AMERIKA

Soledad Brothers Acquitted ...

After two years of struggle during which George Jackson was murdered by prison guards, the two remaining Soledad Brothers, John Cluchelette and Plosta Drugino were acquitted of all changes brought against them by the State of California. The acquittal came after a 17 week trial during which the prosecution's entire case was based on bribery and coercion of witnesses (see centre pages).

... But Not Free

Johnson Cluchelette was granted parole to begin April 20th 1970. Now that he has spent two years in maximum confinement since then and been acquitted by jury of the charges against him, he should be set free IMMEDIATELY. But it is the discretion of the Adult Authority, a group of middle class white appointed by Governor Reagan that amount to a former policemen, prosecutors, FBI and prison personnel with the exception of a retired dentist. Researcher Jessica Williams and others have concluded that the total control over prisoners (both in prison and out on parole) on many factors, including the crimes for which they have been tried in court of law and acquitted (see centre pages) FREE JOHN CLUBEETTE!

Plosta has another court battle ahead, that is to say multiple capital charges brought against him and 5 other brothers in San Quentin because of the deaths of 3 guards and 3 prisoners on the day George Jackson was murdered by San Quentin guards. (see SAN QUENTIN on page 3)

Angela's Trial Begins

Angela Davis's trial for "murder and kidnapping" opened in the San Jose court house in Santa Clara County, California on May 3rd 1971. Few days after Judge Wickersham reluctantly granted her bail while the Supreme Court overturned the death penalty in California - ostensibly the reason for refusing her bail beforehand.

The state moved the case from Marin to the white middle class suburb of Santa Clara in December 1972 because "security is better there". In fact it was an effort to placate the Marin tax payer but still be sure of a white middle class jury. They were successful and the prosecution opened their case before an all-white jury on March 24th.

The prosecution's case so far as been based on evidence including the trial of Angela Davis herself as well as the courtroom where the brothers were shot and killed by theguards and racially and class repression. They face charges of murder and terrorism as the state continues its massive reaction of repression on the prison liberation movement. More Info: PF 60099-409 CORRIGERS, I Pesualia, 309-18 86th Drive, Queen's Village, New York 11427. (See ATTICA page 5-10)

Black Panther Party Still Active & Hunted By Pigs

The Black Panther Party held a three day Survival Conference in Oakland on March 21st, 30th and 31st to publicize their new direction. Since April 17th 1971 when Huey Newton published a statement on "The definition of the Black Panther Party from the black community" the Party has been putting the emphasis on the need for community "survival programs" to bring the black community out of the degradation which white America has condemned them to and make it ready for revolutionary change. Survival programs include free breakfast programs, free bus services to prisons, legal aid, free education, free clothing and shoes, free medical and home maintenance service. They are also doing a voter registration drive to get black people to vote in the 1972 elections.

As the rally of over 10,000 people were registered to vote and over 1,000 received grants for Sickle Cell Anemia (a hereditary blood disease which afflicts black people) from the staff of the George L Jackson Health Clinic.

George Jackson was a field marshall in the Black Panther Party and moneey from his new book IN MY EYE helped to fund the Survival Conference.

Huey P Newton, Bobby Huggins and Brenda Huggins are now free and working for the Party in Oakland. David Hilliard, chief of Staff of the Black Panther Party is however still being imprisoned. He is still pending appeal of his ten year sentence for "assaulting" a pig when Bobby Huggins was killed by pigs on April 6th 1968. The State has now indicted him for perjury through a grand jury because he claimed $350 for court transcriptions on the ground. The perjury charge was taken up by the grand jury in April 1969. The party is now appealing his conviction but they still are not free. They too are also appealing the State's attempt to harass financial supporters of the Black Panther Party by subpoenaing them to appear before the Grand Jury.

Jacksons Continue To Petition UN

Third world nations have responded to the Jackson's petition for an investigation of the concentration camp techniques being used in the black America and the murder of George Jackson. More Info: GEORGE L JAKSON FOUNDATION, 7910 69, Berkeley, California.

Tombs Seven Value Overkill Trial in May

The Tombs 7 are seven revolutionary brothers who were selected for "legal punishment" following the 1970 New York City Prison Revote (see pages 16 & 17). The Tombs is the name given to the Manhattan House of Detention where the brothers were protecting physical brutality and racial and class repression. They face charges of murder and terrorism as the state continues its massive reaction of repression on the prison liberation movement. More Info: PF 60099-409 CORRIGERS, I Pesualia, 309-18 86th Drive, Queen's Village, New York 11427. (See ATTICA page 5-10)

California Abolishes Death Penalty

The California Supreme Court 1-1 decision on February 18th 1972 declared the death penalty constituted cruel and unusual punishment in violation of a section of the State Constitution. It "made good its promise to do that which its forefathers promised to do." The move has been opposed by a number of the Soledad Defense Committee supposedly to ensure that they may be hanged killers. The prosecution succeeded in getting a trial on Monday April 10th in an effort to connect the trial with the bloody killing. The actions of the state has been carefully drawn to the sensational press coverage. (Jimmy Carr was to have been a witness at the trial and was murdered by Jan 21st. The presiding judge, Loomis and Richard Rodriguez, have been arrested. The two men allegedly stole from New York City banks and had separate bank accounts in their possession suggesting that they may be hired killers. The case was abandoned by the state.)

Britannia

I wouldn't say I was a racist - I just don't like black people!

See Pages 14, 15, 16.
Ruchell Magee

Ruchell Magee, the only revolutionary brother to survive the August 7th 1970 Slave Rebellion at the Marin Courthouse (see p6). Four other black brothers were killed by prison guards who also killed a judge (Nalley) whom the brothers had taken hostage in an attempt to publicise the racism & brutality suffered by the poor, the black and the brown in American courts and prison. Ruchell is now facing a mandatory capital sentence for "murder and kidnap". Pre-trial hearings are being held in the Marin courthouse.

Ruchell Cleonie Magee is 31 and has been in prison since he was 15. He taught himself to read and write when he was 21 and has since been fighting for legal justice for all political prisoners. In his present trial he has refused court appointed lawyers, been denied the right to defend himself, has been gagged many times in the courtroom and is forced to sit with his hands chained together and his feet chained to the floor. He was originally made a co-defendant with Angela Davis but his case has now been severed and his trial will not begin until Angela's trial is over. Meanwhile he is fighting pre-trial motions & using every occasion to expose fraud and racism in the court.

GUERRILLA FIGHTER IN THE COURTROOM

Ruchell has just won (March 21st) the right to be his own co-counsel in his trial for kidnapping and murder arising out of the Slave Rebellion of August 7th 1970. This move comes after months and months of trying to overcome the prejudice of white judges and counteract the prosecution's case that he is nothing more than an incompetent moron.

The court has appointed one of his original attorneys, Robert Carrow, as his co-counsel. Ruchell has won the respect of many attorneys, including Carrow, over the past months of struggle and it is likely that Carrow will let Ruchell run the defence strategy.

He has also won the right to appeal his 1965 life sentence which he has been fighting for the last seven years. He is holding this in abeyance at the moment and still fighting to have his case removed from the state to the federal courts - the only place he claims he could expect racial prejudice and social bias to be at a minimum. There are precedents for this removal but they took place in Deep South states and California judges refuse to admit that California courts are racist...

Ruchell has been fighting racism and brutality in the California courts and prisons for 9 years. For him the August 7th uprising was the justified rebellion of slaves. Even though, as a lifer, he faces an automatic capital sentence, Ruchell is refusing to capitulate to the state and is using his case to dramatize the closed trap that black people face in the ghettos and the prisons. He is literally making his life to pursue this course because he is still imprisoned in San Quentin at the mercy of the very people whose inhumanity he is determined to expose. And he is assisting the San Quentin 6 in preparation of their legal defense since they cannot afford lawyers (see p3).

MANY PRISONERS FEEL THAT THEY SHOULD GET ON THE STREETS BEFORE PARTICIPATING IN THE BLACK MOVEMENT.


A DYNAMIC FORCE RENDERS US POWERLESS TO ACCEPT POWERLESSNESS. WE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE BOTTOM FEEL THAT WE DON'T HAVE THE LIBERTY TO CHOOSE BATTLE GROUNDS FROM WHICH TO SOLDIER SINCE ON BECOMING AWARE OF OUR BLACKNESS, FROM THAT MOMENT ON WE STARTED ACTING AS RESPONSIBLE BLACK MEN.

Ruchell Magee 1971

OFF THE OPPRESSOR!

FREE THE OPPRESSED!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BROTHER RUCHELL CONTACT FRIENDS OF SOLEDAD
THE MARIN SLAVE REBELLION
AUGUST 7TH 1970

The events of August 7th must be understood by everyone—both because they form a great heroic event in the struggle for freedom from racist repression and because they form the basis on which the State of California is attempting to punish and silence Angela Davis and Ruthell Magee.

The State’s motive of repression and revenge is obvious, otherwise why not try the man who did all THE KILLING on August 7th, who disobeyed orders, supposedly, and killed Judge Haley, three black free -dom fighters and paralyzed the white DA, Garry Thomas, for life.

Garry Thomas himself has confessed to shooting Jonathan James, William and Ruthell although they didn’t hurt or threaten DA.

People involved in events of August 7th, 10:45 - 11:21 am

James McClain 37 year old black man who had spent most of his adult life in prison on charges of vagrancy, larceny and shoplifting. Sent to San Quentin for “assaulting a policeman” in the black ghetto of Oakland.

William Christmas 27 year old black man first sent to prison for a theft when he was 17. Spent further time for burglary and possession of grass. Sent to San Quentin in 1964 for 2nd degree burglary. In and out of isolation for his political views and activity.

Ruthell Magee 30 year old black man first sent to prison aged 15 in Louisiana on trumped up charge of “raping a white woman”. Life sentence in 1963 for stealing $10 in a moving vehicle (technically kidnap). Taught himself to read and write in prison, became politicized, and acted as “prison lawyer” for protests against brutal and biased system.

Jonathan Jackson 17 year old black man. Student at Pasadena High School. Active in political defence of the Soledad Brothers, one of whom was his brother George. Visited court trials of black defendants throughout California in 1970, saw callous racist sentencing with no legal redress for the poor.

Harold Haley middle aged black Department of Public Prosecution.

Rudy Thomas middle aged white superior public prosecutor who had brought James McClain up for a second trial on a purely punitive assault charge.

Three jurors all white women besides judges’ peers.

Conduct of the trial of James McClain

James McClain was accused of assaulting a guard during an inmate protest against the beating and murder of inmate Fred Ellis by San Quentin guards in February 1970. Naturally the guards were never punished.

Ruthell Magee filed a legal complaint for wrongful death but like his other legal petitions against injustice and brutality over many years, it was ignored by the courts. Inmates were left with no alternative than to stage a protest in the prison.

This was harshly put down by guards who then charged McClain with assault. McClain was tried May 1970 but lack of evidence led to a hung jury. However, the prison and the DA, Garry Thomas, forced the brother to submit to another trial to be held in Aug.

Also in San Quentin in August 1970 were the Soledad Brothers, three black men facing possible death sentences because of their political activities in Soledad Prison. The charges arose after a white guard was killed when another was exonerated without trial for murdering three unarmed black prisoners.

The Soledad Brothers had been beaten and threatened with death in prison and denied most civil rights other than minimal comforts. One of them, George Jackson, faced a mandatory death sentence because he was already serving an indeterminate life sentence and had been denied parole for ten years because of his revolutionary politics.

August 7th 1970

10.45am: Jonathan Jackson walked into James McClain’s trial carrying a flight bag containing 4 guns. McClain was chained in the dock. Magee was testifying as defense witness. McClain was coming to be called as a witness.

10.47am: Jonathan stood up, gun in hand, and said “This is it. I’ve got automatic weapon. Everybody freeze”. He went to the front of the court and gave McClain a gun and then covered the courtroom. McClain forced a deputy to unchain him and said, “I want my freedom, and help me god”. He then unchained Magee who went to the hall to get Christmas 2 other black witnesses refused to move.

Judge Haley was ordered to call the Sheriff and tell him to call off any police. He did so saying, “I have a bunch of armed cops up here.” Ruthell and James then addressed the jury for 15 minutes explaining why they were taking control, to publicize prison brutality and the criminalCAUSE and the solution to victimize black people.

The four brothers then selected hostages - the judge, the state prosecutor and three white jurors. They taped a shotgun to one judge’s neck and moved him down to the parking lot and got into a yellow rented van.

“We are the revolutionaries”

Before they left the courtroom they shouted “we are the revolutionaries”! Court clerk Frank Kerby said that he heard James McClain say “I want no shooting here”.

As the van drove off police held their fire under orders from Sheriff Louis Mountains but Frank Kerby ran from the court saying “the way back froma session at the rifle range ran to the parking lot and opened fire. They wounded two women jurors, killed Judge Haley with a bullet in the chest and wounded the DA in the spine. The DA claims that he killed Jonathan, William and James and shot Ruthell in the chest. When the judge was fatally hit in the chest he jorked forward triggering the shot gun taped to his neck. The shooting ended at 11.21.

After August 7th

Ruthell was charged with murder and kidnapping and faced a mandatory death sentence because he was a lifer.

Angela Davis was witchhunted by the FBI because the guns used by the revolutionary brothers turned out to be guns charged with murder and kidnappers and was denied bail.
Intimidation in the courtroom

THE PRICE BROTHERS

The Price brothers were acquitted at the end of February of assaulting pigs and resisting arrest on August 26th, 1971 when the mob broke up the Soledad Brothers' courtroom — supposedly to remove Mrs. Doris Maxwell, John Glotzette's mother, who was vehemently protesting against the brutalized condition of her son in the lockup. The mob (California's specially trained riot pigs) beat up spectators and made a particularly vicious attack on Phil Price, the chairman of the Soledad Defense Committee, and his brother Marty. Members of the mob had told Phil they would get him after he spoke on the steps of the Hall of Justice and they did. After beating him bloody they charged him and Marty and put them in jail. Friends rushed bail and a local lawyer Dan Boone defended them without fee. The trial took place in February & police lies were exposed when the defence introduced some TV newsreel footage which showed a San Francisco sheriff clubbing Phil over the head and knocking him to the ground.

The August 26th attack was designed to intimidate spectators from going to the trial, justify the state's paranoid security measures and get at the leaders of the Soledad Defense Committee.

JIMMY CARR

On April 6th, 1971 Jimmy Carr and two others jumped up in the San Francisco courtroom to defend George Jackson who was being clubbed by ten court bailiffs for karate chopping one who had repeatedly tried to tear from his hands a copy of the Black Panther paper.

George had his teeth and glasses broken and

he and John and Fleeta were dragged from the courtroom and beaten in an adjacent holding cell. Jimmy Carr was arrested and thrown into jail.

The whole incident was aimed at punishment of any attempt by the Brothers to fight for their rights in public, and intimidation of their supporters. Jimmy was kept in jail for nine months before being released on restrictive parole in January, 1972, by which time George Jackson was dead. Jimmy was also assassinated, on April 6th, 1972.

Jimmy was a close friend and cell-mate of George. He had been politicalised by him. Prison authorities split them up (physically) in 1965 because they were "agitators and organisers". He was released in December, 1970 when he had been a junior instructor at Santa Cruz University and worked for the defence of all political prisoners and the formation of a black revolutionary vanguard. Of his first meeting with George he said:

"I ran into a fellow by the name of George Jackson — oh, back in 1959 — and a very different type of Black man, because he never carried himself like other Black men... George was a different type of fellow; you know, like in those days, you had no Panthers, you had no nationalists, that we knew anyway, you know. Like people never, we never know anything about Dubois or Garvey or nothing like this, because it wasn't taught to us in school so therefore we never knew... At the time I couldn't read or write, or anything like this, you know. Let me see, I was to find out later that George was a very selfless person, selfless in that George would go out of his way to help anyone. Like George started me to writing. He taught me my basic grammar, basic mathematics, and all this stuff. He time with me... in things that I really needed help in, and he started bringing me up to a stature that I could respect."
Aseta Simms Murdered

Mrs Aseta Simms, a 42-year-old black woman and mother of 6 children, was murdered while being held in the Stoke Newington Police Station on May 13th, 1971. At 11.30 that night she was picked up by the police whilst on her way home to Tottenham. She was taken to the Police Station and an hour later was dead. The police claim she died of alcohol poisoning although 2 separate doctors' reports state that the amount of alcohol in her blood was certainly not fatal. Injuries to her face and a swollen brain are irrefutable proof that Mrs Simms was attacked whilst in the Police Station. At the inquest held on June 10th 1971 the coroner told the jury that the cause was a special one, and to establish the point, retired with them to consider the verdict. (A highly unusual event). They declined death by suicide.

The Black Unity and Freedom Party (BUPF) are organizing protests and demanding investigations into the murder of Aseta Simms. INFORMATION FROM BUPF, 31 Harlesden Road, NW6.

Brother Murdered In Prison

16 year old brother Bourne (Lawrence Bartley) who was serving a 3 months sentence in HM Detention Centre Oxford was murdered there shortly before he was due to return home. His mother, Mrs Bar-ley, was refused permission to see his entire body, but she observed that her son had a swollen jaw and that his mouth and nose were smeared with blood. The "inquest" held in the Oxford Coroner Court did not declare that Brother Bourne had died from poison; however 2 doctors, both representing the state, could not explain how a youth who had been declared healthy throughout his 3 months in detention suddenly developed a disease in which his organs became inflamed. Although the suggestion that Brother Bourne had suffered physical attacks from the screws was strongly denied, no attempt was made to explain his swollen jaw and the bloodstains on his face.

INFORMATION FROM 35 Shakespeare St. NW2.

Joshua Francis Beaten, Charged and Railroaded to Prison

Joshua Francis is a 42-year-old black man who was sentenced to 3 months imprisonment on March 7th for allegedly assaulting 2 pigs. Whilst in bed sick on Sunday morning November 2nd last year he was savagely beaten by 4 rastas, one of whom was a policeman. Reinforcements were called. He was arrested at Kings College Hospital and received over 20 stitches and was treated for severe bruising. Although Brother Francis has no previous convictions he was held without bail for 14 days. He was convicted by an all white jury and sent to Brixton Prison. He is still very ill in prison and the fight for his immediate release is being organized by the DEMOCRATIC DEFENDERS COMMITTEE. Please send to above.

Roddy Kentish Railroaded

Brother Rodwell Kentish was given an 18 months prison sentence on April 17th. Roddy was one of the defendants in the notorious frame-up trial (The Mangrove 7) who spent 9 weeks at the Old Bailey last year proving the lies and brutality and misuse of police in the Notting Hill area. This latest appearance at the Old Bailey was for the violent and absurd charge of attempted murder of PC Lewis when Lewis arrested Brother Roddy on the mangrove charges last year. And in case you didn't get a conviction on this they brought 2 additional charges of assault and possession of an offensive weapon. Although Lewis and Pulley (the arch oppressor of the Black community in Notting Hill over the last 10 years) were proved to be such dangerous liars during the Mangrove trial the judge chose to believe their testimony and not Brother Roddy's and his witnesses'. The judge was Belford Stevenson, a notoriously racist, right wing Conservative (who in a recent case involving a Pakistani defendant — when told that he had returned to Pakistan — said that it was the best

Metro Brothers To Face Courts

Following an offensive by over 60 police, accompanied by dogs, against the Metro Youth Club in Notting Hill on May last year, 11 young brothers were arrested and will appear at the Old Bailey in May this year.

The police violence started when they tried to arrest 2 young brothers who were outside the Club for allegedly carrying offensive weapons (2 pieces of thin wood). After the brothers managed to get inside the Club and had barricaded the doors, the police then called reinforcements: 8 buses and over 50 plain clothes and uniformed police. By now many people had gathered on the pavement; they were immediately harassed by the police in their usual manner. Later, when the police had given their 'orders that no arrests would be made, the brothers and sisters started coming out of the Club. Immediate attacks and arrests were made by the pigs. One brother was knocked over by a Black Marks — both his legs were broken, head bleeding and ribs badly bruised. This police violence lasted approximately three hours.

Support the Metro Brothers, Attend the Old Bailey Trial. Demand That the Truth Be Known. Information and Sidations From Inf.Centre, 103 Portobello Rd. W10.

A Frame Up - Eddie Leointe Jailed

One of the spectators at Roddy's trial, Brother Eddie Leointe of the BNP, was charged with contempt of court on April 17th, accused of passing out a leaflet. Although 2 other people claimed responsibility for it, he was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment without even a trial, the right of legal representation, or the right of appeal. This is an example of police fascism, and not as isolated one.

Put out by Friends of Soledad, 12 Little Newport Street, London, WC2 01-734 8508. Friends of Soledad is raising funds for the Soledad Brother's. Suchell Magee, and the San Quentin Six. Literature, Posters, Badges and other information available.