



Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of African American History and Culture

The Black Scholar Vol. 4 No. 2

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[[image]]

MUHAMMAD AHMAD (s.n. MAX STANFORD), national field chairman of RAM (Revolutionary Action Movement) during the mid-sixties, has been long instrumental in laying the foundation for a black ideology. A former student at Central State University (Ohio), Ahmad has worked closely with Malcolm X, Jesse Gray, LeRoi Jones, Stokely Carmichael, Rap Brown, James Forman and Robert Williams in founding black libertarian projects. In 1968 he helped organize the Third National Black Power Conference and was its political workshop co-chairman. Now 31 years old, Ahmad has consistently worked over the years for a black unified front. He is national chairman of the African People's Party and a frequent contributor to THE BLACK SCHOLAR.

WE ARE ALL PRISONERS OF WAR

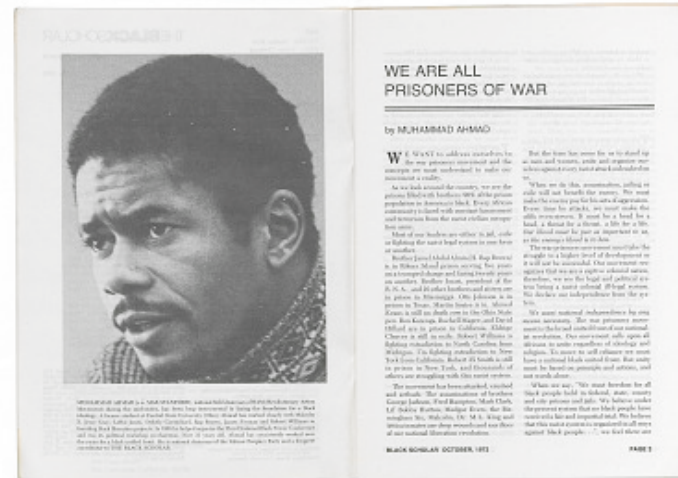
by MUHAMMAD AHMAD

We want to address ourselves to the war prisoners movement and the concepts we must understand to make our movement a reality. As we look around the country, we see the prisons filled with brothers: 90% of the prison population in America is black. Every African community is faced with constant harassment and terrorism from the racist civilian occupation army. Most of our leaders are either in jail, exile or fighting the racist legal system in one form or another. Brother Jamel Abdul Almin (H. Rap Brown) is in Rikers Island prison serving five years on a trumped up charge and facing twenty years on another. Brother Imari, president of the R.N.A., and 10 other brothers and sisters are in prison in Mississippi. Otis Johnson is in prison in Texas. Martin Sostre is in. Ahmed Evans is still on death row in the Ohio State pen. Ron Karenga, Ruchell Magee, and David Hillard are in prison in California. Eldridge Cleaver is still in exile. Robert Williams is fighting extradition to New Carolina from Michigan. I'm fighting extradition to New York from California. Robert 35 Smith is still in prison on New York, and thousands of others are struggling with this racist system.

The movement has been attacked, crushed and setback. The assassinations of brothers George Jackson, Fred Hampton, Mark Clark, Lil' Bobby Hutton, Medgar Evers, the Birmingham Six, Malcolm, Dr. M. L. King and Attica inmates are deep wounds and sacrifices of our national liberation revolution.

BLACK SCHOLAR OCTOBER, 1972

But the time has come for us to stand up as men and women, unite and organize ourselves against every racist attack unleashed on us. When we do this, assassination, jailing or exile will not benefit the enemy. We must make the enemy pay for his acts of aggression. Every time he attacks, we must make the odds even-steven. It must be a head for a head, a throat for a throat, a life for a life. Our blood must be just as important to us, as the enemy's blood is to him. The war prisoners movement must take the struggle to a higher level of development or it will not be successful. Our movement recognizes that we are a captive colonial nation, therefore, we see the legal and political



system being a racist colonial ill-legal system. We declare our independence from the system.

We want national independence by any means necessary. The war prisoners movement is the broad united front of our nationalist revolution. Our movement calls upon all Africans to unite regardless of ideology and religion. To move to self reliance we must have a national black united front. But unity must be based on principle and actions, and not words alone.

When we say, "We want freedom for all black people held in federal, state, county and city prisons and jails. We believe under the present system that no black people have received a fair and impartial trial. We believe that this racist system is organized in all ways against black people..." , we feel there are

PAGE 3

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