

friends of assata shakur & sundiata acoli BULLETIN

The Friends of Assata Shakur (Joanne Chesimard) and Sundiata Acoli (Clark Squire) are putting out this news bulletin to help people stay up to date on the news of these trials and those of other political prisoners. We hope that by doing this we will help to further break down the isolation the government has tried to create around these revolutionaries, and thereby serve the growing movement of support for these people.

October 1974

640 Broadway, NYC 10012

ATTACKS ON ASSATA CONTINUE.

Assata Shakur (Joanne Chesimard) has been in prison in New Jersey and New York since May 1973. On September 11, 1974 she gave birth to a baby daughter. She named her baby Kakuya Amala Olugbala Shakur which means "hope for the future." The birth was a major victory in a long struggle between Assata and prison authorities who have tried everything they could to make her lose the baby. We celebrate this event and are deeply moved by the incredible resistance displayed by Assata, imprisoned by the state yet still able to create a new life.

Assata has shown this kind of determination and resistance throughout her participation in the Black Liberation movement. As a member of the Black Panther Party, as a fighter in the Black Liberation Army, and as a political prisoner she has fought against the murder, exploitation and degradation of her people. For this she has been accused of every alleged BLA "crime" in which a woman was believed to have been involved. Assata has dedicated her life to the struggle of all people for decent lives and human dignity. This is why she fights so hard for her baby's health and survival.

Assata Became pregnant while she and the baby's father, Fred Jamal Hilton, were on trial for bank robbery. (They were both acquitted.) Throughout her pregnancy she was subjected to continued harrassment from Rikers authorities. She was given non-nutritious food and received lousy medical care. This is typical of the treatment of all women in prison. They are denied adequate diet and pre-natal care. They have to fear forced sterilization and are refused the right to have their children visit them.

It was only after she almost miscarried that they let Assata see the doctor of her choice. Since being imprisoned she has been kept isolated from other prisoners (especially hard on a pregnant woman,) and in the later stage of her pregnancy was transferred to the prison psychiatric ward. Assata was moved to Elmhurst Hospital in Queens for the delivery. At first her own doctor was denied permission to examine her. Assata refused to allow any other doctor to attend her and this coupled with a demonstration and press conference called by family and supporters forced the hospital to change its decision. Yet the harrassment continued. For more than 24 hours the hospital went back on its agreement and didn't allow her to see or nurse her baby. This finally changed, but only for the week before she was returned to Rikers.

When she was returned to Rikers she was brought to the prison infirmary. There, prison personnel attempted to perform an examination of her. She refused once again to let anyone but her own doctory examine her. At this point a ten-person prison goon squad was called in. They brutally beat her, cuffed and shackled her, and threw her in the hole.

Her face was bruised and cut and post-partum bleeding began again. On both September 23 and October 1, over 50 supporters of Assata demonstrated at the Dept. of Corrections against the treatment of Assata and all women in prison. A negotiating team presenting 3 demands, met with Corrections Dept. officials who agreed to conduct "a speedy investigation of the incident." No report has yet been released.

For the past nine months Assata's major battle has been her fight to have her child -- a fight for her and all women in prison. Now she will be returned to the trial which were halted during her pregnancy. In New York she faces trial for bank robbery and murder and in New Jersey she's accused of the murder of a state trooper. Peoples support in the past has helped to expose the injustice of these accusations and peoples presence at the hospital was an important factor in restraining the hospital's attacks on Assata. Our increased support is necessary to stop the legal lynching that the state is attempting, and to stop the brutality against her in prison, and to insure that she has the right to continue to be the mother of her child.

FREE ASSATA! FREE KUKUYA!

Stop The Beatings of Assata and All Women in Prison!

All Women have the Right to Decent Medical Care by a Doctor of Their Own Choice.

All Women in Prison Have the Right to Bear and Raise Their Children.

Bring Charges Against the Guards who Beat Assata!

free all political prisoners

The war is coming home.

Ever since the 1940's, the U.S. government has maintained an uneasy peace within its own borders by exporting most of its exploitation and brutality to the nations of the Third World. In recent years, U.S. Imperialism has been on the defensive. It has suffered significant losses in many areas of the world, from China to Cuba to Vietnam to Guine-BiSSau to the Middle East. People throughout the Third World have united in movements to reclaim their resources, their cultures, and their right to self-determination. U.S. imperialism has responded with unprecedented violence and brutality -- most recently in Saigon, Phnom Penh, and Chile. But the trend is unmistakable -- imperialism is in retreat.

Imperialism's overextension and its defeats abroad have led to a series of crises within the U.S. The Black rebellions and the anti-war movement of the 1960's and the prison rebellions of the 1970's put the U.S. government on the defensive at home. Political repression led to Watergate; the economic upheavals caused by imperialism's defeats led to the "energy crisis" and now the inflation/depression. The U.S. government is in crisis and is turning to the Rockefellers for leadership. Protests against falling wages and unemployment are increasing. The Black, Puerto Rican, Chicano and Native American nations are asserting their own national aspirations.