

DHORUBA BIN WAHAD

a target of racist and political repression by the U.S. government
from BLACK PANTHER PARTY LEADER to BLACK POLITICAL PRISONER

Who is Dhoruba Bin Wahad?

Dhoruba Bin Wahad is a former Black Panther who was a target of racist and political repression by the United States government because of his effective leadership role within the Black Panther Party, one of the largest Black grassroots organization to have ever existed in the United States. As a result of a successful frame-up by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and New York City Police Department (NYPD), Dhoruba spent 19 years as a political prisoner in the United States until he won his release from prison in March of 1990.

Dhoruba Bin Wahad joined the Black Panther Party (BPP) in the summer of 1968 and worked extensively in New York City in Harlem and Brooklyn organizing BPP free health clinics, free breakfast programs for children, tenant rights groups, and community self-defense programs. The Black Panther Party was a grassroots organization of young Black men and women dedicated to the empowerment of Black people. While the Black Panthers advocated self-defense they never supported unprovoked, random, indiscriminate violence. The right to self defense was but one of the ten points of its political platform (see attached BPP "Ten Point Program"). Contrary to the racist image painted by the mainstream white media, the BPP was not a bunch of gun-toting thugs, blood-thirsty fanatics.

In the late 1960s, as the U.S. "civil rights" movement grew and became more militant in its opposition to racist and anti-poor domestic and foreign policies, the F.B.I. intensified its domestic surveillance and counterinsurgency programs aimed at the Black community. The BPP became the primary target of the FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO). The 1974 findings of the Church Committee (a Senate Committee on Government Operations) revealed that almost 90% of the FBI's counterintelligence activities that were aimed at the Black community targeted the BPP. The U.S. government's Counter-Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) effectively destroyed radical Black political dissent in the U.S. by murdering, framing, incarcerating its leaders or forcing them into exile.

Dhoruba and other leaders of the Black Panther Party were targeted by the COINTELPRO for what the FBI termed "neutralization" (a code word for assassinations, frame-ups, imprisonments and public vilification) in early 1969. Federal and local law enforcement agencies sought to either assassinate or imprison him for life. In June of 1971, Dhoruba was captured and joined a new generation of young people who went from political activist to political prisoner.