

FALLEN COMRADES

In 1968, FBI Director J.E. Hoover issued orders to his agents to suppress the growing Black National Liberation movement. Agents were told to do everything to prevent the rise of a Black Messiah. In Hoover's words, young Blacks "must be taught that if they want to be revolutionaries, they will be dead revolutionaries". Following Hoover's orders, the FBI orchestrated the murder of many young Blacks in the Panthers and other organizations.

Although we highlight the lives of Panther Fallen here, the Black Panther Newspaper Committee honors all our fallen comrades and heroes, most of whom are unknown. In each issue of the Black Panther, we will highlight fallen comrades. If you the reader know of fallen Panthers we have omitted, please send us the name, age, city, panther background and circumstances of the death for publication in the Black Panther. Also, if you know of former Panthers who have died for what ever reason please send us their brief biographies for publication. Be sure to include photographs.



BABATUNDE X OMARWALI

Assassinated: July 27, 1970

A member of the Chicago Chapter of the Black Panther Party, Babatunde X Omarwali, 26, was a shining example of our many revolutionary brothers who turned from being used as Black cannon fodder by the U.S. military to dedicated service of the oppressed community as a Black Liberation Fighter. Babatunde joined the Party in Chicago after serving two years in the Army, and quickly became one of its best organizers. In the summer of 1970, he had just returned to Chicago from the Cairo-Carbondale, Ill., area after organizing a National Committee to Combat Fascism (NCCF) office there. On July 27, Babatunde's remains were "found" laying across railroad tracks in a deserted area of the city by Chicago police. They claimed Babatunde had been attempting to destroy the tracks with a "bomb" that went off prematurely, killing him. Although mutilated beyond recognition, the police positively identified the body of "Black Panther Babatunde X Omarwali." They could do so because the police themselves murdered him after placing his body on the tracks.

JONATHAN JACKSON

Assassinated: August 7, 1970

On August 7, 1970, a young, Black man entered the Marin County Courthouse in California. His name was Jonathan Jackson, brother of Soledad Brother, George Jackson, both

members of the BPP. Events that followed came to be called the August 7th Movement.

Jonathan had walked into a courtroom (armed to the teeth) where San Quentin inmate, James McClain, was defending himself against an assault charge on a prison guard in the wake of fellow inmate Fred Billingsley's murder at the hands of prison officials. Two other inmates serving as witnesses for McClain were also present -- William Christmas and Ruchell Magee. Jonathan interrupted the proceedings, dazzling everyone with justice as he threw weapons to McClain, Christmas and Magee shouting "We are the revolutionaries."

Taking the judge, prosecutor and three jurors hostage, they headed for a waiting van to get them to a radio station so



they could broadcast the systematic murder and torture of Black men behind the walls and demand freedom for The Soledad Brothers. But within minutes after everyone was in the van, it was riddled with bullets from the guns of San Quentin guards who disregarded not only the brothers' lives, but those of the judge, prosecutor and jurists.

When the shooting stopped, Jackson, Christmas, McClain and the judge lay dead; Magee, the prosecutor and a juror were wounded.

George Jackson summed up his brother's heroic actions in this way, "Tall, evil, graceful, brighteyed, black man-child -- Jonathan Peter Jackson -- who died on August 7, 1970, courage in one hand, assault rifle in the other, my brother, comrade, friend -- the true revolutionary, the black communist guerrilla in the highest state of development, he died on the trigger, scourge of the unrighteous, soldier of the people..." (Soledad Brother)

FRED BENNETT

Assassinated: February, 1971

Pieces of the body of Fred Bennett were found in April, 1971, in a mountainous region near Oakland, California. Fred had been the coordinator of the East Oakland Branch of the BPP, and had been a Party member for three years, having joined in early 1968. Fred's body was mutilated when police found him. He was the first victim of the fratricide engineered by COINTELPRO following the internal "split" in the BPP.

SAMUEL NAPIER

Assassinated: April 17, 1971

As Circulation Manager for the BPINS, Sam Napier personified the hard work and dedication necessary to lay the foundation for revolutionary struggle. Often Sam would go without sleep for days on end to insure that the Black Panther newspaper was properly distributed and sold across the country. On April 17, 1971, in New York City, Sam



Napier was murdered in a Black Panther Party Distribution Office by unknown assassins who tied Sam to a chair in the basement of the Queens office, shot him dead, and then set fire to the building in an effort to cover up their crime. "One word is a thousand words to a thousand ears..." Sam Napier spread the people's word. Even now, we hear it resounding ten thousand times. "CIRCULATE TO EDUCATE."

GEORGE JACKSON

Assassinated: August 21, 1971

George Jackson spent the last 11 years of his life behind prison walls, seven of them in solitary confinement, after a plea bargain over a \$70-gas-station robbery -- and getting a doublecrossing indeterminate sentence of one year to life in prison. During his incarceration, George attained an extraordinary level of revolutionary political consciousness. He was appointed Field Marshal of the Black Panther Party in San Quentin. A prolific writer, George authored two books: Soledad Brother, The Prison Letters of George Jackson and Blood in My Eye, published posthumously. On August 21, 1971, in an alleged escape attempt, George was assassinated by prison guards after a bloody struggle that left three notoriously racist guards and two turncoats dead. There were numerous accounts of what really happened, but it's clear to those who knew George and his comrades that San Quentin officials carried out a premeditated plan to silence a voice so full of revolutionary humanism they could no longer bear it. Long live the spirit of George Jackson!



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JOSEPH WADDELL

Assassinated: June 13, 1972

Joseph Waddell, or "Joe Dell," as his friends and comrades called him, joined the Black Panther Party in September, 1970, while in the city jail of High Point, North Carolina. He was serving a 25 to 30-year sentence on a trumped-up charge of armed robbery. Before going to jail, he had functioned with the Party as a community worker. Joe-Dell was transferred to Central Prison in Raleigh, North Carolina, and because of his revolutionary politics, was beaten frequently by Central Prison guards. On June 13, '72, 21-year-old Joseph Waddell was pronounced dead by prison officials who claimed he died of a "heart attack." Joe-Dell had no history of heart trouble, and was physically healthy prior to his death. Inmates close to Joe-Dell reported that he was a target of Central Prison authorities who probably drugged or poisoned him to induce a heart attack. Joe-Dell's internal organs were removed by prison authorities before they released his body to his family.

CINDY SMALLWOOD

Killed in car accident: February 4, 1973

Cindy Smallwood, the gentle woman with a smile like sunshine, lived a short but dedicated life. At the age of 17, she joined the BPP after completing high school. She worked with the Party's Intercommunal Youth Institute and later with the brothers and sisters who are responsible for the distribution of the Black Panther Newspaper. On February 4, while driving a passenger van from Richmond, California to Oakland, Cindy ran into an embankment and was thrown out of the vehicle and critically injured. On February 7, she was pronounced dead in a Berkeley hospital. Cindy Smallwood lived on in every copy of the Black Panther Newspaper distributed across this country -- a paper for



which she worked so hard and loved so much. She will never be forgotten.

CARL HAMPTON

Assassinated: July 28, 1970

*(Note: Although Brother Carl Hampton was not "officially" a member of the BPP, he adhered to the ideology and principles of our Party, and dedicated his life to serving the people and the goals of liberation. He, like all the BPP fallen comrades was a dedicated servant of the people.) Brother Carl was the Chairman (coordinator) of the People's Party, a revolutionary organization in Houston, Texas. He



was the motivating force of the small organization which followed the example and the policies of the BPP. At the time, the Party was not organizing in the South, so Carl, seeing the need for a party that would serve the people's needs and desires, started the People's Party, which sold the Black Panther Newspaper. Culminating a series of incidents, on July 28, 1970, Houston police surrounded the Dowling Street area of Houston where the People's Party II office was located, and attacked the entire community. Carl was killed at 2:00 a.m. defending the office, which later became the Houston Branch of the BPP.



FRED BENNETT

TWYMON MYERS

Assassinated: November, 1973

Twymon Myers was a member of the BPP's New York Chapter prior to being transferred to New Haven, Connecticut, where he worked on the Free Breakfast Program and other survival programs in the black community, and organized support around the Panther trials to free Bobby Seale and Ericka Huggins among others. Twymon joined the Black Panther party when he was 17 years old and was a hard-working, dedicated brother. He later went underground with the Black Liberation Army (BLA). New York Times headlines boasted the FBI had "broken the back of the BLA" when agents machine-gunned

Twymon to death from ambush on the streets of Manhattan. He was 21 years old when he was brutally murdered.

JOHN HUGGINS

Assassinated: January 17, 1969

John Huggins was born in New Haven, Connecticut. In 1968, John and his wife Erica Huggins travelled to California to work with the Los Angeles Chapter of the Black Panther Party. John displayed a deep commitment to improving the conditions the Afrikan American community faced in Los Angeles. He also possessed a conscious discipline and willingness to study and learn the truth. John soon became the Deputy Minister of Information for Los Angeles, and together with Bunchy Carter, forged firm alliances with Los Angeles gangs including the Crips (Bunchy's old gang). Their work caused the Chapter to grow and flourish. On January 17, 1969, John Jerome Huggins was shot from behind and murdered by assassins from the US organization. Deputy Chairman Bunchy Carter was murdered during the same incident.



*"No, I'm Not An American. I'm One Of The 22 Million Black People Who Are The Victims Of Americanism. One Of The 22 Million Black People Who Are The Victims Of Democracy, Nothing But Disguised Hypocrisy . . . I Don't See Any American Dream; I See An American Nightmare."
Malcolm X, Malcolm X Speaks, page 26*

