



IRENE JOHNSON fell victim to America's genocide. She is one of our reasons for struggling on.

# HER LIVING WAS NOT IN VAIN

On December 10th, a beautiful, Black mother passed away. Really, she did not pass away, just die, for it was outright racist neglect on the part of the government which was the direct cause of her death. Mrs. Irene Johnson (who was 43 years old) was very dear to many people, especially to the members of the New York State Chapter of the Black Panther Party. "Moms" (as everyone called her), the mother of Comrade Bill Johnson, had been working, along with the Party, in the People's Survival Programs. Her very life, particularly from the time she began working in the programs, was dedicated to helping other people in our community, to serving the people body and soul.

It is ironic that it was due to the total inadequacy of the medical and health facilities in the Black communities of New York City, that Moms herself died. For this had been part of her purpose in living, to help provide services for our people, free of charge, that would satisfy our basic needs and desires. (It reminds one of Dr. Charles Drew, a Black doctor, who discovered the blood plasma theory and developed the blood bank for which millions can be grateful today. Dr. Drew was in an automobile accident in 1950, and ironically, bled to death, because, as a Black man, he was refused medical treatment by a white hospital.)

At the revolutionary memorial services for our dear Comrade, on De-

ember 15th, Chairman Bobby Seale, in a taped message (as he was unable to get to New York in time for the services), spoke of what Comrade Irene Johnson's life and work and death really meant:

*Brothers and Sisters and People, on December 10th, American genocide against the Black Community claimed another victim. This was Mrs. Irene Johnson, a Panther Mother, Moms. Mrs. Irene Johnson, 43 yrs of age, was part of the New York State Chapter of the Black Panther Party. She was known and loved as Moms. We loved Moms - we loved her dearly.*

*Moms died as a result of the criminal neglect on the part of the New York Hospital Corporation. Moms was one of many victims of this New York Hospital Corporation, which dictates policies and said funds for the hospitals. Hospitals are big business here, and this clearly points out that Black and poor lives aren't profitable to the big business operation of the Hospital Corporation in New York, or anywhere else in this country.*

*Sister Irene, Moms, went through the genocidal process, which claims many lives throughout the Empire. Three weeks ago Moms became ill, and was taken to a private doctor, who gave her some liver pills, which did not work. Later that week Moms was rushed to Kings County Hospital. There she waited for hours while experiencing great pain. When she finally saw the doctor she was given some pills, and some cough syrup, and told to return later, because they didn't have "physicals" on Saturdays. And now, Moms is dead, a Black Panther Member, Mother.....*

*Moms was told to return the following Monday, during working hours. On Monday Moms returned to receive this elaborate physical examination, and, for a moment, we thought she was given some righteous medical care. We thought. A week later, Moms returned to Kings County Hospital to get the results of the tests. The only one that was ready was the electro-*

*cardiogram....she had to be retested. She was told her test results would not return until January, 1972; and January 1972 hasn't even arrived yet. We will not be so foolish as to believe that it takes this long to read the results of simple tests, and other simple tests. With the technological wealth of this country, this can only be called neglect; in fact, nothing less than genocidal neglect.*

*9:30 Friday evening, on December 10th, Moms fell in her home, above the New York State Chapter Office. When Moms fell in her home, she had stopped breathing. Panthers and community friends rushed to her aid. One brother tried desperately to revive Moms, while waiting for the ambulance to come with oxygen. But the police came instead. Someone had called the Fire Department. They came about 45 minutes later with an oxygen tank that didn't work. The fire chief had to be called who had been there earlier, but left when he saw there was no fire. By this time it was too late, too late for Sister Moms.*

*We are implementing survival programs all over this country. One of the Survival Programs is a People's Free Community Ambulance Service, a Black Panther Party Community Survival Program. And if anything, as Brothers and Sisters, People, human beings alike, we ought to relate to Sister Moms, because if she worked anywhere in this Party, anywhere with the community (like the Party does), then there should be an ambulance service in her spirit, an ambulance service relating to her spirit and her work. She died giving her life as a Supreme Servant. Only they can give everything they have. So only those revolutionaries who die can be Supreme Servants. So, let us say that when a Free Ambulance Service is placed in New York, wherever, that it be named after Sister Irene Johnson, Moms; because of the obvious neglect on the part of the New York Hospital Corporation, and the slow ambulance service, which has caused the death of many people*

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throughout New York and Amerikkka - and this time it was our beloved Moms, Mrs. Irene Johnson.....

We will not weep for Moms. We will implement a Free Ambulance Service in Moms spirit.... Though our loss is painful and deep, we will forge on, to develop Free Health Facilities that will help our poor and oppressed people survive..... Moms loved the Programs because she understood, on a practical level, why the Programs were necessary and worked with us to keep the Programs going...

Moms was one of our reasons for struggling on, because she was oppressed all her days. Her very oppression, which she struggled against, one, with and for the People, was symbolic of her very spirit. We will miss her laughter. We will miss her revolutionary spirit, manifested in her kisses; her revolutionary spirit, her mind and soul, manifested in her hugs. We will miss everything about Moms. We will not miss the implementation of her spirit, where it's manifested in the People's Free Ambulance Service.. Let her and her spirit fill the community with Survival Programs, revolutionary Survival Programs, a Free Ambulance Service, and Medical Care and facilities, after Moms.



*"There is no difference in the murder of Moms (Irene Johnson) and the murder of George Jackson."*

*Moms has found the only freedom this world can offer her. So we, who live, and struggle on, must swallow this bitter pill and struggle, with her spirit; and struggle, and struggle, and struggle for the new day, for the total liberation of all oppressed people of the world, for total liberation of our Black community....*

*All Power to the People, for in the final analysis victory will be manifested in all the Supreme Servants of the People, Sister Moms, Sister Irene Johnson, of the Black Panther Party. All Power to the People..."*

Comrade Charles Bronson of the Black Panther Party, in eulogizing Moms at the memorial service, summed up her beauty, and what her death meant in these words: "There is no difference in the murder of Moms and the murder of George Jackson. The conditions, the oppression are one and the same. There is no difference in the murder of Moms and the vicious murder of the Brothers at Attica. The conditions are one and the same; and the struggle is one; and, in fact, her determination, her cry is the same as heard all over the world, whether in Vietnam, Korea, Africa, Georgia or New York City. The cry is one and the same: We want to be free! And in order for the people to be free, we must survive as a people. Moms made a commitment to help us survive. Her life, then, could be summed up in the words of this song: 'If I can help somebody/ As I pass this way/ Then my living shall not be in vain.'"

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE