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Dear Friends,

Since our last letter, we returned from a great trip to Cuba where we showed our latest film ***Symbols of Resistance*** at the 39th Festival Internacional Del Nuevo Cine Latinoamericano. It was an honor to share our work with an international audience. We also expressed our solidarity with the Cuban people and acknowledged the contributions of the Cuban Revolution and its influence on the Chican@ struggles of the 1970s. We participated in on-air interviews at Radio Havana. ***Symbols of Resistance*** will also be shown on “Mesa Redonda” (the Cuban version of “60 Minutes”) and on Telesur – Venezuelan TV. Please consider a donation to help us further strengthen international solidarity, to amplify subjugated voices, and continue to build the spirit of resistance. Your support matters!



Vera, Claude, Nathaniel, and Brenda - Santa Clara, Cuba

### Ringling Freedom’s Bell

On Friday, April 27th, Herman Bell, a 70-year-old respected elder, was released after serving nearly 45 years in prison. Like thousands of other incarcerated older people, Herman was repeatedly denied parole after completing his minimum sentence. His release is a result of important and urgent changes in the criminal legal system and parole regulations that are part of nationwide efforts to end mass imprisonment. Herman is deeply humbled and grateful for the broad expressions of trust and support. We welcome him home and are particularly thrilled after being a major part of long-term efforts to free Herman. Let us hope that Herman’s release brings inspiration and more change!



### Kiilu Nyasha—Presenté

Kiilu Nyasha would have turned 79 on May 22nd. Kiilu was one of the founders of the Freedom Archives, and was an uncompromising, revolutionary force from her days in the Black Panther Party onward. She broadcast ***Freedom Is A Constant Struggle*** as part of our radio collective, and special ***Black August*** programs on radio and community television up to the time of her unexpected passing. We will forever miss her courage and strength of character, her determination, and her talents. We, along with many others, recognize her devotion to the struggle for human liberation and the freeing of all political prisoners. She was truly tirelessly committed! Kiilu Nyasha, **Rest In Power.**

### Detroit and the Williams Legacy

In late March we returned to Detroit to continue work on the Williams Family Preservation Project. We evaluated and inventoried the uncatalogued media collection in storage and visited the Bentley Historical Library – which holds the Robert F. Williams Papers. We also strategized with the Williams family on next steps to retrieve the full transcripts of ***Radio Free Dixie*** broadcasts for publication which includes news and commentary broadcasts to the Southern US from Havana, Cuba from 1961–1965, while Robert and Mabel were in forced exile.

We're hoping that ***While God Lay Sleeping: The Autobiography of Robert Franklin Williams*** will be ready for publication before the end of this year, and plan to make significant progress on publishing a complete set of transcripts and recordings of "Radio Free Dixie."

As with our last trip to Detroit, we are constantly reminded of what an honor it is to work with the Williams family and be part of preserving the legacy of such important, fearless, and principled advocates for human rights, Black Liberation and the freedom of all peoples. Other highlights of this latest trip included trying to figure out what's on the 16 mm and 35 mm films shot in China and Tanzania and discovering an audio recording of a 1962 interview with Mrs. Mabel Stegall in which she confirmed that Robert and Mabel Williams had tried to protect her and her husband rather than kidnapping them as the FBI and local police had claimed. This false charge of kidnapping is what caused the Williams Family to flee Monroe, NC, culminating in their exile in Cuba and China.

### Thanks to You!

So, as you can see, we've been busy! Our intern program for high school and college students continues to grow. We work with young folks to expand and refine their critical thinking, research methods and political engagement as well as explore our movements' dynamic stories!



Claude & Nathaniel at a USF  
Screening of *Symbols of Resistance*

In addition to working with young people we continue providing scholars from across the country access to rare and unique historical materials on topics including The Republic of New Afrika, Puerto Rico, Palestine solidarity and trans prisoner resistance.

We and others have shown our ***Symbols of Resistance*** film at many venues, with more scheduled. A DVD of the film is available on our website.

As the Freedom Archives enters our 19th year, we are overwhelmingly grateful to you for your consistent and generous support. Please consider making a donation to speed us on the way! THANK YOU!

*Claude & Nathaniel* BD Mass

**Change will come if we keep fighting. We'll never stop fighting and so we'll win!**

**– Kiilu Nyasha 1940-2018**