

Dear Friends,

The purpose of this letter is twofold. Firstly, we have divided up the names of all of the political or socially aware groups in the Bay Area among the members of our committee to inform you all of our existence and our purpose in coming together. The leaflet that is enclosed with this letter will pretty much explain where we are coming from.

Secondly, and most important, we want to inform people of the latest development in the present Special Federal Grand Jury which has supposedly been convened to investigate the SLA. Three people have been subpoenaed to appear before this Grand Jury on August 22nd. They all say they are going to refuse to testify. Refusal to testify before a Grand Jury means going to jail for the life of that Grand Jury. It makes it much easier for an individual to take this courageous stand if they know that the public is aware of their stand against the government abuse of Grand Juries, and are there to demonstrate their support.

At the present time Cynthia Garvey is in the Santa Clara County Jail at Elmwood for the crime of attempting to protect her Constitutional rights. After having been granted "use immunity" in April of this year, Cynthia and Paul Halverson continued to refuse to testify. They were sent to jail by U.S. District Judge Alfonso Zirpoli on charges of Civil Contempt of Court. They were released on May 31st, after having spent two weeks in jail, pending their appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals. The finding of the lower court was upheld by the Court of Appeals. Paul Halverson then agreed to answer only those questions that pertained to himself, stating that he was not going to allow the government to use him in a witchhunt as they had done with other witnesses in the past. Cynthia Garvey, however, still refused to testify and was sent back to jail to serve out the life of the Grand Jury, which runs until September, 1975.

The three who have been subpoenaed to appear before the Grand Jury on August 22nd are Retimah X, Jamellea Muntuz, and Ronald Tate. Retimah and Jamellea are welfare mothers who have four children between them, and yet, when they refuse to testify, they run the risk of also being brought up on charges of Civil Contempt of Court and being jailed until September, 1975.

So in the face of the failure of the FBI to find Patty Hearst, the government continues its attempts to save their image by persecuting innocent people. No crime has been committed by Cynthia Garvey, Paul Halverson, Retimah X, Jamellea Muntuz, or Ronald Tate. Jail for Civil Contempt of Court is jail for political beliefs, nothing more.

The battle is not over because Richard Nixon is out of office, the Struggle goes on. The apparatus that was established by the Nixon Administration to squelch dissent is still alive and functioning and it is only through public outrage that it can be stopped. That is why we urge your support at the demonstration in front of the Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate (between Polk and Larkin), at 9:00 am, Thursday, August 22, 1974.

If you have any questions about Grand Juries, or would like to have someone from our Committee come to one of your meetings, or if you would like to help us in our efforts to stop Grand Jury repression please call us at: 848-7200. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Committee to End
Grand Jury Repression
c/o 2222 Grove Street
Berkeley, CA 94704

