

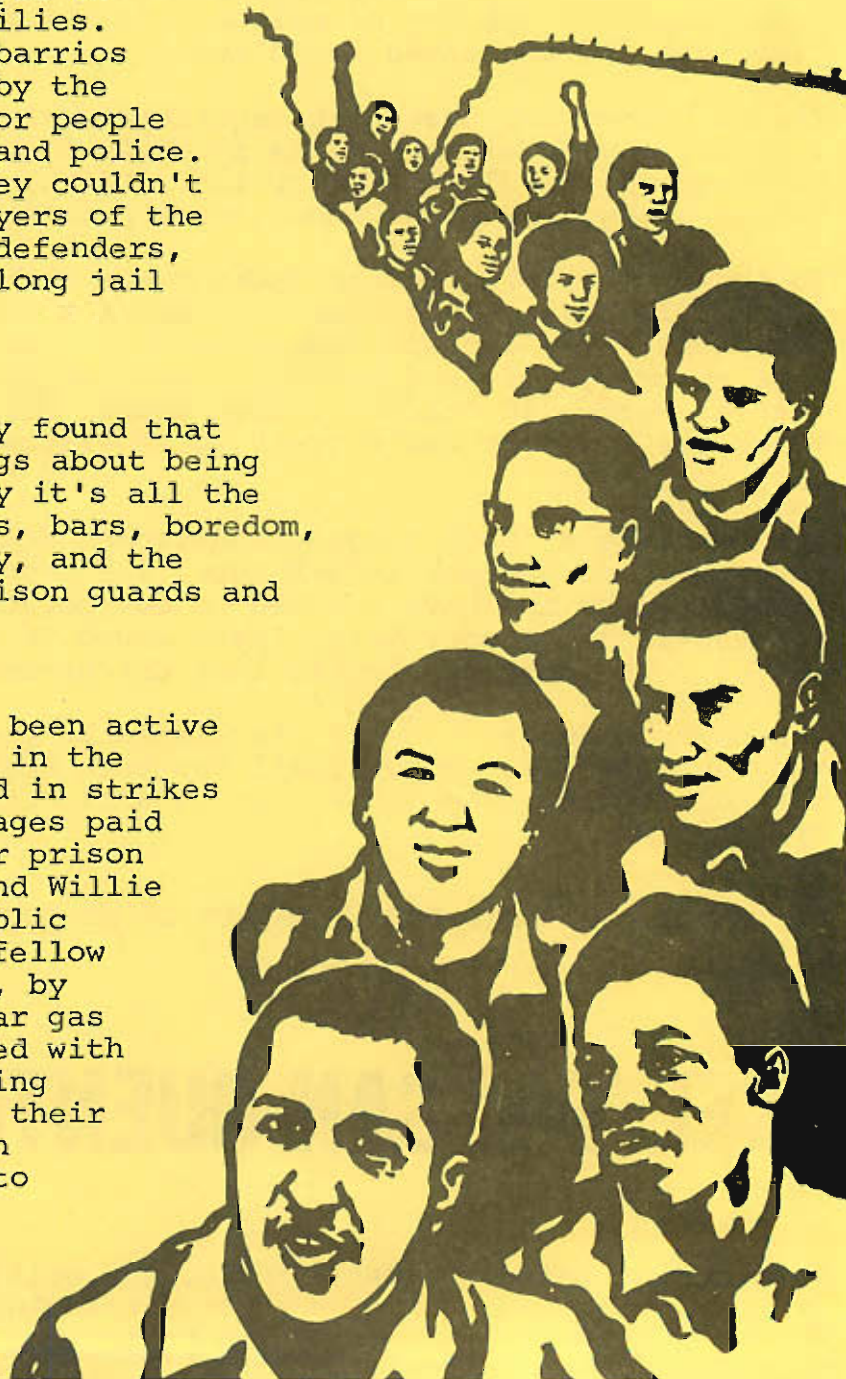
WHO ARE THE SAN QUENTIN 6 ?

Johnny Larry Spain, Willie Tate, Hugo Pinell, David Johnson, Fleeta Drumgo, Luis Talamantez. These 6 are prisoners in solitary confinement at San Quentin prison.

The 6, like almost all people in prison, come from poor families. Raised in the ghettos and barrios of Amerika, they were hit by the lack of opportunity for poor people and the racism of schools and police. When they were arrested they couldn't afford the high-priced lawyers of the rich. So they got public defenders, rotten deals, and finally long jail sentences.

When the 6 got to jail they found that prison is all the bad things about being poor in this society. Only it's all the time with no way out--walls, bars, boredom, cold cement floors, low pay, and the brutality and racism of prison guards and officials.

The San Quentin 6 have all been active in the struggle for change in the prisons. They participated in strikes to protest the 6-8¢/hour wages paid by the multi-million dollar prison industry. David Johnson and Willie Tate helped to bring to public attention the murder of a fellow prisoner, Fred Billingslea, by prison guards who fired tear gas into his cell. The 6 worked with other prisoners in developing pride in themselves and in their heritage as Black and Brown people. They also worked to build racial unity among all prisoners.



Luis Talamantes, Fleeta Drumgo, David Johnson, Hugo Pinell, Willie Tate, and Johnny Larry Spain.

This kind of activity could not be tolerated by the prison system. To break those who have lashed out at their poverty and to keep prisoners from questioning the conditions of prisons, the prison system demands complete submission and denies self-respect. Despite the increased repression it brings down on them, men and women in prison have continuously protested against the inhuman conditions they live in and have acted to change them. People like George Jackson and the San Quentin 6 continue to struggle for change and their example inspires many people in and out of prison. So the prison officials respond with frame-ups and increased brutality.

Fleeta Drumgo has just been acquitted on a frame-up for the murder of a guard. Luis Talamantez was recently found innocent of another frame-up of assault charges prison officials had laid on him when he helped break up a fight among other prisoners.

On August 21, 1971, George Jackson was shot down at San Quentin. On October 1, 1971, the 6 were indicted for the murders of 3 guards and 2 prisoners. The 6 found themselves in a familiar position--too poor to hire attorneys of their choice. So they asked the court to appoint Charles Garry, Ed Caldwell, Dick Hodge, R.J. Engel, and Ruchell Magee. These are men they could trust to understand the politics of their case.

The response of both judges McGuire and Wilson was to appoint Marin attorneys and one public defender. The brothers don't trust or want these lawyers and have refused to co-operate with them. Both Luis Talamantez and Johnny Larry Spain moved to defend themselves--and were denied. The brothers are in fact unrepresented.

The court refuses to listen to the brothers. If they speak they are removed. Hugo Pinell has been beaten several times since the hearings began. The judge says he will not interfere with "prison operations".

THE 6 CAN ONLY BEAT THIS FRAME-UP IF WE THE PEOPLE ACT NOW.

FREE THE SAN QUENTIN 6 !

Information and donations: Prisoners Solidarity Committee
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