

**BLACK AUGUST 2006**

by Kiilu Nyasha

***"I am an extremist. I call for extreme measures to solve extreme problems." George L. Jackson***

This Black August commences with the horrific U.S. sponsored, Israeli bombing of Gaza and Lebanon in the Middle East (See page ?) But this time the "*Paper Tiger*" has run into a hornet's nest of resistance and retaliation. Jackson's words written decades ago are more relevant than ever as Hezbollah, Lebanon's freedom fighters, and Hamas, leaders of the Palestinian Government of resistance, take on the imperialist monsters:

"International capitalism cannot be destroyed without the extremes of struggle. The entire colonial world is watching the blacks inside the U.S., wondering and waiting for us to come to our senses. Their problems and struggles with the Amerikan monster are much more difficult than they would be if we actively aided them. We are on the inside. We are the only ones (besides the very small white minority left) who can get at the monster's heart without subjecting the world to nuclear fire. We have a momentous historical role to act out if we will. The whole world for all time in the future will love us and remember us as the righteous people who made it possible for the world to live on."

**2006 marks the 27th anniversary of Black August**, first organized to honor our fallen freedom fighters, Jonathan and George Jackson, Khatari Gaulden, James McClain, William Christmas, and the sole survivor of the August 7, 1970 Courthouse Slave Rebellion, Ruchell Cinque Magee. It is a time to embrace the principles of unity and resistance.

Black August has its origins in the "Black Movement" behind California prison walls in the Sixties, led by Jackson, W. L. Nolen, James Carr, Hugo Pinell, Kumasi, Howard Tole, Warren Wells, and many other conscious, standup brothers who ultimately made it safe for a *brotha* to walk the yards of California's racist gulags.

**August 7, 1970** witnessed the spectacular ***courthouse slave rebellion*** that hit the front pages of newspapers throughout the world. Pictures of four, young Black freedom fighters emerging from Marin County court with guns and hostages, disarming guards, provoked panic among the bourgeoisie and the white supremacists. But others, especially Black and Brown folks, took great pride and inspiration from the sight of such courageous resistance to the ongoing brutality and murder of Blacks inside and outside of prison.

"Freeze!" shouted 17-year-old Jonathan Jackson, "We're taking over" -- as he tossed guns to McClain, Christmas, and Magee. With courage and calm they ushered their hostages to a waiting van, planning to go to a radio station and broadcast the atrocities being committed behind the walls against Blacks and demand release of the Soledad Brothers (Jackson, Fleeta Drumgo and John Clutchette). What Jonathan failed to anticipate was the State's willingness to sacrifice one of its judges and the lives of everyone else to stop that escape. As Jonathan tried to leave the parking lot, the San Quentin guards arrived and opened fire, leaving Jonathan, Christmas, McClain, and Judge Harold Haley dead, State prosecutor Gary Thomas and Ruchell Magee seriously wounded.

Just one year later, on **August 21, 1971**, in what has been well established as a setup, Soledad Brother George Jackson was murdered on the yard of San Quentin by prison guards. During this orchestrated attempted escape, however, three guards were also killed, along with two inmate "trustees." This set the prison officials on fire and they've been exacting revenge upon the sole survivor of the Marin rebellion, Ruchell Magee, now enduring his 43rd year in Corcoran's maximum security prison -- and Hugo Pinell (Yogi), one of the "San Quentin Six," charged in the aftermath. Now in his 42nd year of incarceration, most in solitary confinement, 24 years clean time, Yogi is still being tortured in Pelican Bay's windowless SHU (Security Housing Unit) or lockdown at least 23 hours a day, no contact visits, no phone calls, no company. For more on Yogi's upcoming board hearing, etc., go to [www.hugopinell.org](http://www.hugopinell.org).

As we face the reality of an expanding global war, let us heed these words of wisdom, written by Comrade George in "Blood in My Eye" (1972):

*"...[I]t is the 'role of the living,' of all the innocent, to discover unitary practice and conduct and move against the institutions that close on the oppressed."*

*"Those who have more regard for their own egos or self-interest than they have for building a united progressive left, and those who abandon community altogether in favor of petty interests, are in direct opposition to our real interests. They are attempting a new form of escapism. They're fleeing the objective conditions of their real life and*

*will eventually reach the ultimate contradiction of facing their father or brother, or old classmate, comrade, or wife, over the barrel of a gun. Or they will find themselves in no man's land, cast out by the people..."*

From Franz Fanon, "*The time for talking has ended, the time for acting has begun.*"

Long live the guerrilla!

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