

The War Against The Black Liberation Movement

LEGACY

Torture has an ugly history in the United States, at least dating back to slavery. For centuries lynchings, castrations, mutilations were used to try to destroy Black people's righteous desire for freedom. It's a new century, but the same old story.



The same people who tried to kill me in 1973 are here today, 2005, [again] trying to destroy me ...

— John Bowman, 1973 police torture victim and 2005 grand jury resister (died in December 2006)

I will never cooperate with these people... They are the criminals. They should be locked up for what they did in New Orleans to my friends.

— Richard Brown, SF8 defendant and 2005 grand jury resister

The climate in the country is much like it was in the '70s. It's designed to squash any form of dissent. If you're not going along with the program, you're a problem ... We're not going to cave in to this.

— Hank Jones, SF8 defendant and 2005 grand jury resister

O F T O R T U R E

In 1973, thirteen young members and friends of the Black Panther Party were arrested in New Orleans in connection with the 1971 shooting death of a San Francisco police sergeant. At least three were **TORTURED** for days in jail and gave forced "confessions" to police interrogators.

Two year later federal judge in San Francisco threw out the torture-induced "confessions." All charges were dropped.

But in 2005 — more than 30 years later — a San Francisco Grand Jury reopened the 1971 investigation. Five Black Panther Party associates, including two who had been jailed and tortured in New Orleans, were jailed again for refusing to testify. **LEGACY OF TORTURE** is the story of these Grand Jury resisters. Harold Taylor and John Bowman (who died in 2006) chillingly describe their Abu Graib-style torture at the hands of New Orleans cops and their lives between that horror and the new "investigation." Fellow resisters Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown, and Hank Jones, and Harvard law professor Soffiyah Elijah talk about the Black Panther Party and the government's ongoing effort to destroy its legacy.

Meanwhile, there is another sinister chapter to this story unfolding right now!

In January, 2007, eight longtime Black community activists, ages 55-71, including four surviving Grand Jury resisters, were arrested again on recycled charges stemming from 1971. Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim (both already locked up for decades), Taylor, Boudreaux, Brown, Jones, Richard O'Neal, and Francisco Torres are the **San Francisco 8**.

Find out why thousands of people in San Francisco and around the U.S. are rallying to their support when you see **LEGACY OF TORTURE**.



In the Freedom Archives' documentary, *Legacy of Torture: The War Against the Black Liberation Movement*, longtime activists Hank Jones, John Bowman, Ray Boudreaux, Harold Taylor, and Richard Brown describe police torture and how they were targeted for their political activities. [Scott Braley Photo]



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