

PHILLY 14

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where William Brown used to serve hot breakfasts daily to school children, he now saw machine guns and magnum shotguns being switched from the "safety" to the "fire" position.

Donna Howell, a Black Panther Party member from Boston, saw the high-powered rifles used by Philadelphia "Stake-Out Squad" officers being distributed to the attackers along Columbia Avenue, in the city she'd been in less than twenty-four hours. The fourteen had been among hundreds who were preparing to hold a Plenary Session for the Revolutionary People's Constitutional Convention held in Washington, D.C.

Allegedly looking for stolen hand grenades (they never found), the police unleashed the full fury of their armed might upon the fourteen defenders. Machine-gun fire tore through the roof of the North Philly office from a helicopter gunship above. In West Philly, a Korean War veteran who lived down the street was fearfully awakened by what he thought was the Korean War. Chips of plaster and dust fell into the hair and eyes of two-year old Malik McGriff as bullets ripped into the wall, inches above his crib. His mother crouched by the window defending his life with her own against the scores of uniformed "peace officers" who would murder her and her child.

Within an hour the defenders left their homes and surrendered. In West Philadelphia, the six Party members and two residents of an apartment above the office were forced to strip naked in the street at gunpoint. In North Philadelphia, the defenders were forced to walk backwards from the building in the broken glass-strewn street, dressed as they'd been when the attack awoke them at 5:00 a.m. All of the brothers and sisters were forced to submit to a degrading and perverted "search", although they wore only underwear or less. Within days, (then) Police Chief Frank Rizzo admitted there had been no evidence to justify the raid. Its real purpose was to attempt to stop the Plenary Session. It was an unsuccessful attempt.

Now the Philly 14 are coming to trial. Set at 9:00 a.m. in Room 446 at City Hall, the trial is like many held around the country (in New Orleans, Detroit, New York, etc.) in which the Black Panther Party defendants had to be released. However, the last six political trials held in Philadelphia all resulted in life sentence terms. Support the Philly 14! Come out and show your support on Monday, June 18.



WILLIAM BROWN, one of the Philly 14.

PHILLY 14 TRIAL BEGINS CHARGES FROM 1970 POLICE RAID

(Philadelphia, Pa.) - Fourteen Black men and women will come to trial on June 18, in Philadelphia City Hall on charges of assault with a deadly weapon, assault with intent to kill, possession of illegal weapons and conspiracy to commit murder. The trial follows, by three years, a vicious and unprovoked raid - murder attempt upon these brothers and sisters by the Philadelphia police under the coordinating guidance of the FBI. They are alive today because they defended themselves and they now face charges because they did.

On the morning of August 31, 1970, five hundred police and FBI agents converged upon three Black Panther Party community information centers in Philadelphia. The whirring sound of many patrol car's flashing lights revolving, the hum of engines and eerie red illumination flickering through the windows woke alert Black Panther Party members in each of the offices. As the heavily armed attack forces took up positions, the Panthers quickly moved from bed-to bed shaking their sleeping brother's and sisters into consciousness.

Through the windows of the wooden frame building on Wallace Street,

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