

After the Judge denied their right to be represented by the lawyer of their choice, he tried to force them to begin trial with court-appointed lawyers who admitted in court that they had done nothing to prepare the Brigade's defense. After failing in this maneuver, the judge then forced Castro to start trial with a new lawyer and refused to give him adequate time to prepare a defense.

- \* Felix Castro, the first member of the Brigade to stand trial, is also being denied his right to a trial by a jury of his peers. Castro is 32 years old and Puerto Rican. His jury is all white with an average age of about 56 years. The only two Black people in the jury selection panel were dismissed by the prosecution. No Latin jurors were called. And the three potential jurors under 40 years old were dismissed by the prosecution.
- \* The judge, John Clyne, is a notorious right-winger from Albany. Clyne, nick-named "Maxie," has a reputation for giving maximum sentences in the cases that he hears. He has consistently sided with the prosecutor in Castro's trial and blocked attempts by the defense to uncover KKK sympathies among the prospective jurors.
- \* Most recently, Clyne ordered the defense lawyer not to speak with newspaper reporters or other media representatives covering the trial about the case. By gagging the defense team, Clyne has put another obstacle in the way of getting the truth about this frame-up out to the public.

In addition to the racist injustice of the court, Castro also faces the threat of the Ku Klux Klan. On May 1st, a bomb scare was phoned in to the Ulster County courthouse. The caller threatened, "Whites have rights, too. We're serious. There's a bomb in the courthouse." Despite the fact that the courtroom was cleared and the jurors clearly scared, a defense motion to declare a mistrial was denied by Clyne.

### **No Fair Trial Possible in Ulster County**

It is impossible for Felix Castro or any other member of the Brigade to get a fair trial in Ulster County. Ulster County is the home of the Independent Northern Klans, Inc. Many of the people living in Ulster County work in the prisons or have relatives who are guards. Despite this fact and the glaring absence of any Black, Latin or young people on the jury, the court has refused to move the trials to a different location.

The best defense for the Brigade lies in broad-based, militant support inside and outside the courtroom. The only way to force the truth about this racist frame-up out into the open is through convincing large numbers of people who want to fight racism to join the defense effort. Through our militancy and numbers, we can force the courts and the state to back down from its attempt to railroad Castro and the rest of the Brigade.

### **Join Us! Build the Defense!**

Every person, every militant and revolutionary, who understands the importance of fighting racism and the KKK must get involved in the defense of the Brigade. The August 8th Brigade is making an urgent appeal for support in their struggle against the state's frame-up and the KKK. There is a lot of work to be done. Unless we unite and come out fighting, the KKK and other reactionaries stand to win a victory and the Brigade will rot in prison. Contact the Defense Committee to find out how you can help in freeing the Brigade. United, we can free the Brigade and smash the Ku Klux Klan.

**August 8th Brigade Defense Committee, P.O. Box 524, NYC 10036**

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