

REPRESSION

New Haven Branch
Black Panther Party
35 Sylvan Avenue
New Haven, Conn. 06519

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
On May 22, eight members of the New Haven Branch of the Black Panther Party were arrested on charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder. Since then, seven other Panthers (including our Chairman Bobby Seale) have been arrested and charged with the same trumped up charges. These arrests are clearly tied to the arrests and murders of Panthers around the country. They are tied to the growing repression of Black communities in every part of the nation.

The Black Panther Party is organizing around programs which will benefit the community and educate the people on clearly understanding the injustice that this government has brought upon all poor and oppressed people all around the world. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, who are now incarcerated on trumped up charges, founded the Black Panther Party in October 1966. Since then, the Party with the help of the people has gone forth to implement Free Breakfast for School Children Programs (which serve breakfast to over 40,000 hungry children), Free Health Clinics, Free Clothing Programs, and Liberation Schools

as a means of lightening the burdens that the government has brought upon the people.

Because of these programs, the government is clearly trying to crush the Black Panther Party. During the past few months, more than forty leaders and 100 members have been arrested, some of them are now facing life imprisonment or the death penalty. We see a concerted plot by the federal government, with the assistance of local police to destroy our organization. In reality, this is the only conspiracy. From the record, it is clear that the campaign launched against our organization has been stepped up in recent months.

In March, Bobby Seale was linked to a Chicago "conspiracy" case and placed under federal indictment for conspiring to incite a riot at last year's Democratic Convention, although he was not a member of any of the organizations sponsoring the protests, and spent less than a day in Chicago.

On April 4th, New York District Attorney Frank Hogan announced in banner headlines that his office had smashed a Panther plot to blow up several midtown department stores, a police station, and mercantile, the Bronx Botanical Gardens. A grand jury indicted twenty-one Panthers and bail for thirteen of them was set at \$100,000 each. No bondsmen will

touch these, and the Party of course cannot raise such an amount of money. Meanwhile, the Panthers remain in jail, under maximum security, not for actually committing a crime, but on an extremely vague charge of "conspiracy" which rests on circumstantial evidence and the testimony of informers.

Then, on May 22nd, in a case which police claim was linked to the New York 21, eight New Haven Panthers were arrested and charged with the kidnapping and murdering of our revolutionary brother Alex Rackley, a New York Panther. The police claim that he was an informer. We believe that the police murdered him themselves in order to justify their nationwide raids on Black Panther offices in search for his alleged assassins. Federal agents did in fact carry out raids in Washington, D.C., Salt Lake City, Denver, and Chicago in conjunction with the New Haven case. In every instance, police destroyed office equipment, burned literature and books, stole money from the Breakfast Program, and in their brazen manner, destroyed food that was to be fed to our little brothers and sisters in the morning before they went to school.

Two Denver Panthers are being held on \$250,000 bail not for murder or even conspiracy, but on the catch-all charge of unlaw-

ful flight to avoid prosecution. On August 19, Chairman Bobby Seale was arrested in Berkeley by FBI agents in connection with the Alex Rackley case.

In the Chicago raid, which took place on June 4th, FBI agents blocked off the streets at 5:30 in the morning and confiscated a list of donors, and copies of a petition signed by 15,000 people calling for the release of Illinois Party Deputy Chairman Fred Hampton, who was in prison on a two to five year sentence for allegedly stealing \$71 worth of ice cream bars.

The day after the Chicago raid, police broke into the Panther office in Detroit, photographed documents, and arrested three Panthers, who were later released.

On June 7th, during racial disturbances, police entered the Panther office in Indianapolis and arrested 30 people.

On June 10, a grand jury in Chicago indicted sixteen Panthers on charges of conspiracy, kidnapping and threatening to murder two people who allegedly refused to return weapons entrusted to them by the Panthers. Bond was set at \$100,000 each for six of the thirteen. One of the charges, aggravated kidnapping carries a maximum death penalty.

On June 15th, San Diego policemen shot their way into Panther headquarters, where they claimed a sniper had taken refuge. That same day in Sacramento, the Panther office was torn apart by police.

On July 31, again in Chicago, police used gasoline to burn the office during the pre-dawn hours, destroying office equipment, medical supplies, food for the Breakfast Program, and arrested three unarmed men for shooting policemen from the office windows.

In the effort to crush the Party, the government will use every means possible "legal" or not. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Attorney General Mitchell are old hands in the business of crushing the struggle of poor and oppressed people against the ruling class. The burdens that have been placed upon the people are those of high food prices, high rent prices, and low wages all of the money being used to subsidize a war which is

not supported by the majority of people in this country, a war that is oppressing the people of Vietnam who want only to have their freedom of self determination. Very recently our Chief of Staff, David Hillard, in a press conference held in Oakland, California, made a statement that the North Vietnamese were willing to release some American prisoners of war in exchange for the freedom of Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The establishment knows from experience the easy formula for repression: tie up the Panthers in court with any possible charge, then deny bail and inflame public opinion so that a fair trial is impossible. The Panthers are now in jail awaiting trial on conspiracy to murder and other ridiculous charges. Conspiracy is the hardest charge to defend and the easiest to prosecute. It is the most unfair to any defendant. All of the Connecticut 14 are being held without bail. They have been denied a preliminary hearing and many other constitutional rights. The only thing that the Party can do for our incarcerated brothers and sisters is work with the people in a concerted effort to stop the growing tide of fascism in America. The federal task force set up by Tricky Dick Nixon, and his number one hatchet man Attorney general Mitchell has inflicted such a reign of terror and lies upon the Black Panther Party from coast to coast. It is no surprise that "it (fascism) has happened here". The only question is, "how long will the people put up with it?"

The trial and the steps in defense of our incarcerated brothers and sisters will be very expensive, particularly since such a large number of people have been arrested. The Black Panther Party calls upon all of the people who are concerned to see justice done, to contribute to the:

Connecticut Panthers Defense Fund
P.O. Box 7117
New Haven, Connecticut
For Further Information, Questions, etc. Call (203) 562-7463
Beth Mitchell
Communications Secretary
ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!

THE TORTURE OF PANTHER WOMEN

The repression of the Black Panther Party has taken a new and more vicious turn in the case of the New Haven 14. Six women and eight men have been held on trumped-up charges and exorbitant bail (in reality ransom) since May 1969 in the Nazi-like solitary confinement of the ruling class's concentration camps. Three of the women are pregnant. Two will give birth before the end of 1969.

Bright lights shine in their solitary cells all day and all night. Their mail and reading lists are censored, as are their visitors. They are denied proper food, exercise and medical care. They are denied their constitutional right to choice of lawyers.

In a final attempt to destroy the will of these revolutionary women, the ruling class is degrading one of the most beautiful experiences of women—childbirth. Besides denying them the most elementary human right to pre-natal and maternity care by qualified, sympathetic doctors, they are forcing these heroic women to give birth in the presence of brutal, dehumanized prison guards. (It is bad enough under normal hospital circumstances in this country where all the doctor wants is to "knock the woman out" with anesthesia and collect his fee.) Finally, these same oppressors, fearful of the revolutionary spirit born in these black infants, are going to rip them from their mothers' arms—mothers whom the ruling class deems "unfit."

U.S. Rivals Planners of Auschwitz

The Black Panther Party and N.Y. Women's Liberation said in a recent leaflet, "We reject the State's definition of a 'fit' mother, family unit and 'suitable' home. The State, by its torturous treatment of our Panther sisters has proven itself to be an 'unfit' guardian for these children. The State is making sure that these children will be born into a hostile, brutal and racist environment. The State is making sure that the Black Panther Party will not produce another generation of Panthers."

Panthers and all black political prisoners are fighting against U.S. imperialism for their self-determination; they are not only political prisoners, but also prisoners of war. Yet the U.S. government tortures them in ways that rival the tortures of Auschwitz for their calculated barbarity.

Prisoners of War vs. War Criminals

While tearing new-born babies from the arms of their mothers—women whose real

for hungry schoolchildren, distributing free clothing and setting up health care centers for the poor and oppressed in the community—the U.S. government complains that the Vietnamese's generous and humane treatment of the U.S. pilots they captured is not "humane" enough. Yet these pilots, all of whom are members of the racist officer class of the U.S. military, were shot down in the very act of slaughtering Vietnamese with napalm and phosphorous bombs. But these pilots are war criminals, not prisoners of war, as the U.S. ruling class claims. The real prisoners of war are the Panthers in New Haven and all across the country, Martin Luther, Ahmad Evans and all the black political prisoners.

The Panthers have made this a very real issue by beginning negotiations with the Vietnamese for an exchange of Huey Newton and Bobby Seale for some of the war criminals held by them. This move, as clearly as anything, emphasizes the inseparability of the Vietnamese and black liberation struggles. The brutal treatment of the Panthers in New Haven is but one indication that the U.S. ruling class views the two struggles as two fronts of the same war and so must be the American anti-war movement, if it is to be effective.

Demonstrate in New Haven

On November 22 in New Haven, Connecticut, there will be a mass demonstration to support these black prisoners of war and to demand, along with the imprisoned mothers, that the Black Panther Party be allowed to care for the new-born children; the end to their torture in solitary confinement; their right to choose council; their right to proper pre-natal and maternity care; and their right to give birth without the presence of armed guards. Doctors will be there to demand immediate entry into the prison to care for the pregnant women.

This demonstration also demands the end of the "preventive detention" as well as the freeing of the New Haven 14 and all political prisoners.

For further information and contributions contact:

The Connecticut Panther Defense Fund,
P.O. Box 7117, New Haven 06519
The Black Panther Party of Connecticut
N.Y. Women's Liberation (749-5971 or 227-2617)