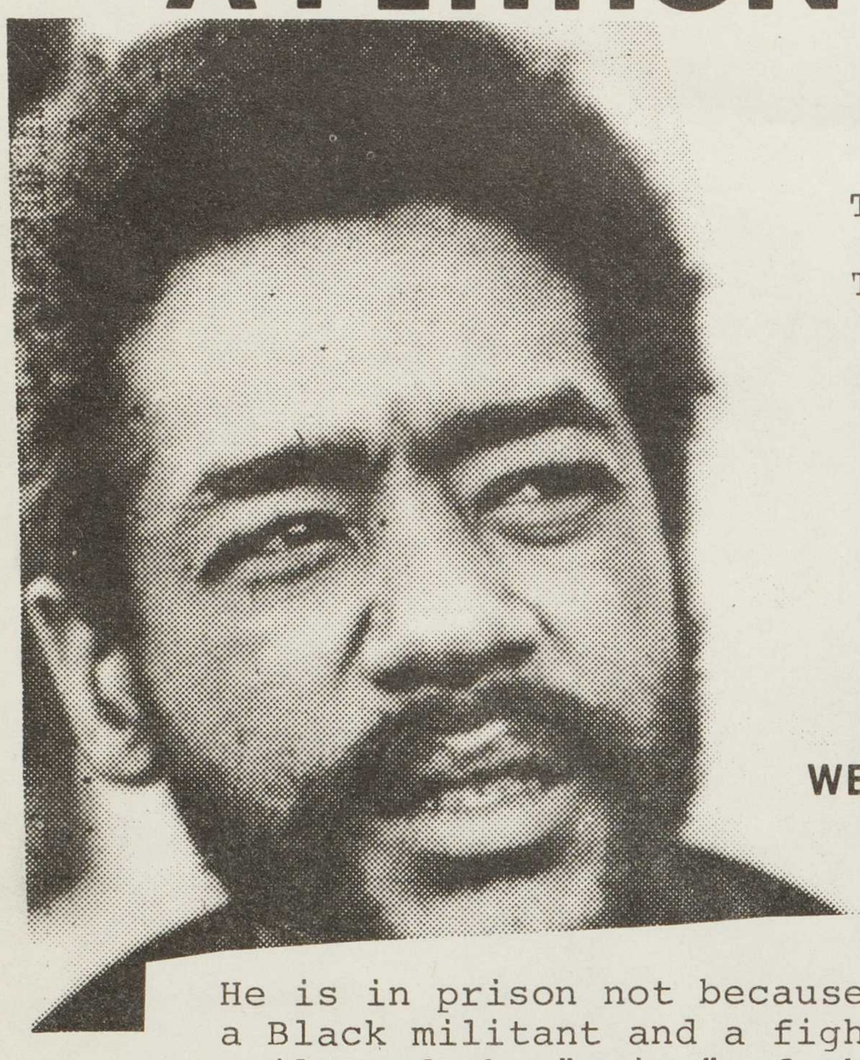
A PETITION TO FREE BOBBY SEALE



To United States Senators Edward M. Kennedy and Edward Brooke

To United States Attorney General John Mitchell

ON AUGUST 19 BOBBY SEALE, CHAIRMAN OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY WAS ARRESTED IN BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, FOR UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION. THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY POSTED SEALE'S $25,000.00 BOND, BUT BEFORE SEALE COULD LEAVE COURT, HE WAS RE-ARRESTED FOR MURDER, KIDNAPPING, AND CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT MURDER. HE HAS BEEN IN PRISON EVER SINCE, HELD WITHOUT BAIL.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, DEMAND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF BOBBY SEALE!

He is in prison not because he is guilty of murder, but because he is guilty of being a Black militant and a fighter for socialism in a racist, capitalist society. He is guilty of the "crime" of the union organizer of the 30's, the civil rights worker of the early 60's and the anti-war activist of today. Bobby Seale is in prison because the "Justice" Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the local police forces are trying to silence all advocates of revolutionary social change. These Federal and local police are trying to destroy the Black Panther Party.

The Panthers are being systematically attacked on every level. In the Black Panther Party's short four year history, over 15 offices have been raided, their files and supplies destroyed, 22 Panthers have been murdered, hundreds have been imprisoned, hundreds more have been indicted and their national leadership has been crippled. Huey Newton, Minister of Defense, is in prison; Eldridge Cleaver, Minister of Information, is in exile; and now Bobby Seale, the Chairman, is also out of action.

The circumstances surrounding Bobby Seale's arrest illustrate the desperate tactics being used against the Panthers. A man "fishing" in a polluted New Haven swamp found the body of Alex Rackley. The local police immediately arrested eight Panthers for allegedly torturing and murdering Rackley. The "evidence" against the Panthers is a tape-recording that has never been produced. The public trail to prove their "guilt" has been conveniently postponed. During the months of delay Federal and local police have raided Panther offices across the country looking for "co-conspirators."

And they have imprisoned Bobby Seale; when Seale's probation records proved he was nowhere near New Haven at the time of Rakcley's "murder", the charges of murder and kidnapping had to be dropped. But the flimsy charge of conspiracy to commit murder is enough to keep Bobby Seale behind bars and out of action.

This active persecution of Bobby Seale and of all the Black Panthers is a racist attack on the right of all Black Americans to engage in political activity, to fight for their rights and human dignity. The frameup of Bobby Seale and the Black Panther Party on false criminal charges is a divisive weapon used to isolate the Black Liberation movement from potential allies and to prepare for a racist, repressive onslaught against the Black community. The frameup of Bobby Seale sets a precedent for ever more vicious and dishonest attacks on all people fighting to end poverty, racism and war.

We challenge and will continue to challenge this repression. We challenge the increasing infringement of democratic rights. We demand that all charges against Bobby Seale be dropped. We demand that Bobby Seale be freed at once.

Name	Address	Organization (if one)
Arlene McLaren	19 Everett St Cambridge, Mass	
Barbara Michel	101 Westin Camb Ma.	
Hal Levin	472 Connecticut	San Francisco Calif.
Kathei Logue	13 Forest St	Cambridge Mass.

COMMUNITY DEFENSE COMMITTEE

Return to 130 Bird Street, Dorchester, Mass.

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