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Dear Friends:

We are writing to you on behalf of Dr. Mutulu Shakur and Marilyn Buck. As you may know, both of these dedicated revolutionaries were convicted of all the charges against them after a six-month, hard fought trial. The verdict came as a shock to all of us who participated in the trial and to the many supporters who had come to court day after day during the trial. It was a shock because the jury verdict did not represent the evidence as presented.

Dr. Shakur called numerous witnesses to educate the jury about the F.B.I.'s counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) intended to "disrupt and destroy" the Black Liberation Movement. Those witnesses included Afeni Shakur, the former co-director of the National Taskforce For Cointelpro Litigation and Research and former Taskforce attorneys, Jeffrey Haas and Jonathan Lubell. Other witnesses were Geronimo jiJaga Pratt, Kwame Ture and Imari Obadele, individuals who were specifically named as targets of COINTELPRO in FBI documents released pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. Sister Dara Abubakari testified about the New Bethel Church incident in Detroit in 1969 when the police shot hundreds of rounds of bullets into a crowded Church during a national meeting of the Republic of New Afrika. Fulani Sunni-Ali testified about her arrest at a farmhouse in Brydtown, Mississippi by an army of 200 FBI agents and United States Marshalls in 1981. She also testified that an FBI agent informed her they were hunting for Bilal Sunni-Ali, Lumumba Shakur and Mutulu Shakur and would kill them if they could. Other witnesses, including Dr. Richard Delaney, testified about Mutulu's work in the community combatting drugs with acupuncture.

Ms. Buck called witnesses to testify about her long-standing commitment to solidarity with the Black Liberation Movement. Geronimo jiJaga Pratt and Dr. Richard Fine testified about Marilyn's work with the Newsreel collective in support of the Black Panther Party in San Francisco from 1967 to 1971. Kathleen Cleaver testified that Marilyn travelled to the headquarters of the International Section of the Black Panther Party in Algiers in 1971. Jeffrey Segal testified about Marilyn's work with Students for a Democratic Society in support of men who were resisting the draft.

In contrast to the principled, dedicated witnesses called by the defense, the government's case rested primarily on the testimony of Tyrone Rison, a man who admitted to skinning alive a Vietnamese woman, murdering an unarmed Brinks guard lying on the ground, and committing dozens of armed robberies and

attempted armed robberies. Since Rison became a snitch for the government, his family has received over \$120,000 in benefits from the U.S. government. In return for his lies on the witness stand, Rison will do 5-1/2 years in prison as opposed to the 225 years he faced. He is scheduled to be released in September, 1988.

Before the trial began, Dr. Shakur submitted a Motion challenging the jurisdiction of the court on the ground that (1) he was a Prisoner of War, as recognized by the Geneva Convention and Additional Protocols of 1971; and (2) the liberation of Assata Shakur was a purely political offense as defined by the law of extradition. At the conclusion of the government's case, Marilyn Buck joined in the second part of the Motion, the "Political Offense Exception". During the defense case, a reply brief was prepared by Mutulu Shakur, Marilyn Buck, and their imprisoned allies and comrades who were brought to New York for consultation, Geronimo jiJaga Pratt, Albert Nuh Washington, Sekou Abdullah Odinga, Cecilio Chui Ferguson El, Susan Rosenberg and David Gilbert. The last paragraph of the brief reads as follows:

"We present this brief in the interest of all political prisoners, freedom fighters, and prisoners of war who have been denied the protection of international law, and have unjustly suffered the criminalization of their participation in the liberation struggle. It is towards a just recognition of their sacrifices and just resolution of this conflict that this brief is filed."

With the verdict in this trial, Marilyn Buck and Mutulu Shakur join the long list of imprisoned revolutionaries for whom the brief was prepared. International law recognizes two important principles: first, that national liberation struggles are legitimate conflicts to which the Laws of War should be applied; and, second, that there is a distinction between common crimes and political actions. For instance, under Extradition Law, a revolutionary captured in one country cannot be returned to his/her native country to face a criminal trial for offenses that are essentially political. This principle is codified in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which requires nations to take account of the distinction between criminal and political offenses.

Since the jury reached its verdict convicting Marilyn Buck and Mutulu Shakur of all the charges, many people in the community have asked what they can do to help. There are two specific things: come to court for the sentencing on July 28, 1988 at 9:30 a.m. and write a letter to Judge Haight expressing your opinion of the verdict and the sentencing.

There is no formula for what should be said in a sentencing letter; speak from your heart and/or your politics. If you know either Dr. Shakur or Marilyn Buck personally, include whatever you wish to share with the Judge about your knowledge of

their work or character. If you do not know either of the them personally, tell the Judge what they mean to you politically. If you feel more comfortable writing about just one of them, do that. The main thing is to let the Judge know that Mutulu Shakur and Marilyn Buck are loved and respected by many people from all walks of life and that the outcome of this trial doesn't change that opinion in any way.

Marilyn and Mutulu were both convicted of two counts which carry a minimum sentence of ten years and a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. Within that range, the Judge has a great deal of discretion. We believe that an outpouring from the community will make a difference at sentencing. Letters should be addressed to:

Hon. Charles S. Haight, Jr.
United States Courthouse
Foley Square
New York, New York 10007

Please send your letter to one of the attorneys before July 14, 1988 so they can be submitted to the Judge in a package. Our addresses are listed below. If you feel more comfortable sending your letter directly to the Judge, do that and send us a copy.

Thank you for your assistance. Free The Land. Defeat U.S. Imperialism.

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