

Honoring **New Afrikan & Black** ***political prisoners*** *a community program*



Assata Shakur



Albert Nuh Washington



Mumia Abu-Jamal



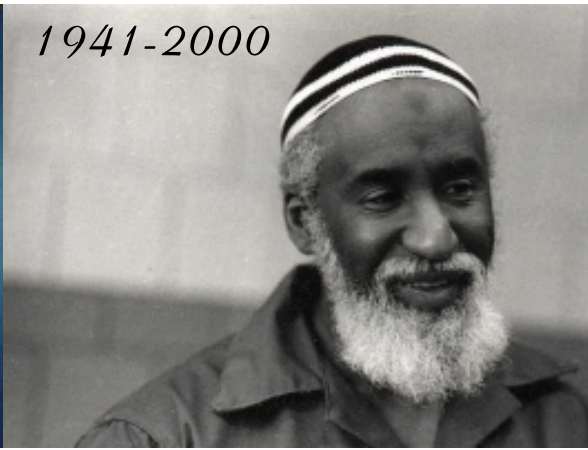
*an image recalling Ho Chi Minh's famous saying,
"When the prison doors are opened, the real dragons will fly out!"
by Zolo Agona Azania, New Afrikan political prisoner*

DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois
November 12th, 2000

Co-sponsored by Activist Student Union, Crossroad Support Network and Prairie Fire Organizing Committee



1941-2000



Nuh Qayyum, also known as Albert 'Nuh' Washington

After a courageous five-month battle with liver cancer Albert Nuh Washington, passed away on April 28th, 2000 at the Regional Medical Unit at Coxsackie Prison in New York.

The traditional Islamic funeral services were held May 1st in Brooklyn, New York. Here in Chicago Nuh was remembered during a May Day rally at the Tribune plaza, a convergence point for several marches demanding an unconditional amnesty for so-called illegal immigrants, an end to the U.S. bombing of Puerto Rico, and protesting against police brutality and other capitalist injustices.

Who was Albert Nuh Washington? And why was he was honored by those who support human rights and self-determination around the world, from Italy to Africa? He was a devout Muslim, a Black Panther, a member of the Black Liberation Army, and a political prisoner who served over 28 years in prison and who gave his life in the struggle for the self-determination and freedom of New Afrikan people.

The following are excerpts from pieces about Albert Nuh Washington written by three current political prisoners, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Marilyn Buck and David Gilbert.

* * *

When we talk about political prisoners in the United States today, particularly former Black Panthers, we think of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Mumia Abu-Jamal is a world-renowned journalist, author, and former Black Panther now on death row in Pennsylvania. He was convicted in 1981 of killing a Philadelphia police officer. From his cell on death row he has led an international struggle against the death penalty and for his own freedom. On February 5th, 2000 Mumia wrote an article about Nuh. This is an excerpt.

For far too many African-Americans, the name, Albert "Nuh" Washington, is virtually unknown. For those in the know, however, and those in touch with the 1960s era Black history regarding the Black Liberation Movement, his name is both known and respected.

Nuh, which is Arabic for Noah, was a committed member of the Black Panther Party, and later, after the notorious FBI-engineered East coast-West Coast Panther split, worked with the Black Liberation Army, in defending the lives and dignity of Black folk.

Back in the 1970s, Nuh was shot and captured with another Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army member, Jalil Muntaquim, and was later charged and convicted of murder along with Jalil and Herman Bell. Evidence has since surfaced strongly suggesting the three men were unjustly convicted in this case.

For over 28 years Nuh has been held in California and New York gulags, and repeatedly punished for his political ideas.

In the book "*Can't Jail the Spirit*", Nuh wrote, in part:

'My family instilled in me a sense of pride in myself, my family and my people. They were always there for me.

'After 20 plus years as a prisoner, the memory of being with the people still brings a smile to my face and it is something I share with my fellow prisoners: the concept of unity, movement, and love.

'The Black Panther Party is physically gone but the spirit lives in a lot of us.'

Nuh's radiant spirit continues to shine nearly 3 decades after he was unjustly caged by the State.

copyright 2000, Mumia Abu-Jamal

* * *

Marilyn Buck is also a political prisoner. Her political and social awareness was sharpened by the limitations placed on her by a sexist society. And she was radicalized by the struggle to end the U.S. war against Vietnam. She participated in international solidarity groups supporting the Vietnamese, Palestinians and Iranians against the Shah. And she worked in solidarity with the Native American, Chicano and Black Liberation struggles here in North America. In 1985 she was captured and in 1987 she was tried and convicted of conspiracy to free Assata Shakur, and to support the New Afrikan independence struggle through "armed bank robbery". In 1988 she was indicted, along with six other anti-imperialists, for conspiracy to protest and alter government policies through the use of violence. Her life continues to be a powerful example of what it means, particularly for European Americans, to be in solidarity with the struggles of the oppressed.

Marilyn Buck wrote about Nuh for a tribute to him which was held in Oakland, California on April 22nd, 2000.

I'm both happy that folks have gathered to honor our beloved comrade brother Nuh, and to have the opportunity to say something about him.

I don't remember when or how I first met Nuh, and if I did, I likely could not say! We have corresponded for many years, off and on, depending on each of our situations. Over the years our letters have grown shorter and fewer. Time is wearing, and the conditions of our respective confinements are always difficult. Nevertheless, the love and respect I feel for Nuh continues to grow like an oasis in the desert.

When I close my eyes, I see Nuh in the Spring of 1988. Mutulu Shakur and I were on trial. The judge had granted our defense the right to interview our potential witnesses. That period became the most illuminating and privileged time I have spent since my capture in May 1985. Our witnesses included brother Nuh, along with P.O.W.s Geronimo ji jaga, Sekou Odinga, and political prisoners Susan Rosenberg, David Gilbert and Chui Ferguson. That was quite a gathering! How wonderful to sit in that circle in the evening after court and on weekends. At those times, we hammered out, following from Mutulu's panoramic view of the P.O.W. position, a legal petition that dealt with political crimes, the political offense exception in international law, and most of all, our right to treatment as P.O.W.s and political prisoners. Nuh was our wise, grand old man — warm, thoughtful and clear-minded. For him, like some of the other comrades, that was the first time in many years he had the opportunity to spend time with other political prisoners. I imagine it was an energizing and precious time for all of us. For me it was remarkable and encouraging to spend time, especially with Nuh and Geronimo, who had already spent so many years locked down. In those few weeks I felt fortified by their own steadfastness in the face of extreme punishment and cruelty. My spirit was better prepared to spend my years of imprisonment and deprivation. How amazing Nuh was then. Strong, dignified, clear in his purpose and resistance to a lifetime of degradation perpetrated by white supremacist colonialism, and its prison henchmen. Nuh's ability to overcome shines like a star that travels light-years to reach us and warm eyes bleary by the losses and anguishes we who love liberation and justice have suffered and suffer every day.

Whenever I close my weary eyes, Nuh's courage lights up and warms the cold circumstances of my own life. Brother Nuh will live as long as we all shall live - both in the mind's eyes as well as in the heartbeat of the struggle for human dignity, justice and liberation.

Thank you Nuh, for your very being. I love you.

Marilyn Buck



Marilyn Buck



Mumia Abu-Jamal



David Gilbert

David Gilbert is also a European American political prisoner who has dedicated his life to supporting the struggles of the oppressed. The Civil Rights struggle of the 1960s exposed David to the sham of U.S. democracy, and for him, embodied the beauty of collective struggle. In 1965 he started the Vietnam Committee at Columbia University in New York and became a founding member of Students for a Democratic Society. In 1967, David authored the first S.D.S. pamphlet on U.S. imperialism and participated in the Columbia Strike of 1968. After about 5 years of organizing in the above ground movement, David joined the revolutionary underground, spending a total of 10 years living clandestinely, actively resisting imperialism with arms. He was captured on October 20th, 1981 in Nyack, New York, and is serving a 75 year to life sentence. He spent a number of years imprisoned with Nuh and writes about having to tell other prisoners about Nuh's death.

As prepared as I should have been, I'm reeling from the phone call where I learned that we lost Nuh. I just don't want to believe it. It's my somber responsibility to break the sad news to the many here who love and admire him. As different prisoners come up to me in the yard to share mourning and memories, I get amazing new glimpses of the many dimensions of Nuh's impact:

'Nuh was the one who took me under his wing when I came to prison as a young man with a lot of misdirected rage. He's the one who brought me into Islam, and who also started me on political education.'

'Nuh was very clear that as we became politically conscious, we should never separate ourselves from the everyday lives and needs of the people; at the same time, he was absolutely dead-set against drugs, and other actions that prey upon the community.'

'Nuh didn't just teach lessons from movement history; he also encouraged us to ask challenging questions and to think critically.'

'Nuh fiercely opposed male chauvinism in our community, insisting on respect and equality for women.'

Physically, Nuh is gone, but clearly his giant legacy lives in all he gave to others.

Fully enveloped by memories of Nuh I have tried to express something in the 17 syllables of the Japanese poetry form called haiku:

Sparkling eyes, warm wit,
ranging mind, and a heart full
of love and struggle

David Gilbert



We have the power to free New Afrikan and Black political prisoners!

Many political prisoners have spent decades in prison. Sometimes the State seems all powerful. Sometimes it seems like we will never prevail. However we should never lose sight of the fact that we can win victories when we work together and struggle and that we have. Supporters of Zolo Agona Azania recently flooded the Indiana Supreme Court with letters, faxes and calls and won a stay of execution for him. In 1995 Mumia Abu-Jamal would have been executed by the state of Pennsylvania if not for overwhelming support. Today Assata Shakur lives freely in Cuba despite the best efforts of the State to have her killed or imprisoned. Here are three other examples of New Afrikan and Black activists who have been freed thanks to the support of thousands of people around the world.



geronimo ji Jaga speaking in support of Mumia in NYC

geronimo ji Jaga is Free!

After 27 years of international struggle involving demonstrations, letter writing campaigns, and legal work, geronimo ji Jaga (preferred capitalization) was released June 10, 1997 as hundreds of supporters in the Santa Ana courtroom cheered and many more around the world celebrated his release. The Vietnam war veteran and former Black Panther Party Minister of Defense had been jailed after being set up on murder charges by the LAPD and FBI as part of the sinister COINTELPRO campaign targeting black radicals. Geronimo hugged his daughter, who he had never seen outside of prison, and said the first thing he planned to do was visit his 94-year-old mother in Louisiana.

geronimo ji Jaga was convicted in a Los Angeles state court in 1972 of killing a woman and wounding her husband during a robbery in Santa Monica in 1968. He has always denied involvement in the crime and maintained that he was 400 miles away at a Black Panther Party meeting in Oakland at the time of the murder, a meeting which was taped by the FBI. In 1975, US Senate hearings revealed that the BPP was a primary target of COINTELPRO, an FBI counter-intelligence program aimed at disrupting and neutralizing certain US political groups. Information obtained by geronimo's lawyers from FBI files after 1979 revealed that he was personally targeted for "neutralization" under COINTELPRO at the time of his arrest. geronimo ji Jaga had lodged a number of unsuccessful appeals against his conviction over the years. But after protests from all over the world, in 1996 the defense was finally granted an evidentiary hearing based on new evidence.



Angela Davis speaking in support of George Jackson in 1970

Angela Davis is Free!

Angela Davis gained an international reputation during her imprisonment and trial on conspiracy charges in 1970-72. She was the focus of a massive campaign to win her a fair trial and get her out of jail. Today she is a professor at the University of California, Santa Cruz often recognized for her academic accomplishments. She continues to be active in fighting against racism and speaking out against injustice. In September 1998 she organized a national conference and strategy session entitled, "Critical Resistance: Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex" held in Berkeley. Davis alleges that America's prison industry is an interweaving of corporate and government interests. Its twofold purpose is profit and social control.

In the 1970s, championing the cause of black prisoners, Davis grew particularly attached to a young, incarcerated revolutionary, George Jackson, one of the Soledad Brothers. Jackson's younger brother Jonathan's attempt to liberate several prisoners from a Marin County courthouse on August 7th, 1970 turned into a gun battle with police. Jonathan was among the four persons killed, including the trial judge. Suspected of complicity, Davis was sought for arrest and became one of the FBI's "most wanted criminals", and the third woman ever to make the FBI's top ten list. All over the country people hung signs in their windows which read, "ANGELA, SISTER, YOU ARE WELCOME IN THIS HOUSE". When she was arrested in New York City two months later, hundreds of demonstrators surrounded the jail and courthouse. She was returned to California to face charges of kidnapping, murder, and conspiracy. People all over the world joined the campaign to defend Angela Davis. Due in part to the massive support she received, she was acquitted of all charges, by an all-white jury.



Angela today



Dhoruba Bin Wahad is Free!

Dhoruba Bin Wahad was convicted in 1971 for attempted murder of two New York City police officers. He won his freedom in 1990 after a New York State judge found that the FBI had suppressed evidence that could have helped clear him. Since his release, he has returned to outspoken political activism, and has been particularly vocal against the “war on drugs”. After 19 years in prison, seven of them in solitary confinement, Dhoruba Bin Wahad has no apologies and no regrets. He was interviewed in The Shadow, Issue #36 June/Aug 1995:

“Once you realize that we are going to struggle against these conditions by any means necessary, that means that there are going to be those of us who are going to be framed...”

“That’s what happened to me, and that’s what happened to Mumia Abu-Jamal. That’s why Mumia Abu-Jamal is on death row. Which of course brings us to another issue, the death penalty in this country. And if we really deal with the death penalty in this country, and its administration and its purpose, we can only conclude that the death penalty does not protect its citizens. In fact, it legalizes the murder of citizens under the guise of protection and law enforcement. In those states which have the death penalty, homicide is not appreciably deteriorated. But the new Omnibus Criminal statute significantly increases the crimes that are punishable by death. And they make struggle by the oppressed, when defined as terrorism, punishable by death as a means of intimidating those who would stand up against tyranny.”

“[New evidence came to light indicating that I had been framed] as a consequence of a long struggle to prove my innocence. In 1975, four years after I was captured, I filed a suit in federal court... At that time they had the Church Committee hearings on government excess..., and it was revealed that the FBI had carried out this massive Counter-Intelligence Program in the African American community and especially against the Black Panther Party. So when I heard this, knowing that I was innocent, of course, I knew that the FBI must have information about my case and I filed my suit. They danced around for five years, and then in 1980, the federal judge ordered the FBI to turn over all of their documents that they had on me and the Black Panther Party in New York. And they turned over 300,000 pages. And when we went over these documents we found material that indicated that they were working with the New York City Police Department every step of the way and that at major junctures in the investigation into the shooting, they had been present... So I got some of these documents. They were heavily excised, heavily deleted. But after fighting over each deletion, we got enough evidence to go back into state court and overturn my conviction.”

write to the prisoners!

This is partial list of some of the New Afrikan and Black political prisoners held by the United States. These are the most recent addresses we have for these prisoners. Writing to them is one way to show your support for them. It is also a way to learn more about the history of the struggles of African people in the U.S. from some of the leaders of those struggles. And the coming holiday time is a great time to send a card or a note!

*Mumia Abu-Jamal # AM-8335
1040 E. Roy Furman Hwy
Waynesburg PA 15370*

*Sundiata Acoli (s/n Clark Squire) # 39794-066
PO Box 3000
USP Allenwood
White Deer, PA 17887*

*Charles Sims Africa # AM-4975
and
Michael Davis Africa # AM-4973
SCI Graterford, Box 244
Graterford PA 19426-0244*

*Debbie Sims Africa # 006307
and
Janet Holloway Africa # 006308
and
Janine Phillips Africa # 006309
451 Fullerton Ave
Cambridge Springs PA 16403*

*Delbert Orr Africa # AM-4985
and
William Phillips Africa # AM-4984
SCI Dallas, Drawer K
Dallas PA 18612*

*Edward Goodman Africa # AM-4974
SCI Camp Hill, Box 200
Camp Hill PA 17001*

*Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (formerly H. Rap Brown) #722657
Cobb County Adult Detention Center
Box 100110
Marietta, GA 30061*

*Zolo Agona Azania #4969
Indiana State Prison
Box 41
Michigan City, Indiana 46361-0041*

*Herman Bell
79C-0262
Clinton Correctional Facility
Box 2001
Dannemora, NY 12929*

*Hanif Shabazz Bey (s/n B Gereau) # 96544-131
Box 8500 ADX
Florence CO 81226*

Jalil Muntaqim (aka Anthony Jalil Bottom) # 77A4283
Auburn Corr. Facility
135 State Street, P.O. Box 618
Auburn, NY 13024

Veronza Bowers, Jr. #35316-136
FCC Medium A-1
Box 819
Coleman, FL 35521-0879

Marshal Eddie Conway # 116469
Box 534
Jessup MD 20794

Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald #B-27527
Salinas VSP-B2131
Box 1040
Soledad, CA 93960-1040

Bashir Hameed (s/n James York) # 82-A-6313
Sullivan Correctional Facility
Box AG
Fallsburg, NY 12733-0116

Robert Seth Hayes # 74-A-2280
Southport C.F., C-7-005
Box 2000
Pine City, NY 14871

Teddy Jah Heath # 75-A-0139
Auburn Correctional Facility
135 State Street, P.O. Box 618
New York NY 13021

Sekou Cinque T.M. Kambui (s/n William Turk) #113058
Box 5107 BCF
Union Springs AL 36089

Richard Mafundi Lake # 79972-X
3700 Holman Unit #4-10B
Atmore AL 36503-3700

Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa (s/n David Rice) # 27768
Box 2500
Lincoln NE 68542-2500

Maliki Shakur Latine # 81-A-4469
PO Box 2001
Dannemora, NY 12929

Ojore Lutalo # 59860
CN-861 MCU
Trenton NJ 08625

Ruchell Cinque Magee # A92051
Box 7500 SHU-2-C-233
Crescent City, CA 95531

Abdul Majid (s/n Anthony Laborde) # 83-A-0483
Upstate Correctional Facility
Box 2001
Malone, NY 12953

Jihad Abdul Mu'mit # 32379-138
PO Box 1000
Lewisburg PA 17837

Sekou Odinga # 05228-054
Box 1000
Marion, IL 62959

Hugo "Dahariki" Pinell # A88401
7500 SHU-D-214
Crescent City CA 95531

Ed Poindexter #110403
Minnesota Correctional Facility
7525 4th Avenue
Lino Lakes, MN 55014-1099

Kojo Bomani Sababu (s/n Grailing Brown) # 39384-066
Box 8500
Florence CO 81226

Dr. Mutulu Shakur # 83205-012
Box PMB - D Unit 105
Atlanta GA 30315

Shaka Shakur # 28443 MCC
Westville IN 46361

Russel Maroon Shoats # AF-3855
175 Progress Drive
Waynesburg PA 15370

Gary Tyler # 84156
Louisiana State Penitentiary
ASH-4
Angola LA 70712

Tayari Uhuru s/n Ronald Payne
Delaware Correctional Center
Smymrna, DE 19977

Herman "Hooks" Wallace
and
Robert "King" Wilkerson
and
Albert Woodfox
Louisiana State Penitentiary
ASH-4
Angola LA 70712

James Sayles #C-01656
2600 North Brinton
Box 1200
Dixon, IL 61021

**Schmitt Academic Center, room 154
2320 North Kenmore Ave.
DePaul University
Sunday, November 12th, 4:15pm**

greetings and brief introduction

Benjamin Evans
Prairie Fire Organizing Committee

“Forty Three Cycles”

a performance by Karen Williams of Insight Arts
focusing on women on death row

“Black Political Prisoners in the United States”

Standish Willis,
The African American Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal and Aaron Patterson
Chicago Conference of Black Lawyers

questions and discussion

“Eyes of the Rainbow: The life of Assata Shakur”

47 minute documentary by AfroCuban film maker Gloria Rolando
provided by the Hands Off Assata Campaign, Chicago

Special thanks to Alix Gonzalez, Karen Williams, Standish Willis, Kedar Coleman, Hondo T'Chikwa, Safiya Bukhari, David Gilbert, Marilyn Buck, Mumia Abu-Jamal, Zolo Agona Azania, Stelios Valavanis and Owusu Yaki Yakubu.



“Black Warriors of Babylon”, a painting by Zolo Agona Azania, New Afrikan political prisoner, featuring images of Malcolm X, Jonathan Jackson, Assata Shakur, Angela Davis, and George Jackson, dated May 2nd, 1979

As many of you know Albert Nuh Washington died in prison last April. He was a dedicated freedom fighter who has inspired and helped many to change their lives and to help others. In the program booklet you were given, there are tributes to him written by three other political prisoners, Marilyn Buck, David Gilbert and Mumia Abu-Jamal. As Marilyn Buck writes, "Nuh continues to live in the heartbeat of the struggle for human dignity, justice and liberation." Let's have a moment of silence to remember Nuh before we begin our program

i would like to thank each of you for being here today. Despite some notable exceptions, like President Clinton's executive clemency for 11 Puerto Rican political prisoners in September 1999, the issue of political prisoners rarely comes up in the United States.

The U.S. denies existence of political prisoners in the U.S. According to the United States government, everyone in prison is a criminal. Yet, for example, people all over the world recognize that Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu-Jamal were prosecuted because of their political beliefs. Amnesty International released a statement on April 6th, 1999 stating that, "Amnesty International considers Leonard Peltier to be a political prisoner... and believes that Leonard Peltier should be immediately and unconditionally released." Similarly, in a February 2000 report on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Amnesty International criticized the "the politicization of the judicial process" which led to his conviction and death sentence.

Since they were first brought to North America as slaves African people have struggled for their freedom. However, this tradition of struggle has been mirrored by another tradition, a tradition of criminalizing that struggle, exemplified today by the Black and New Afrikan political prisoners held by the U.S. We are here today to honor the former, and to expose the latter.

The United States has always criminalized those Africans who have led struggles for freedom. The leaders of slave rebellions, for example, were tried as criminals and often given the death penalty. In 1800 Gabriel Prosser who planned a rebellion modeled on the Haitian revolution, and 26 of his comrades were executed. Denmark Vesey was executed for planning a slave revolt in 1822. Nat Turner who led the famous slave rebellion of 1831 was executed. Even so others have come forward to carry on their struggle.

Harriet Tubman and the conductors of the Underground Railroad were hunted as criminals. The Jamaican leader Marcus Garvey was falsely convicted in 1923 for fraud and deported. During the 1950s and 1960s Civil Rights activists were often portrayed as criminals. The F.B.I. even tried to discredit Dr. Martin Luther King by portraying him as a criminal.

The real crime is that the U.S. continues to hold political prisoners some for almost three decades. Jalil A. Muntaqim is one example of what i'm talking about. He has been held for 28 years. Jalil began working in the Civil Rights Movement and continued to be active in what was known as the Black Liberation Movement and is currently working in the New Afrikan Independence Movement.

As a young person he participated in NAACP youth organising. In high school, he became a leading member of the Black Student Union. By the time he was 18 years old he had joined the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense. Jalil was arrested on August 28, 1971 along with Albert 'Nuh' Washington following a shootout with San Francisco police. The two were extradited to New York and tried and convicted in 1975, along with Herman Bell, of the murder of two New York City police officers. Now we know that their arrests were part of an undercover operation authorized by the Nixon white house code named NEWKILL. But Jalil has not allowed his imprisonment to prevent him from continuing to struggle for justice. While imprisoned in San Quentin in 1975-77, Jalil was able to organise the first national prison petition campaign to the United Nations. He organized the first Black August demonstration in front of San Quentin. From his prison cell, Jalil with the support of Sundiata Acoli, organised the first march to the United Nations calling for recognition of U.S. political prisoners. He has received awards of appreciation from the Jaycees and the NAACP for his leadership. He is a founding member of the New African Liberation Front. In 1994, Jalil graduated from SUNY-New Paltz with a BS in Psychology and a BA in Sociology. He initiated the "Jericho '98" march on the White House and U.S. embassies to demand amnesty for U.S. political prisoners. Jalil is the kind of leader the U.S. government has tried to neutralize and the kind of leader we are here to honor.

In conclusion, i would just like to speak briefly about what motivates me to support these political prisoners. To me they are people who recognized the deep injustices of our society and fought against those injustices. i also believe that by supporting these prisoners, and joining the struggle against injustice, we can gain a deeper sense of our own humanity, something which, in our society, we are too often taught to deny.

There is actually a long tradition of European Americans struggling in solidarity with African people. Many people know John Brown, a white man who helped to lead an armed rebellion against slavery in 1859. For that crime he was executed, but he was unrepentant, even from the gallows. Fewer people know Angelina and Sarah Grimke, Southern women whose families owned plantations who were forced to leave the South because of their efforts against slavery. They defended womens' right to organize within the abolitionist movement and connected it with white women's struggles for the right to vote and to participate equally in society. David Gilbert and Marilyn Buck are contemporary examples of this tradition.

PFOC is committed to the release of all political prisoners. One of the first PFOC events i went to was a program here at DePaul 5 years ago honoring Black and New Afrikan Political Prisoners. At that time the most prominent campaign was to free geronimo ji Jaga, a former Black Panther imprisoned in California. Since then, thanks to years of dedicated work by activists around the world, he was proven innocent and is now organizing on the outside. He returned to Louisiana where he discovered his alma mater, the Morgan City Colored High School, was being turned into a jail. He was able to acquire his old school as the headquarters for the Kuji foundation, a nonprofit education center which he has founded. He has also traveled around the country speaking in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

But we have many more prisoners to free and to do so we will need to build a movement, which like the Puerto Rican Independence Movement, is capable of forcing the United States to release its political prisoners. As former Black Panther Party member Albert 'Nuh' Washington has written, "if I could do it alone, it would have been done. But this requires a collective effort and we must work together."