

**Nuh Washington
Political Prisoner**

**1 of the New York 3
which includes Herman Bell and Jalil Bottom**

My name is Nuh Washington. I am a Political Prisoner. I am the great grandson of a runaway slave and a European woman on my mother's side, and the great grandson of free Blacks from the Carolina Islands on my father's side. Freedom and independence are in my genes. This desire for freedom, dignity and independence is not confined to a family. It can be found in masses of Black People.

Each generation produces those who articulate the desire for freedom, and sacrifice for it. In the 1960s the Black Panther Party was at the forefront of Black Liberation and became a target for the government's counterintelligence program. This program was designed to destroy Black dissension by neutralizing its leadership in general, and the Black Panther Party in particular. As a member of the Black Panther Party, i became a victim of counterintelligence.

I have been in prison for over 19 years because of my political views and associations. The idea that a Black man could express a desire to be free and not submit to racial oppression is a major crime in the United States. If believing in and supporting Black dignity and Liberation is a crime, then i am guilty. But as to what i am in prison for, i am not guilty. This is obvious by the evidence - or lack of it.

The prosecution never contended, nor presented any proof at trial, that i killed or attempted to kill anyone. No fingerprint evidence from the scene of the shootings or from any of the weapons implicated me. None of the eyewitnesses identified me as participating in the shootings or even being anywhere near the vicinity. The entire case against NY3 was built on manipulated, fabricated and withheld evidence. The prosecution's key witness had been brutally tortured into giving false testimony. When he revealed this to the judge privately during the trial, the judge told only the prosecution that the witness was "waivering" and let his testimony stand. Fingerprint reports were doctored to support the prosecution's contentions; FBI ballistics reports favorable to the NY3 were withheld; two women were confined to police custody for more than a year while being threatened with the loss of their small children if they didn't make statements against the NY3.

In light of these and other violations in our case by the FBI, the police, the district attorney and the judge, and in light of revelations about the government's counterintelligence program, it is clear that the arrest and prosecution of my co-defendants and myself were politically motivated and the resulting unjust conviction was illegally obtained.

We are among more than 100 Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in the U.S. today who have been imprisoned for our commitment to struggle for Human Liberation.

A. Nuh Washington
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