

Muslims Mum On Charges

Black Muslim officials, refusing to give an "official" statement, still deny any involvement in the slayings of seven Washington, D. C., members of the Hanafi Moslem sect. At the same time, the leader of the Washington sect has continued to charge the Black Muslims with the murders.

Officials at the Black Muslims Mosque No. 7 in New York City



The Honorable Muhammad had no comments on the charges made.

claimed no knowledge of who committed the killings. They said the charges made against them was just another "trick" by the white media to place all blame of troubles in the Black community on the Black Muslims.

The Muslim officials said there would be no official statement until their leader, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad, makes one.

But Hamans Abdul Khaalis,

leader of the Washington Hanafi Moslems, has continued his charges against Black Muslims, saying that the killings were in retaliation to letters he wrote to Elijah Muhammad that were highly critical of him and W. D. Fard, Muhammad's teacher.

Khaalis said that one of the killers told his daughter, Almina, one of the two persons who survived the attack in the \$78,000 home situated in a fashionable section of Washington, D. C., "Didn't Hamans know he couldn't send those letters?"

Khaalis' wife, Bibi, was the other survivor in the slayings. Both are recovering from bullet wounds in the head. Two adults and five children were among those killed. Their ages ranged from 9 days old to 26 years old.

Khaalis, 50, once a member of the Black Muslims, said he joined "that gang in Chicago" in 1951, when he was known as Ernest Timothy McGhee.

He explained that he joined the Black Muslims with a plan to convert them to Orthodox Moslems. The plan, he said, was devised by his first Islamic instructor, whom he identified as Tasibur Uddein Rahman. "He said they were deceived and I should try to help them," said Khaalis.

Khaalis said he held the position of Black Muslim national secretary in 1956, but left in 1958 after an argument with high Muslim officials over whether there was one set of rules for Muhammad's family, and another set for

By Leader Of Moslem Sect

the rest of the members.

Speaking of the argument, which occurred at a Chicago meeting, Khaalis said, "I stood up to speak since I was a high official and told him that they all were following the way of the Mussulman (Moslem) and should turn to the Sunni way (Orthodox Islam). "Then I left."

The Hanafi Moslems, one of several Orthodox Moslem sects in the U. S., was founded by followers of the late Malcolm X after his defection from the Black Muslims. Upon his defection, Malcolm X became an Orthodox Moslem, one who believes in the teachings of the Holy Koran (the Moslem Bible) instead of the teachings of Elijah Muhammad.

After Malcolm X, who had changed his name to El Hajj Melik Shabazz, was assassinated Feb. 21, 1965, his followers formed several different orthodox sects, one being the Hanafis.

In fact, Khaalis reportedly studied with Malcolm X in New York City during the 1960s.

The Hanafis, unlike the Black Muslims, have no race doctrine, even though the vast majority of its about 1,000 members are Black. Because the faith requires constant study, many of its members are educated members of the Black middle class.

Its members are described as being peaceful, sincere and very calm. They do little to attract new members to their faith. But like the Black Muslims, Hanafi Moslems do not believe in turning the

other cheek.

Asked if he feared further attacks, Khaalis replied, "I don't fear anything—man or beast."

The Black Muslims, with a reported 250,000 members and business and commercial holdings estimated at \$75 million, are probably the most powerful of all Muslim sects in the U. S. Founded in the



Malcolm X was founder of Orthodox Moslem sect in New York.

1930s by Elijah Muhammad, the sect is open only to Blacks and teaches that the white man is the devil, while the Black man is the rightful king of the earth, as well as the original man.

Although this sect is strong on self-defense, to the point that its male members are highly trained in karate, its doctrines instruct followers that they should attack only in self-defense.



Brown is pictured with his wife during a New Orleans visit.

MR. & MRS.

Exclusive photo shows Brown as he fights to regain health.



MRS. H. RAP

Mrs. Lynn Brown, the wife of civil rights activist H. Rap Brown, termed it ridiculous that authorities would still want to try and imprison her husband for "just things that he said."

"All his problems with the law stem from a speech he made, and in light of what some other people have said about this government since then, it is utterly absurd," Mrs. Brown said in an exclusive interview with JET Associate Editor M. Cordell Thompson. "Imagine a country where you can actually be placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list just for voicing your opinion," she added.

Mrs. Brown said she believes that New York state authorities are holding her husband on attempted murder, possession of dangerous weapons and attempted robbery charges only until such time as they can return him to Maryland where he faces charges of inciting to riot; charges which stem from a speech he made in Cambridge, Md., in July, 1967.

Brown, former chairman of the Student National Coordinating Committee (SNCC), was placed on the FBI's Ten Most Wanted list when he failed to appear for trial in Bel Air, Md., March 9, 1970, the morning after a car in which two of his associates, Ralph Featherstone and William Payne, were traveling was bombed, killing both of its occupants.

Brown resurfaced last October when New York City police alleged that he took part in the at-

BROWN SPEAKS OF HUSBAND'S CASE

tempted robbery of a neighborhood bar on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. He spent three months in the hospital recovering from critical wounds, which police claim he sustained in an exchange of gunfire after the alleged robbery attempt.

Mrs. Brown said she feels that New York authorities will not be

the wounds suffered by arresting policemen. Police also admit now that Brown was shot on the roof of a building some distance away from the bar where the robbery allegedly occurred.

"There seems to be no link between the holdup and Brown's situation," one observer pointed out. "It seems they had some informa-



Arrested as robbery suspects along with Brown are (l-r) Levi Valentine, Arthur Lee Young and Sam Petty.

able to prove the charges against her husband, and other courtroom observers agree, pointing to the fact that at the preliminary hearings, the prosecutor admitted that in a police lineup in January, none of the alleged victims of the robbery was able to identify Brown as being in the bar.

Police admit, and part of the record shows, that the police have not been able to trace the gun that was allegedly found on Brown to

tion that he might have been in the area.

When he made his first appearance in court, Brown was greeted by more than 150 supporters who stood in silent tribute throughout the entire proceedings.

According to Mrs. Brown, her husband has given her no information concerning his activities since his disappearance before the Maryland trial which was to start two years ago.

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LAW AND JUSTICE



Penitentiary is ablaze during riot by inmates which left three persons dead and several other inmates and prison officials injured.

Oklahoma Inmates Riot To Protest Their Plight

It was a long hot weekend. Three days. Three nights. Three dead. And officials estimated that it will take \$20 million to replace the 11 buildings that were destroyed.

The Oklahoma State Prison at McAlester looked more like a battlefield than a place where criminals are expected to be rehabilitated. Chunks of twisted metal, fire-gutted buildings and empty tear gas cans were all that stood after 750 of the maximum-security facility's 1,500 inmates had staged their showdown for basic human rights.

"We want to be treated like men. We have been treated like victims of a tribal system," explained Marvin Gibson, the Black man who headed a committee of six convicts who were chosen after the rebellion to meet with state officials to air the problems.

Gibson, a 24-year-old convicted murderer from Youngstown, Ohio, serving two life sentences, told newsmen that the prison personnel had "absolutely no regard" for inmates. He said that the riot had no racial overtones, but that it was the "fourth reaction" at the prison in recent months. Over-

crowding, poorly-prepared food, a "sadistic" medical system and no rehabilitation program were some of the conditions that engendered the outbreak—"this (the riot) just had to happen."

But did the riot at McAlester, like the Attica rebellion two years ago and others, *really* have to take place, or was Gibson simply reciting rhetoric?

Leo McCracken, the director of the Oklahoma State Dept. of Corrections, said that the reasons for the revolt, called the most severe in Oklahoma prison history, had not been determined. He said he suspected that overcrowding and the summer heat had played a part. For example, the cell blocks, built to accommodate a maximum of 1,500 inmates, are not air conditioned against the heat, which is frequently 100 degrees or more in many parts of Oklahoma.

Additionally, McCracken said that only a few months ago almost



National guardsmen and state police enter prison during 3-day uprising. 2,300 inmates were housed at the prison—800 more than should have been there—but the number had gradually been reduced.

Hot air, overcrowded conditions, less than desirable food and allegedly brutal guards seem the per-

Prisoners shake fists at guards in state prison facility after uprising finally was quelled. Prison was virtually destroyed.



Muslim Minister Predicted Oklahoma Prison Uprising

fect script for a non-perfect prison.

Moreover, Black Muslim Minister Theodore G. X said he had warned Oklahoma Gov. David Hall May 1 that conditions at the prison could not go on another 90 days.

"On the 87th day it exploded," remarked Minister Theodore, observing that his prediction had proven true.

How was Minister Theodore able to see the storm brewing so plainly? "Conditions were of such an explosive nature I advised the governor of what I thought the conditions were down there," he responded, alleging that he knew of beatings, the tiny cells eight feet by eight feet, and the holes where men were placed naked with rats and roaches. "I think this is the beginning of a lot of trouble."

Already, the Oklahoma state prison system is under attack in

court for improper treatment of inmates. Apparently recognizing some of the prisons' problems, the state legislature, during its last session, voted almost \$10 million to run the prison system this year, a 100 percent increase.

In other words, officials have admitted that there is a problem. They have allocated more money to improve the situation.

But one is reminded of the silent voice that haunted Attica and the other revolts that have occurred in recent years. Money alone will not change the negative attitudes that some white guards have displayed toward Black inmates. And as long as the guards "treat inmates like animals," as one convict told newsmen after the McAlester rebellion, the only thing to look forward to are more prison rebellions.

Tired after weekend of activity, prisoners rest on penitentiary grounds after officials agreed to hear grievances which were cited by group of inmates.



Alabama Halts Sterilization Of Retarded Youngsters

Although mentally retarded youths in 25 states may be subjected to involuntary sterilizations, in the wake of national alarm over the sterilization of poor persons and minorities, the Alabama Dept. of Mental Health recently agreed to halt such procedures on mentally retarded youths at a state hospital until a court hearing is held.

Officials at Partlow (Ala.) State Hospital and School for the Mentally Ill made the decision after an attorney in one sterilization lawsuit asked for a temporary injunction barring the sterilization of mentally retarded youths. Federal District Judge Frank M. Johnson said in Montgomery that no restraining order was needed since the defendants had agreed to stop such operations until a hearing on a preliminary injunction can be conducted.

Widespread uproar over involuntary sterilizations erupted last month when Minnie and Mary Alice Relf, two teen-age Montgomery girls, filed a \$5 million federal court suit against local and federal officials charging they were sterilized without the consent of their parents (JET, July 19).

But only days after the Relf sterilizations surfaced, reports of similar operations were bared in North and South Carolina and Texas, the latter involving the involuntary sterilization of a 13-year-old Black girl who was a state ward from Illinois staying at a children's home.

GENOCIDE

The Montgomery civil suit which the Relfs filed, ran into snags when U. S. District Court Judge Robert Varner indicated that he will probably deny the requests of both plaintiffs and defendants for dismissal of the \$5 million suit. Attorneys for the Relf girls sought dismissal "without prejudice," which means the suit could be filed again in a different court at a later date. It was believed that they did not want the case tried under Varner since he reportedly already had his mind made up in the matter.

With concern increasing over the sterilization of poor persons and the mentally incompetent, other states were expected to follow the route taken by Alabama to offset further furor over the operations, which have been compared to Hitler's Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Relf with daughters (l-r) Minnie Lee, Mary Alice and Katy at their home.



ATTICA: A YEAR LATER

Conditions of social disorganization, deprivation or oppression are the soil in which the seeds of rebellion that plagued Attica State Prison one year ago nourished. The five-day outburst that began Sept. 9, 1971, left 32 prisoners and 11 hostages dead, thus making it the bloodiest prison riot in the nation's history.

But for all the blood that was shed, all the dreams that were crushed and all the trials that were borne, what was gained? For the most part, nothing. The inmates sought reform. Death was the price that many of them paid to see a change in the "attitudes" of the jailers toward the prisoners. From all indications, such a change has yet to materialize.

"I just wish to hell they'd treat

us like human beings," were the words of one inmate after another at the New York State facility on the anniversary of the rebellion.

To a large extent, racism has been regarded as a primary cause of the Attica rebellion. While Blacks make up more than 80 percent of the prison population, there were no Black guards there. But officials at the prison point out that 19 of the 415 guards today are Black. The prison has a new superintendent, Ernest L. Montanye, who says, "Rapport between prisoners and officers has been making progress, so that we are at least able to talk and get along while the place is being rebuilt."

But the demands that the inmates made last year still have not been met. For example, the

Following rebellion of last year, prison yard of Attica was left full of debris by prisoners who held guards as hostages.



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parole board still does not tell an inmate why he has been turned down and inmates only get from 20 cents to a dollar a day for work at the prison.

"I'm an old-timer and I know my way around. I was here before the implementation of many of the demands," observed Curtis Speed, 50, a Black inmate from Buffalo serving an indefinite term for selling drugs. "But it's funny . . . the more they do, the more there is left to be done. The changes only point up that a lot more change is necessary."

Officials in the New York corrections department acknowledge that many reforms at the prison have been directed at surface things—clothing, food, visiting privileges, the number of showers a week permitted an inmate. "The cross that I'm carrying is that they want all that didn't happen in 50 years to take place in one year," said Commissioner of Correction Russell G. Oswald. "To get the institutions where I want them, I think we're talking about another three or four years."

But critics say that too much of the department's \$25 million budget increase has gone for new gun towers, gas masks and isolation cells, which suggests that instead of taking steps to prevent future Attica rebellions, officials are preparing for a showdown with dissident inmates.

The special commission that Gov. Nelson Rockefeller appointed to investigate the uprising released its report on the anniversary of the rebellion. The commission found that: 1) life for

inmates was degrading and humiliating and correction officers were not adequately trained to deal with the problems of inmates; 2) the uprising was not planned in advance by a group of militant inmates but developed spontaneously; 3) Gov. Rockefeller should have gone to Attica to assist in negotiations between the inmates and officials, and 4) the "assault" executed by state troopers who moved into the prison to free guards was not carefully planned to minimize the loss of life.

Hindsight, of course, is a great comfort. Many can look at Attica and assume that if only this or that had been done differently, it would have worked. But the greatest lesson one can learn from the uprising at Attica is the powerlessness of the power structure to transform itself.

The lesson of Attica one year later is that we cannot cure an ill by treating the symptom and neglecting to treat the cause.

A year following uprising, some things have changed but inmates feel much more needs to be done.

