



ROBERT HILLARY KING, AKA

Robert King Wilkerson, is part of a trio of American political prisoners collectively known as The Angola 3. King's membership in the only prison-recognized chapter of the Black Panther Party, and his work organizing against prison injustices, resulted in his being targeted for retaliation by prison officials. In February 2001, after thirty-one years of imprisonment and twenty-nine continuous years of solitary confinement, King walked out of the gates of Angola a free man.

From the moment of his release, he has worked tirelessly to spread the word about the innocence and the continued plight of his two remaining comrades, both held in solitary confinement for thirty-six years.

Upon his release King was quoted as saying, "I may be free from Angola, but Angola will never be free of me!"

—**MARION BROWN** former Black Panther and prison activist

ANGOLA 3



PRAISE FOR FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP

"FOR A PERSON TO GO THROUGH 29 YEARS IN one of the most brutal prisons in America and still maintain his sanity and humanity, that's what makes people want to listen to Robert."

—**MALIK RAHIM** Co-Founder of Common Ground Collective

"... THE CASE OF THE ANGOLA 3...HAS THE POTENTIAL OF laying bare, exposing the shortcomings, in the entire US system."

—**KGALEMA MOTLANTE** a leader of the African National Congress in South Africa

"IT IS A TESTIMONY TO ROBERT KING WILKERSON'S fortitude that he is able to eloquently recall the worst 29 years of his life."

—**THE UK VOICE**

"FRIENDSHIPS ARE FORGED IN STRANGE PLACES. MY FRIENDSHIP with Robert King, and the other two Angola 3 men Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, is based on respect. These men, as Robert reveals in this stunning account of his life, have fought tirelessly to redress injustice, not only for themselves, but for others..."

—**GORDON RODDICK** Co-founder of The Body Shop and activist

FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY ANN HARKNESS
ANGOLA 3 ILLUSTRATION BY RIGO 23
ROBERT KING ILLUSTRATION BY EMORY DOUGLAS
JACKET COVER DESIGNED BY COURTNEY UTT



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FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP
THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BLACK PANTHER  ROBERT HILLARY KING



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THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BLACK PANTHER
ROBERT HILLARY KING

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY DR. TERRY KUPERS, M.D., M.S.P.

US \$24.95

IN 1970, A JURY CONVICTED

Robert Hillary King of a crime he did not commit and sentenced him to 35 years in prison. He became a member of the Black Panther Party while in Angola State Penitentiary, successfully organizing prisoners to improve conditions. In return, prison authorities beat him, starved him, and gave him life without parole after framing him for a second crime. He was thrown into solitary confinement, where he remained in a six by nine foot cell for 29 years as one of the Angola 3. In 2001, the state grudgingly acknowledged his innocence and set him free. This is his story.

It begins at the beginning: born black, born poor, born in Louisiana in 1942, King journeyed to Chicago as a hobo at the age of 15. He married and had a child, and briefly pursued a semi-pro boxing career to help provide for his family. Just a teenager when he entered the Louisiana penal system for the first time, King tells of his attempts to break out of this system, and his persistent pursuit of justice where there is none.

Yet this remains a story of inspiration and courage, and the triumph of the human spirit. The conditions in Angola almost defy description, yet King never gave up his humanity, or the work towards justice for all prisoners that he continues to do today. *From the Bottom of the Heap*, so simply and humbly told, strips bare the economic and social injustices inherent in our society, while continuing to be a powerful literary testimony to our own strength and capacity to overcome.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ** PLEASE FORWARD WIDELY**

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<http://www.aidandabet.org>

FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE HEAP

Robert Hillary King, the Only Freed Member of the Angola 3

U.S. Northeast Speaking Tour, April 4-22, 2009

WITH STOPS IN:

MA: Roxbury, Boston, Springfield, Northampton, Amherst
VT: Brattleboro
CT: Hartford
NY: Troy-Albany, Rochester, New York
PA: Philadelphia

EVENT DETAILS — PLEASE INCLUDE IN APPROPRIATE CALENDAR LISTINGS & FORWARD WIDELY:

ROXBURY, MA- Saturday, April 4, 2:00 p.m. -- Dudley Branch Library (65 Warren St., Roxbury). Free and open to the public.. Sponsored by Jericho Boston and the New England Committee to Defend Palestine. For more information: 617-442-6186.

BOSTON, MA- Sunday, April 5, 6:00 p.m. -- Community Church of Boston (565 Boylston St. - Copley Square). \$5-25 sliding scale. Dinner (vegan & meat) will be provided. Sponsored by American Friends Service Committee & the Community Church of Boston. For more information: 617-266-6710.

[LOCATION TBA - Monday, April 6]

BRATTLEBORO, VT- Tuesday, April 7, 6:00 p.m. -- Latchis 4 (corner of Main & Flat Streets). Sliding scale \$2-20; no one turned away for lack of funds. Refreshments served. For more information: 802-275-8133.

SPRINGFIELD, MA- Wednesday, April 8, 12:15 p.m. -- Blake Law Center, Room C, Western New England College (1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield). Free and open to the public. For more information: 413-782-1416.

NORTHAMPTON, MA- Wednesday, April 8, 7:00 p.m. -- Smith College (exact location TBA). Free and open to the public. For more information: lsakala@email.smith.edu

AMHERST, MA- Thursday, April 9, 7:00 p.m. -- Gordon Hall, 3rd Floor, University of Massachusetts (418 N. Pleasant St.). Free and open to the public. For more

information: geert@econs.umass.edu.

TROY, NY- Friday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. -- Sanctuary for Independent Media (3361 6th Avenue, North Troy). Suggested donation \$10 / \$5 students & low-income. For more information: 518-207-6264.

ROCHESTER, NY- Saturday, April 11, 7:00 p.m. -- Details TBA.

[Sunday, April 12-Travel day]

[TENTATIVE] CENTRAL CONNECTICUT- Monday, April 13 -- Details TBA.

[Locations TBA - Tuesday, April 14 & Wednesday, April 15]

NEW YORK, NY- Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m. -- New York University (exact location TBA). Free and open to the public.

NEW YORK, NY- Friday, April 17-Sunday, April 19 -- Left Forum, Pace University (One Pace Plaza, across from City Hall). King will be participating on two panels: "Let Freedom Ring: Turning Points for the Movements to Free US Political Prisoners" and "Resistance Struggles on the Inside: Political Organizing Behind Bars". For more information: <http://www.leftforum.org> / 212-817-2003.

NEW YORK, NY- Sunday, April 19 -- Solidarity Center (55 W. 17th St., 5th Floor). Keynote speaker at Jericho 4th Annual Day in Solidarity with Palestinian Political Prisoners. Sponsored by: NYC Jericho Movement, NYC Anarchist Black Cross Federation, NYC Free Mumia Coalition. For more information: nycjericho@gmail.com / www.jerichony.org / 718-853-0893

NEW YORK, NY- Monday, April 20, 1:00 p.m. -- Brooklyn College (exact location TBA). Free and open to the public.

HARTFORD, CT- Tuesday, April 21 -- Details TBA.

PHILADELPHIA, PA- Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m. -- University of Pennsylvania (exact location TBA). Free and open to the public.

*Signed copies of Robert Hillary King's autobiography *From the Bottom of the Heap* (PM Press, 2008) will be available for purchase at all events.

BACKGROUND:

"I was born in the U.S.A. Born black, born poor. Is it then any wonder that I have spent most of my life in prison?" —Robert Hillary King

In 1970, a jury convicted Robert Hillary King (formerly known as Robert King Wilkerson) of a crime he did not commit and sentenced him to 35 years in prison. He became a member of the Black Panther Party while in Angola State Penitentiary, successfully organizing prisoners to improve conditions. In return, prison authorities beat him, starved him, and gave him life without parole after framing him for a second crime. He was thrown into solitary confinement, where he remained in a six-by-nine foot cell for 29 years as one of "the Angola 3." In 2001, the state grudgingly acknowledged his innocence and set him free.

In his autobiography, ***From the Bottom of the Heap: The Autobiography of Black Panther Robert Hillary King*** (PM Press, 2008), King begins his story at the beginning: born black, born poor, born in Louisiana in 1942. At the age of 15, King journeyed to Chicago as a hobo. He came back to Louisiana, married and had a child, and briefly pursued a semi-pro boxing career to help provide for his family. Just a teenager when he entered the Louisiana penal system for the first time, King tells of his attempts to break out of this system, and his persistent pursuit of justice where there is none.

The conditions King endured in Angola almost defy description, yet King never gave up his humanity, nor his tireless work towards justice for all prisoners. That work continues to this day, now "from the outside" — as he speaks out against the failures and inequities of the criminal injustice system, and fights to free his Angola 3 comrades Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox, who have been behind bars for 36 years, most of them in solitary confinement.

Robert King's story is one of inspiration, courage, and the triumph of the human spirit. Says Malik Rahim, co-founder of Common Ground Collective (in post-Katrina New Orleans): "For a person to go through 29 years in one of the most brutal prisons in America and still maintain his sanity and humanity, that's what makes people want to listen to Robert."

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://www.aidandabet.org/roster/king>

https://secure.pmpress.org/index.php?l=product_detail&p=61

<http://www.kingsfreelines.com/>

<http://www.angola3.org>

<http://www.a3grassroots.org>

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