courts of law which are part and parcel of the fascist legal system, it is crucial that we, the activists, supporters and friends of the Black Liberation Movement take a stand now and fight back. Let's not make the error of the Jewish people made during the early period of Hitler's attack, scapegoating and terror, thinking that we'll be better off if we just stay quiet and be thankful that it isn't us. Heed well the prophetic statement that, "if they come for me in the morning..! surely they are coming for me tonight!"

The best defense is community support. The Mobilization Committee Against Police Brutality and the N.Y. 8 Defense Committee is calling on you to immediately:

1. JOIN THE NY 8 AGAINST FASCIST TERRORISM DEFENSE COMM.
2. ENLIST OTHERS TO JOIN THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE.
3. ATTEND COURT HEARINGS AND SHOW COMRADES OUR SUPPORT.
4. RAISE FUNDS FOR THE DEFENSE FUND.

We owe it to ourselves and the movement. Yours in struggle,
Dorie Clay or Wanda Wareham
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NEW YORK 8 DEFENSE COMMITTEE MEETS EVERY FRIDAY, 7:00 P.M.
HARLEM FIGHTBACK 2033 FIFTH AVE. (at 125th Street)