



A VISION FOR BLACK LIVES:

POLICY DEMANDS FOR BLACK POWER, FREEDOM, & JUSTICE

An End to the Criminalization of Black Political Activity Including the Immediate Release of All Political Prisoners and an End to the Repression of Political Parties

What is the problem?

- While the criminal justice system has managed to create a pipeline from schools to prisons for Black and Brown communities, it has also been used as a tool of the state to delegitimize and neutralize people's movements throughout history.
- The criminalization of freedom movements and activists has resulted in the incarceration of hundreds of people, many of whom are recognized as legitimate freedom fighters. Black communities have been disproportionately targeted by the state and have become political prisoners incarcerated in local, state and federal prisons. The FBI's Counter Intelligence Program (COINTELPRO) outlined the purpose, objectives, methods and tools used to criminalize freedom movements.
- Today, direct victims of COINTELPRO (and similar law enforcement initiatives) remain exiled and incarcerated, while indirectly Black communities remain under surveillance by all levels of law enforcement with the intention of preventing the growth of another nationwide movement.
- The tradition of surveillance and harassment of activists and freedom movements, has fostered fear, mistrust and suspicion in movement spaces that would otherwise function effectively.

What does this solution do?

- We are calling for the release of all political prisoners held in the U.S. and the removal of legitimate freedom fighters from the International Terrorists list. Additionally, we call on Congress to hold hearings on the impact of COINTELPRO as the Church Committee hearings in 1975 did not offer remedies to individuals and communities negatively impacted by this government initiative.

Federal Action:

- Congressional hearings on COINTELPRO designed to remedy and repair its impact.
- Immediate release of all political prisoners in federal custody.
- Removal of Assata Shakur from international terrorist lists.
- Rescind the bounty on the head of Assata Shakur.

State Action:

- Immediate release of all political prisoners in state custody. Most freedom fighters incarcerated due to COINTELPRO are elderly and currently eligible for parole. Some



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political prisoners have served more than four decades in prison; they are now grandparents, elderly and prepared to live the remainder of their lives at home in the communities they come from. Although they meet the parole criteria determined by the state, when they go before the parole board, they are repeatedly denied. The parole boards routinely state the reason for their denial as, “the nature of the crime.”

Local Action:

- Cease all current investigations and cold cases into former activists. Some cities like NYC, have ongoing “unsolved.” We know of the recent indictments of activists and freedom fighters from the civil and human rights era of the 60s and 70s like;
 - Imam Jamil Al Amin (formerly known as H Rap Brown), captured in 2000
 - Kamau Sadiki, captured in 2002 for a case from 1971
 - San Francisco 8, indicted in 2007 for a case from 1971

Resources:

- [National Jericho Movement](#)

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