

10 years, 20 years, 30 years...?

Do you have a loved one in prison?

Who suffers when a loved ones goes to prison?

Who takes care of the children?

What happens to the families?

What happens to those communities?

in association with

The Kwanzaa Collective

The Sekou Odinga Defense Committee

hosts a *"Real Talk"* conversation

'The impact of Political Imprisonment & Mass Imprisonment on our Families/Communities'

with

life partner, **Safiya Bandele** ~ granddaughter, **Yuri Torres**

daughter, **Theresa Shoatz** ~ sister, **Sharmin Sadequee**

Moderated by: activist/author, **asha bandele**



60,000 NYS families are separated daily

2.5+ million families share the financial, emotional & psychological stress, isolation, shame, silence & pain of living with a loved one in prison

"It Takes a Village"

December 26th, 2012 from 3pm-5pm @ at Boys/Girls High School - Fulton Street @ Utica Avenue

This event is Free & Open to the Public

For info: email SekouOdingaDefenseCommittee@gmail.com or call 718-512-5008

U M O J A

“...when I think about the ultimate sacrifice that many others have made, I realize I have not done enough. There is so much more that needs to be done. As we have fought and struggled, the forces against us have continued to organize and develop strategies to keep us under them. In some ways we are now worse off than we were when I consciously started struggling in the mid '60s. Unemployment is higher, fewer Blacks own their own homes, a lower percentage is going to college. A higher percentage is going to jail. A much higher percentage is killing and maiming each other, especially our youth.....”

—Sekou Odinga

WHO IS SEKOU ODINGA? Sekou grew up in Jamaica, Queens. He is a husband, father of eight, grandfather of nineteen+ and a great-grandfather. He was inspired by the revolutionary principles of Malcolm X when he joined the Organization of Afro-American Unity, followed later by the Black Panther Party (BPP) and the Black Liberation Army (BLA). In 1970, he was asked to go to Algeria to help set up the international section of the BPP. After the split in the Party, caused by the Cointelpro program, he decided to come back to the u.s. to continue the struggle.

He continued that work until October 1981, when he was captured and charged with attempting to murder police. Sekou was not attempting to murder the police; he was in fact running away from the police with his brother/comrade, Mtayari Sundiata, fearing for their lives. That fear proved well deserved when Mtayari was captured and murdered (executed) while lying face down on the ground. Sekou was captured a little while later; by then lots of people had gathered around, so he was taken to a police precinct where he was beaten and tortured for the next six (6) straight hours. The local police and FBI were trying to find out information about Assata Shakur and Abdul Majid. Where they were? Who they were with? Did he know them? When was the last time he had seen them, etc. etc.? That torture left him in the hospital for the next three months with physical damage he still suffers from today. He was snatched out of the hospital before completely healing, and forced into two trials (state and federal) for the next 2½ years.

After many lies and prejudicial judge rulings, Sekou was found guilty in both courts. The feds found him guilty of the Liberation of Assata Shakur and the expropriation of an armored-car, the state found him guilty of attempted murder of police. He was sentenced to forty (40) years and \$50,000 fine by the feds, and 25 years to life by the state. One sentence to start after the other one finished. He was paroled by the feds in 2009, and is now in NYS serving the 25 to life. He is 68 years old and not eligible for parole in the state until 2033. **IN ORDER TO TAKE SEKOU'S FREEDOM CAMPAIGN INTO THE COURTS, WE NEED YOUR HELP. MAKE A DONATION TODAY!!!!**

“I am a prisoner of war (POW), a political prisoner (PP). All POWs are PPs, but all PPs are not POWs. A POW is someone captured while actively participating in a military formation fighting against a military enemy. In my case, I was part of the Black Liberation Army, fighting for freedom, land and independence for the Republic of New Afrika. A PP is anyone detained because of their political views, speech, actions, etc., by a government strong enough to hold them....”

—Sekou Odinga