

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE COURTS?

except for the celebrated case of Angela Davis From the results of court trials around the country, ~~verdicts and sentences~~, the usual American "justice" is being meted out in large doses. Frame-ups, railroading, wild allegations, flimsy testimonies, denial of motions, refusal of appeals, skyrocketing bail, all add up to the intricate inter-lockings in the U.S. court system.

however,

Today's prisoners-of-war are a new breed of highly political activists; thus pose a greater threat to the power elites who in turn retaliate in kind with a more fiercer and sophisticated means of intimidation and repression.

Brief profiles on some of the cases, are:

RAP BROWN

Rap Brown was whisked out of New York on June 2 and flown to New Orleans by federal authorities and resented to a 5-year term and a \$2000 fine. The charge was that of carrying a rifle across state lines under indictment.

Rap also faces arson and riot charges still pending in Maryland. New York is also holding Rap along with Levi Valentine, Sam Petty, and Arthur Young on robbery charges, attempted murder, and possession of dangerous weapons.

MARK HOLDER

17-year old Panther, Mark Holder, was sentenced from 15 years to life for the alleged slaying of Sam Napier who was killed, authorities say, in a power struggle between the Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver faction last year in April.

DHARUBA, JAMAL, BUTH, AND MICHAEL D

The six-weeks trial of four other Black Panthers, Richard Dharuba, Moore, Eddie Jamal Josephs, Irving Butch Mason and Michael D. Hill ended in a hung jury on June 14 despite questionable testimony. They were charged with the murder and arson in the death of Napier. The prosecution contended that the killing was to avenge the fatal shooting of an East Coast Panther, Robert Webb, who was gunned down on a Harlem street-corner in March, 1971.

CARLOS FELICIANO

Carlos Feliciano, 42 year old Puerto Rican nationalist and father of 6 children, was initially charged with 41 bombings in the Manhattan court. High-lighted with terrorist activities, Felciano wound up with the highest bail given (to that time), 350,000 which was subsequently brought down to \$55,000. (John Thomas topped that amount several months ago when apprehended with an incredible \$750,000).

After a series of legal twists and turns, added indictments, and a double-cross by DA's, Feliciano's Bronx trial is coming to a close. The bombing charges in Manhattan which was reduced to one, will not be coming up til September.

Feliciano, who has long sought independence for Puerto Rico, has become a symbol of the Puerto Rican liberation struggle which the U.S. court and government is hell-bent on crushing. His followers, who have increased steadily, politically, and with enthusiastic allegiance, have moved so through the dedicated efforts of a well organized and persistent/consistent

come a symbol of the Puerto Rican liberation struggle which the U.S. court and government is hell-bent on crushing. His followers, who have increased steadily, politically, and with enthusiastic allegiance, have moved so through the organized efforts of a dedicated, persistent/consistent defense committee.

DANIEL RAHMAN TURNER

Daniel Turner (Abdur Rahman Ali) was tried, convicted, and sentenced to 20 years for allegedly slaying a narcotic dealer in the process of a hold-up--an outright frame manifested by a confession letter by the actual perpetrator. However, Turner's future is still in jeopardy because, to this date, no lawyer has affirmed commitment to the case.

TOMB SEVEN

Three of the inmates of the Tombs who comprise the Tombs Seven (Seven brothers singled out as prime movers in the 1970 October Tombs Rebellion) have been undergoing several weeks of trial in Part 42 at 100 Center Street. The three defendants are: Curtis Brown, who is defending himself, and Ricardo de Leon and Nathaniel Ragsdale. They face a 72-count indictment charging them with kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, coercion, and weapons law violation. If they are convicted on all charges, they can be sentenced to prison for several hundred years. Support is needed in the courtroom. (The reason for the rebellion was the unsanitary, horrendous, and repressive prison conditions, ~~lack of~~ ^{lack of} ~~negotiations~~ ^{negotiations}, and cruel and inhuman punishment; added to the Correction Department's insensitiveness to see and move on basic inmates' needs). Every day from Monday to Friday, the Tomb Seven case is in process in Part 42, 11th floor.

KIMU WHITE

Anthony Kimu White, who was shot 5 times in the stomach by Harlem police last year in April, will be going to trial on July 9 in Part 38 at 100 Center.

At the time that Bro. Kimu was shot, another brother Harold Russell was killed by the police, and a police was also shot and died of his wounds. Kimu was harassed unmercifully by the authorities after being hit; and was removed from the hospital to the Tombs while still in great pain with wound infections. The charge on Kimu is murder.

JOHN TOMAS

John Thomas, former Defense Minister of the Queens Panther Chapter, was given 15 years on a blanket bank robbery indictment in the Brooklyn court. He has been held in the federal detention house for the past several months. His record-breaking high bail is \$750,000.

Clinton Moody and Fred Sol Fernandez are also incarcerated in the feds; along with William Owen who was brought in last month from North Carolina. Jerome Reide and Johnny Cellers are being held in Nassau County Jail, and were moved back here from St. Petersburg. Kwablah Mthawabu of RNA was quietly taken out to Lewisburg, after being shifted 7 times in one month. Alfred Cain and his wife, Jessie, were apprehended in South Carolina.

HEKIMA ANA

Brother Hekima Ana, Vice President of the Midwestern Region, RNA, ~~was~~ the first of the RNA 11, to be tried, was convicted of murder in the Jackson, Mississippi court and sentenced to life imprisonment.

On August 18 of last year, 14 Mississippi policemen and 15 FBI agents conducted a pre-dawn raid on the RNA headquarters in Jackson. In the ensuing gun battle, one policeman died and two others were wounded. This act of self-defense resulted in murder and treason charges against the RNA citizens.

TOMAS MCQUARRY MCCREARY

Thomas McQuarry, former Bed-Sty resident, who was apprehended in St. Louis this past February along with Henry Brown, was just sentenced to 20 years in the St. Louis courts on 3 counts of attempted murder and assault. Authorities there are also trying to pin the East Village killing of the two policemen on these two brothers. One brother, Carter was shot down by the St. Louis police, while McQuarry and Brown were brutalized after the capture.

National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners are asking brothers and sisters to write support letters and character references For Thomas McQuarry to: Judge Lackland Bloom
Municipal Court Bldg.
St. Louis, Missouri

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Trials will begin for Geronimo Pratt in Los Angeles; Ruchell Magee in San Francisco; Rayford Johnson and Cicero Love in Detroit, Michigan; the Louisville Seven in Louisville, Kentucky;

RALPH MALIK COLBURN

Ralph Malik Colburn is serving a 20 year-sentence in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania for the murder of a Vietnamese which he did not commit. Another brother in Fort Leavenworth is also serving a 20-year sentence. Both were suspected of assaulting a C ID agent but charges were dropped when they could not be identified. Shortly after, they were placed in a line-up, "identified," hastily tried (8 hours from start to finish) and quickly flown out of the Nam to Leavenworth.

Brother Malik filed an appeal, himself, before the Third Circuit Court, but is still awaiting an answer. Minus a lawyer, Malik is doing everything possible by himself. Suggestions of legal help will be greatly welcomed. His address is: Ralph Colburn 86708

P.O. Box 1000
Lewisburg, Pa. 17837

*Larry Williams
with the murder
of a Vietnamese
woman*