

A Reflection From the Bowels of the Beast

Born in a Storm

1970 was a year of uncertainty, in America. The system seemed out of control - it could not hold the loyalty of the public. This national mood of hostility harbored by the people towards government and business came out of the Vietnam War, its 58,000 casualties, its moral shame, its exposure of government lies and atrocities. After seven years of intervention in Vietnam, public opinion surveys showed the people in the U.S. had lost "trust in government," the statistics showed 40% white-collared professionals and 66% unskilled blue-collar workers, did not trust government.

On top of this came the political disgrace of the Nixon administration, known as the "Watergate" scandals. This would lead to Richard Nixon's resignation from the U.S. presidency in August 1974 - the first president in American history to do so.

The CIA had also been involved in assassination plots against Castro of Cuba and other heads of state. It had introduced African swine fever virus into Cuba in 1971, bringing disease upon the Cuban people. Then there were the investigations of the FBI, which disclosed the many years of illegal activities aimed at disrupting and destroying radical groups and leftist groups of all kinds, who criticized and exposed the immoral operations of the U.S. government.

The FBI COINTELPRO (Counter Intelligence Program) operations included tactics of badjacketing (false labeling,) discrediting, forging letters, illegally opening mail, wrongful imprisonment and assassination (sponsored government murder.) Within a few years, these tactics, sanctioned by the FBI and the U.S. government, resulted in the dissipation, neutralization and obliteration of thousands of determined, revolutionary political forces and their leadership, such as Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, numerous members of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army (BLA.)

Many Afrikans who refused to stomach this repression, fled into exile. Assata Shakur, a member of the Black Panther Party and BLA was successful in her escape from a U.S. prison, later to be given political asylum in Cuba.

The calls for reparations, for centuries of economic growth

gained on the backs of African people, were made public. The 2
Detroit New Bethel Church incident, where hundreds of African
people, meeting for political advancement, ducked under gunfire
from police and agent provocateurs, who had turned out the lights,
took place. The 70's were a time of uprisings, within American
prisons. These rebellions took on an unprecedented political
character. The 50's and 60's movement in the U.S. was taking
effect within the U.S. prisons.

During colonial times, the traditional punishments in U.S.
prisons had been mutilation, hanging and exile. By mid-nineteenth
century, the prison was based on hard labor, along with other
punishments, such as sweat boxes, iron yokes and solitary
confinement.

The Quaker reform approach was a belief that through isolation,
a prisoner would repent and reach a state of salvation, but most
prisoners went insane and died in isolation. A warden at the
Assining, New York Penitentiary, summed up this approach: "In
order to reform a criminal you must first break his spirit." This
approach persisted.

On August 7, 1970, Jonathan Jackson (George's brother)
entered a courtroom in San Rafael, California, with a sub-machine
gun in one hand and heart of a lion in the other. Jonathan
attempted to free the Soledad Brothers, Fleeta Drumgo, John
Clutchette and George Jackson (his brother.) So happen, George
did not appear in court on this date. Jonathan, 17 years of age,
then armed the Soledad prisoners and took five hostages, including
the assistant district attorney and a judge.

A few minutes later, inside a rented van for the getaway, in a
hail of bullets, Jonathan was murdered. Subsequently, after this,
Ruchell Cinque Magee was wrongfully accused and convicted for
the death of the judge, despite evidence which proves the bullet
that killed the judge in Marin County Courthouse, on August 7,
1970, came from police gunfire.

In November 1970, prisoners at Folsom in California, organized
what became the longest work stoppage and strike in the history of
the United States. August 21, 1971, George Jackson is shot to
death at San Quentin, during an escape attempt. George was
murdered by the government for daring to be a revolutionary in
prison.

Not long after George's death, there was a domino effect of
rebellions all over the United States - in San Jose Civic Center jail,
in Dallas County jail, in Suffolk County jail in Boston, in
Cumberland County jail in San Antonio, Texas. The spirit of
George had come back to haunt the prison system. George's

death, spawned a climate of tension throughout the U.S. prison system. The most direct effect of George's murder, was the 3 rebellion at Attica prison in September, 1971.

A group of Attica prisoners in New York took over one of the four yards at the prison. Forty guards were held hostage, for five days. Prisoners set up a remarkable community in the yard, that was free of racism. The governor at the time was Nelson Rockefeller, who ordered a full-scale assault on the prisoners. Thirty-one prisoners, who had no firearms and nine guards held hostage, were killed in a hail of bullets. By the year of 1978, 50% of prisoners in American jails were black, 31% had been unemployed in the month prior to their arrest, 60% had earned less than \$6,000 in the year prior to their arrest.

The spring of 1970, Nixon ordered an invasion in Cambodia, sparking the first general student strike in United States history. Students at Kent State University gathered to demonstrate against this war. National Guardsmen are ordered to fire into the crowd, killing four students and paralyzing one. By years end, in 1979, the CIA, playing both sides against one another, are involved in arms trades with Iraq and Iran, in which millions of lives are lost in bloody war, between these countries. In the same year Nicaragua, the very dynasty installed by U.S. marines before World War II, was toppled by a revolutionary army, and the U.S. government seemed unable to prevent this.

Aaron Israel

Into this whirlwind, was born Aaron Israel (aka Aaron Isby,) on September 16, 1970, in Riverside California, the first of three (3) children and only son of Morris Isby and Linda Hilton-Bruce. Four months after Aaron was born, his father was sent to Soledad Prison.

The abuse Aaron's mother received from his father, and after he went to prison, would now, give her a chance to escape and never look back. So, she dropped out of Riverside City College where she majored in psychology, packed up the little possessions they had, and took Aaron and moved to Detroit in 1973.

Growing up fatherless, in a single parent environment, not only created a challenge for Aaron, coming up in the poverty-stricken ghetto/colonies in Detroit and later Fort Wayne, but also would deny him a primary reference of true manhood. To say it wasn't a struggle growing up without a father, would not be a statement of truth. Aaron had become affected by a rapidly rising trend among Africans in America, the destructive social forces of hustlers,

pimps, drug addicts, prostitution and gangsterism overwhelmed the environment of the ghetto/colonies in which Aaron lived. 4

Aaron's mother struggled, moving regularly in the country, due to financial woes and instability. The youngster called several states his home early on. At a very young age, Aaron learned responsibility and hard times. Sometimes his mother could not make "ends meet." During these desperate times, Aaron would go to the corner store on Delaware in Detroit, to raise money for food, by carrying senior's groceries and collecting cans.

Settling in Detroit, which had been known as the automobile capitol of the world, was not easy. Aaron was tested physically by his peers daily. He had to stand his ground or become the neighborhood sissy. The streets, is where this young manchild received his basic orientation to life. The lack of positive male role models forced Aaron to turn to the social outcast in his neighborhood, to obtain the essential skills needed to survive in the world he lived.

As a teen, Aaron settled in Fort Wayne, a city growing and becoming attractive to outsiders from major cities, such as Los Angeles, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit and New York. The influx of various out-of-state street personalities migrating to Fort Wayne, had a major influential impact, on the social attitudes and appetites of those within the neighborhoods. The 1980's brought another challenge to Aaron, the flourishing of street institutions, also known as "gangs" made the streets of Fort Wayne, more difficult. The struggle for territory and control over the "game," created a new intensity of violence.

By the mid-80's, it was common to see 12 - 15 year olds carrying pistols or tommy machine guns. The streets of Pontiac became Aaron's stomping grounds. When Aaron was not in school, he was out chasing females, drinking or getting high, partying in the club or skating rink, hustling to make a dollar. School was never primary, although he play football his 9th and 10th grade year in high school.

Aaron's prominence was in the streets. The streets gave this youngster a sense of prestige and self-determination, something the racist institution of learning could not provide. The stocky built, nearly six foot tall youth, weighing close to 180 pounds, a handsome manchild - was a product of his environment.

The streets bestowed on him certain values and norms that ultimately became his way of life. Unlike many youngsters, Aaron's world was a cruel world. It denied him the right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The hail of gunfire became a daily occurrence. In many instances, Aaron's life was threatened

in shoot-outs, in which rivalry in the streets, made attempts to ambush him by gunfire. 5

His experiences in the streets taught him at a young age, self-preservation. Aaron had to contend with an American society that was in backlash mode since the 60's. Warnings from this white-run, white-defined social order about where he was accepted, or wasn't, where he was to take his displeasure, insightful questions and limited joys were doled out by the white teachers and people in "authority" that looked like him in skin tone.

The Rise of Mental Weapon

The Riverside, Detroit, and Fort Wayne streets, full of those boys and girls, babies when the potential revolutionary social, economic and political changes were ready to hatch, now listened with scorn to the elders. The rise of hip-hop music and rapping over music dominated their hours. Some, bonding together against abusive parents and an uncaring society, belonged to groups called "sets."

Confusion, begun long ago about "turf" being in possession of one group or another, led to tragic shooting deaths. As in infamous Los Angeles, wearing the wrong colored clothing or ones hat the wrong way, could mean your life in the ghetto/colony.

Laboratory produced crack cocaine, yet another false balm for oppressed souls, appeared in the 1980's. Weapons were far easier to get than food or books in these ghetto slums. They ranged then, and do now, from rusty pistols (from the 2nd imperialist war (1940's) to mac-10 and Tek-9 automatic guns, capable of shooting dozens of rounds in mere seconds.

Hospitals, police stations, jails, courtrooms, the television news and Hollywood films were packed with the African youth, their rage unheard by an America deaf to the building explosion. Drug arrests, often for minor possession charges, led to an escalation of prison terms for the poverty stricken and those poorly educated - those who would never be employed to support a family. From 400,000 U.S. prisoners at the beginning of the 80's, the number swelled to over 2 million today. Lawyers, judges, guards, construction companies, private prison firms, parole officers and secretaries have steadily built their income on the backs of the exploited.

Brown politicians' faces enforced the U.S. status quo, denying decent housing, schools, health care, nutrition, while they pocketed burgeoning salaries. Incredibly, sounding like the white officials that they said they opposed, these women and men, with an eye on lifetime "public service" scolded the people for not participating.

One politician who got out of hand and who was eliminated was Chicago's finest and last African mayor, Harold Washington, in office from 1983 to 1987. A former U.S. army soldier, Wilson Goode - Philadelphia's only African mayor in 301 years - coordinated with the U.S. military, Pennsylvania and local cops, to drop a military explosive on the MOVE house in 1985. Numerous deaths resulted, but the ones attacked, the MOVE family, had a survivor go to prison - Ramona Africa - but not the legions of state terrorists, who were not even considered as criminals!

Robert F. Williams, whose late 1950's stand to protect his North Carolina community from Ku Klux Klan terror, meant he had to flee FBI framing on a kidnapping charge, finding an exile home in Cuba, China and Tanzania.

Aaron made the decision to become a soldier in the struggle and prison activist.

Geronimo ji Jaga Pratt, after tours in Vietnam, used his grasp of leadership and self-defense training to command and defend the Los Angeles Black Panther Party from ambush by urban U.S. military attacks. He was fingered for a murder and spent 27 years behind bars, 1970 to 1997, before it was conclusively proven that the FBI illegally entrapped him, suppressing the fact that he had not killed anyone. An FBI agent had posed as ji Jaga's lawyer at one point. Aaron's clashes with himself, over the American nightmare he had somehow survived to that point, over identity, spiritual and political matters, had been overwhelmed by the death of his Mother. Aaron had come face to face with life and wondered how to make sense of the artificial version, all around him.

Ronald Reagan, an actor turned president of the U.S. government, had been governor of California in 1967, when a shotgun bearing Huey P. Newton, co-founder of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense and dozens of armed others, marched into the state assembly building in the capitol, Sacramento. His point, which made headlines in newspapers globally, was that Oakland police could not take the lives of Africans with impunity. Cities, such as industrialized Oakland, had major corporations like Kaiser, protected by mainly all-white policemen.

Detroit, which had just 277 African policemen out of 4,356, was home to multinationals, Chrysler, GM, and Ford. But, the rage after Vietnam veteran Danny Thomas' murder by whites in Rouge Park, and a police raid of a party for two other Africans, returning Vietnam veterans, began a firestorm. Forty-one people were killed, 650 injured, including 85 police, as a fourteen square mile ghetto was sealed off, including the U.S./Canadian border with Windsor. 4,700 U.S. paratroopers (many brown faces) left town by July 30, having enforced Martial Law. A key target of

COINTELPRO, which was drawn up by the FBI during that August of 1967, Huey P. Newton, was shot dead twenty years later. This was also during Israel's soul-searching time. The report came that Huey's 1989 death was by an assassin. 7

On the television, worldwide in the early 90's, the filmed version of police terrorism in the form of one African man being beaten senseless by several white Los Angeles highway cops was dismissed by many whites. Some Americans even said that the cops were acting in self-defense against Rodney King. American justice would agree a year later, releasing the police to continue their job, and a major U.S. city erupted. Whites, Asians, Mexicans and Africans were hauled in for taking food and bedding out of burning stores. Many were seized for breaking into banks they were too impoverished to ever have an account in.

A hurricane of rage poured forth at the police, who had tortured and killed, deported Mexicans, El Salvadorans and Hondurans to certain death, and controlled powerful cocaine shipments and sales forces (often informers afraid to be sent to prison) on the streets. It seemed almost like the 1960's uprisings against injustice. That was the appearance on the surface, at least. There were 12,000 arrests. A popular map of the times noted that "slavery is back in effect."

But before the 20 year old Aaron Israel could gather the maturity needed to handle everything before him, utilize a mind brimming with promising human greatness, he was arrested for two counts of attempted murder and one count of battery in Indiana. He was wrongfully charged, tried and sentenced to 71 years of imprisonment. The year was 1992. He is today, in 2005, 35 years old.

He sits in Administration Segregation in the Michigan City, Indiana Maximum Security Prison.

What Happened?

"My name is Aaron Israel (f.k.a. Aaron Isby,) a Hebrew Israelite and a conscious humanitarian/Pan-Afrikanist freedom fighter. I am a prison activist, and a writer of Biblical, historical, political commentaries and essays. I was arrested and wrongfully charged, was provoked and instigated by corrupted and racist reformatory prison guards and officials. I was convicted by a rigged jury, that was all-white, in which jury members consisted of friends and kin to either the judge, prosecutor, reformatory guards &/or witnesses who testified for the state. My trial attorney was incompetent and lacked sufficient resources necessary for a skilled defense...Subsequently...sentenced to forty years on count one, thirty years on count two and one year on count three. Even

though my sentences were concurrent, the total was 71 years...

On October 12, 1990, under instructions corrupt and racist reformatory prison guards, with premeditated intent to do me serious physical harm, staged a violent attack against me, while I was locked in my prison cell and of no threat to anyone. Prior to this incident and from the very inception of my arrival to the Pendleton Reformatory, I had experienced "a long train of abuses" that lead up to the events described herein. On this day in question, me and a prison counselor named David Miller, got into a heated exchange about legal papers he had been withholding for several weeks, which I had given him to notarize.

Not comfortable with my questioning his incompetence, Counselor Miller became agitated and called me a "nigger punk." I reacted by reaching through the steel bars, which separated me from Miller, and swung at him. In seconds, at the instructions of Miller, I was repeatedly assaulted with pepper gas. At no time did I physically touch or spit on Miller's person.

Not satisfied with a mere gassing, subsequently, a gang of reformatory guards, in full body armor, decided I really needed this show of force. And, that I was going to be made to pay for reacting as a proud black man to being called "fuckin' nigger punk." So what do they do? They bring in the armed militia, with a 400 pound high pressured fire hose, k-9 dogs, pepper gas and riot gear. They proceeded with their pernicious assault against me. I was in fear of my life as I attempted to ward off this deadly attack on me. For offering up self-defense, I was later charged and convicted for the offenses as alleged above herein.

The state's sole evidence was based on prison guard Daniel Jayne's inadmissible testimony. According to prison guard Jayne, who was not involved in the incident of October 12, 1990, I had threatened him verbally. Jayne stated I said, "You fuckers think you're safe, but I'm going to get another one of you motherfuckers." The use of Jayne's testimony, not only violated a standing motion of mine, but was a subsequent bad act, that allegedly occurred October 13, 1990 and could not be used as evidence by the state (which the state violated) to prove my intent on October 12, 1990. The fact the state used Jayne's inadmissible testimony, a subsequent act, may have created an impression in the jurors' minds that because I was accused of "verbally" threatening Jayne on October 13, 1990, I may have intended to kill Darby and Lane on October 12, 1990 and was thus found guilty of this crime.

The state's "evidence" is flimsy at best. There is no evidence I had any or under the circumstances formed the mens rea of attempted murder. I did not attempt to murder anyone. The facts

show that prison officials instigated and provoked me. I was called a "fuckin' nigger punk" by David Miller. Seconds later, I was repeatedly assaulted with pepper gas, then an armed militia of guards with riot gear attacked me with a pressurized fire hose, k-9 dogs and more pepper gas.

Evidence further showed that reformatory guards were in violation of their own protocols and policies, because the classified "deadly force" was not to be used against a prisoner locked in a prison cell. This type of force was only to be used in riots and hostage crises. The fact reformatory guards used pernicious force against me while I was locked in my cell, in violation of their own policy, only further factually proves that their intent was to harm me and that I could not be responsible or guilty of this crime.

The state relied on prison guard's testimony, who was allowed to testify in their prison guard uniforms before the jury. My trial was far from fair. My defense witnesses were forced to testify in full body restraints, while prison guards in uniform stood directly behind them in full view of my jury. My jury was also exposed to guards displaying shotguns at my trial. My judge, Frederick Spencer, was also observed by my jury, engaging in a heated argument and a physical scuffle with my defense attorney.

Crucial evidence and testimony in aid of my defense had been repeatedly stonewalled by the state and I was not allowed to present it before my jury. The state prosecutor and the judge who conspired together throughout my entire trial, felt it was necessary in order to ensure this wrongful conviction against me, to conceal favorable evidence that proved that I was not at fault and innocent of this charge, by forcing my defense witnesses to testify outside the presence of my jury.

For example, testimony evidence I attempted to submit in my defense, was that some of the guards who attacked me on October 12, 1990, had made threats on my life, subjected me to forced rectal probe, that was akin to sexual assault, and had been under investigative scrutiny for engaging in criminal and racist activity, prior to this incident. When the state prosecutor and judge realized these testimonies relating to these prior incidents of misconduct by prison guards, whom the state was using, to build their case, would make the state's case look bad, they suppressed this evidence and forbade my jury from hearing it.

The prosecutor also misstated facts and law, alluding to facts not in evidence to bolster the state's case. The prosecutor is quoted as saying in opening arguments that I punched and spit upon David Miller without provocation. Testimony revealed that David Miller referred to me as a "fuckin' nigger punk," on October 12, 1990. Subsequently, after this provocative racist comment, I

swung at Miller. There is no evidence I ever touched, spit or punched Miller causing him injury. The trial records prove that Miller was never treated or seen by a doctor on October 12, 1990, for any injury. 10

So, the question is, why did he perjure himself? Furthermore, Miller was wearing a riot helmet the day he approached my cell. There was no way possible I could have punched him in the forehead, or eye through a barred cell. Also, Miller's helmet had a face shield attached to it. There is no doubt in my mind that this was a set-up. I strongly believe these prison officials were instructed by some unseen hand, in the Allen County court system, to instigate this altercation and stage the deadly attack against me and set me up and be made to stay in prison. The Allen County court officials who were involved in falsely imprisoning me had been very displeased with my uncooperative attitude. In fact, Judge Surbeck, months before October 12, 1990, had held me in contempt for pleading my fifth amendment rights not to incriminate myself and sentenced me to 90 more days in prison.

Not too long after this, I started receiving a lot of harassment from reformatory guards, which eventually lead to me being placed in punitive segregation for three years and from this point my conditions continued in a downward spiral. My three years segregation term turned into thirty-three years? Other facts not in the records, reveal that a high percentage of the reformatory prison guards, had roots and ties in the city of Fort Wayne...I further believe that those who controlled the Reformatory Administration used my case to ask the state legislature for more money, which would establish a clear motive why reformatory officials agreed to participate in this conspiracy to ensure that I would get additional prison time, and would not get out.

It is my further belief that Allen County court officials knew that I was to get the wrongful conviction overturned, I would be in a position to sue those who falsely imprisoned me. So, to prevent this, they had to ensure that I had another conviction and sentence over my head just in case this happened? My public defender throughout my trial showed his inability to provide me with an effective defense. The lack of resources and adequate funding for the most part, contribute to this ineffectiveness, but my defense counsels incompetence was also a factor.

The evidence in my case showed a history of provocation. From the very inception that I arrived in the reformatory prison, all the way up to October 12, 1990, I was harassed by reformatory officials. This pattern of provocation, in my case, warranted a diminished capacity defense, which my attorney failed to pursue. The evidence of racial slurs, repeated assaults, threat of k-9 dogs

and threats on my life, most definitely proved my diminished capacity to form the mens rea of attempted murder on Douglas Darby and William Lane. Because the state relied on my conduct to prove my "specific intent" (the essential element in attempted murder,) they failed to meet the beyond a reasonable doubt standard to find me guilty of attempting to murder Darby or Lane, further, the fact that provocation was an issue in my case, my actions could not be intentional; and the issue of "specific intent" was in dispute, making it impossible for the state to prove I was guilty. //

It has always been an accepted legal principle, that a person's responsibility for a violent crime is diminished if it was provoked by something that might lead a "reasonable man" to respond violently? Apart from who represented me (the courthouse regular appointed as my defense counsel) it truly mattered a great deal where the state tried me, I was charged by felony information in Madison County, location of the reformatory prison. The number of local residents who worked at the Indiana State Reformatory prison, made a fair trial for me impossible.

Judge Spencer had close friendly relations with top-level reformatory prison officials, in fact he would quite regularly visit the golf course outside the prison walls on the reformatory grounds and play golf with these high ranking prison officials? Furthermore, not one African American lived in Pendleton at the time. I was tried in Madison County. The jury pool was stacked against me by the jury coordinator. There was not one African American in my jury pool. The African American community in the city of Anderson was deliberately overlooked, during the selection of my jury pool. The Indiana trial court, Appellate, Supreme Court and the Indiana attorney general's office for the past 15 years have continued to conspire together to deny me "just relief." In fact, the Indiana judiciary, through their chronological decisions and written opinions in my case, have manifested a pattern of legal fraud, arbitrary and capricious interpretations and applications of the law, a total disregard for the law sworn by them to uphold.

Chicago: The Butcherhouse

The fortunes of African people in the custody of a racist, corrupt system of U.S. injustice, are seen in the foul example of Chicago. This is the populous city on Lake Michigan, which today is the focal point for an international campaign to halt the death penalty in the United States. Recent unprecedented reviews of death row cases in Illinois (Land of Lincoln, who, it has been lied about, "freed the

slaves") which former governor George Ryan figured in, saw a moratorium put on executions. This has justifiably put the spotlight on this city. 12

Before Governor Ryan's moratorium on Illinois' house of death, the highest percentage of people of color on U.S. death row sat in Illinois (67%.) This was higher than Indiana, Pennsylvania, Virginia, California, New York and even Texas, where the former governor George Bush, now U.S. president, helped to make Texas the most murderous of U.S. states.

In Illinois, as in Indiana, many all[white juries sentence African (black) defendants to death. Attorneys disbarred for misconduct and jailhouse informants being used for getting the penalty of death, is routine.

In the 1980's, while globally, basketball fans knew Chicago for its Bulls, Michael Jordan and the champs, a "Captain Terror controlled the streets of the city and those who might never afford a ticket to the stadium." An introduction to an individual in Chicago's "law enforcement" system, Irish descended Jon Burge, is below.

In an article by Rachel Naba, Burge, the vicious type of policeman known to African men everywhere in America, is described~

"Burge received many awards for his 'professional' efforts, including promotions, advances and support from powerful political figures. His unit got results - they solved homicide cases and got 'dangerous killers' off the streets - while the public was made to feel secure in Burge's work to protect the community, he was, in reality, practicing torture on 'criminals' that had the unfortunate luck of facing him. Deozens of poor, African-American men were telling their lawyers and judges of the misatreatment and abuse they had suffered at the hands of Burge and his officers. Methods of torture included electric shocks from cattle prod and a hand-powered generator, suffocation, Russian roulette, burns, beatings and threats of death."

Burge was fired in 1993, after the blood curdling Wilson vs. City Chicago case of 1989. One of his 1980's victims, Andrew Wilson, was said by the state to have killed three police. Rachel continues:

"...Wilson had been sentenced to death for allegedly killing three police officers. He arrived at the County Jail with facial bruising and cuts, alligator-clip marks on his ears, nose, penis and testicles, burns, and marks that implied wires having been attached to his extremities. The staff at the County jail refused to admit him

before he was examined by a doctor. His 'confession' that led to his death sentence, was thrown out three years later by the Supreme Court, which found overwhelming evidence of 'excessive police force.' The city of Chicago was forced to admit the use of torture by Burge in the Wilson vs. City..." 13

Many people who are reading this document, might be asking the question: Why is he using death penalty cases to support his call for support, in his non-capital case? My answer to this question is this: Thousands of death penalty cases across the U.S., including many Indiana death penalty cases, have proven repeatedly that our American system of jurisprudence is flawed with corruption, bigotry and racism. Because of this reality, there is no way without public scrutiny, that I can right this wrong and gain my freedom from this unjust incarceration.

Until Recently, Here is a Brief List of Some Illinois Death Row Prisoners

Burge's victims:

Derrick King - February 23, 1980: Threatened and repeatedly beaten in the head

Reginald Mahaffey - September 2, 1983: Threatened with a gun pointed at his head, punched, kicked, thrown against a wall and suffocated with a plastic bag.

Stanley Howard - November 1, 1984: Handcuffed to a wall ring, slapped, punched, kicked and suffocated with a plastic bag and typewriter cover until he passed out.

Leroy Orange - January 1984, Pants pulled down, testicles and buttocks electroshocked.

Leonard Kidd - January 1984: Pants pulled down, testicles and buttocks electroshocked.

Aaron Patterson - April 1986: Threatened with a gun, beaten, kicked and suffocated twice with a typewriter cover after 25 hours of interrogation.

Andrew Maxwell - November 12, 1986: Handcuffed to a wall, threatened, kicked, punched and slapped.

Madison Hobley - January 6, 1987: Handcuffed to a wall ring, threatened, punched in the chest, face and stomach, suffocated with a typewriter cover until he passed out.

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Grayland Johnson - April 17, 1988: Handcuffed to a wall, beaten with a telephone book, suffocated with a plastic bag, head shoved in a toilet full of urine.

Ronald Kitchen - August 25, 1988: Handcuffed to a wall, beaten with a telephone book, blackjack and phone receiver, struck in groin and knees.

Frank Bounds - One of the original members, died in prison of medical neglect.

Former Governor George H. Ryan, of Illinois, on January 10, 2003, granted pardons to four men, sentenced to death, whose confessions were obtained by torture at the hands of Chicago police officers. Leroy Orange, Madison Hobley and Stanley Howard were released to the streets, while Aaron Patterson, who also had been released has been re-incarcerated, after being very active politically and being set up with trumped up charges and sentenced in a sham trial.

Former Commander Jon Burge now lives in a 4-room stucco house in Apollo Beach, Florida, near Tampa. He is receiving a police pension and no doubt, payment for being a Vietnam War veteran. His government, the U.S. superstructure that asserts that it is supreme to international law, doesn't recognize him as a war criminal. In any other land, he is going to be seen as an official in violation of the Geneva Convention on torture.

What You Can Do

Aaron Israel, beginning in 1996, had initiated his pro se petition for post-conviction relief, with the state circuit court, in Anderson, Indiana, seeking relief from this wrongful conviction and sentence. The state courts refuse to acknowledge fundamental errors raised in Aaron's post-conviction hearing and denied him just relief. In 2003, Aaron filed a writ of habeus corpus petition with the federal court for relief in my case.

Aaron was never afforded any hearing on his habeus corpus, his case was just rushed through the federal court, without thorough examination of his issues or the records in his case. This appeal to the federal court, to remedy Indiana's systematic injustice in his wrongful conviction and sentence, can be supported by ordinary people contacting Aaron. He is still pushing on. With the 2003

Illinois events, the 2004 and 2005 U.S. Supreme Court rulings in *Blakely v. Washington* and *U.S. v. Booker*, many U.S. states must re-consider or grant non-capital defendants new sentences. 15

Aaron stands the chance of getting his sentence vacated during the many appeals sure to follow in the *Blakely* and *Booker* decisions. Donations to a fund that Aaron has begun will defray legal and correspondence costs. Naturally, people across the world are outraged at what is happening in the mega-complex of the U.S. prisons, which Aaron has endured.

Why My Case is Key Internationally

Aaron Israel has a case of significance to the world in that it highlights the human rights violations rampant in the U.S. courts and prisons. Long-standing UN laws and agreements such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, have taken the U.S. government 30 years to sign, though the majority of nations had done so decades ago. This was finally ratified in 1972, but it, like the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ratified in 1994) that came up for signing before Aaron's birth. It's been ignored by the U.S. Aaron's extended period of incarceration in the U.S. prison system, when compared with sentences served by Norway prisoners, is a serious international concern.

Unlike the many foreign nationals who have been publicly sentenced to U.S. death rows, 73 in 1999 alone! Aaron has been given an official sentence that is the equivalent to a sentence of death in an Indiana prison system, despite his innocence. Aaron's case deserves international support, because the same system that has wrongfully executed thousands of innocent human beings, is the same racist system of jurisprudence that has unjustly incarcerated Aaron since he was 17 years young, a juvenile?

The United States was ruled against at The Hague in the Netherlands during 2001 in the case of two German brothers that Arizona executed during the 1990's. Refusing to allow foreign nationals access to their government's consulate officials under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, remains an added horror for prisoners from other lands. Pakistani, Paraguayan, Canadian and persons from numerous nations are routinely denied lawyers that they are satisfied with, or that provide actual legal assistance and their governments cannot even communicate with them to ensure this under international law.

Aaron's situation in the Indiana prison system parallels with many foreign nations and death row prisoners, for the past 15 years or more, the Indiana prison officials, in conspiracy with the racist judiciary, have subjected Aaron to endless isolation and abuse. His communication with the public about his plight has been repeatedly obstructed. His current condition within the DOC is an international outrage! The Indiana Judiciary has abandoned his cause, making it easy for prison officials to deny Aaron his human rights. In early 2003, Mexico with 54 Mexicans on U.S. death rows, charged the U.S. with these and other violations at the International Court of Justice (The Hague) seeking commutation of their death sentence. Non-Spanish speaking lawyers are regularly assigned death penalty cases even when the public defenders have no experience in capital law. There are 100,000 Mexican nationals in U.S. prisons. They are being executed despite outrage at the U.S. from the world.

Furthermore, Aaron attempts to obtain counsel that will vigorously aid him in his legal challenge, has been hindered repeatedly by the highest Indiana institution. The State public defenders, who have undermined Aaron's legal challenges, are under the management of the Indiana Supreme Court and are also paid by them, they cannot and will not serve two masters? The court has often intimidated them, imploring them not to raise legal claims in his case or appeals that could conceivably overturn Aaron's wrongful conviction and sentence.

Aaron's bright intellect and clear writing style has him becoming what all U.S. political prisoners must be, legal minds capable of grasping domestic U.S. and the international canon. Aaron's integrity for Africans in America and within the U.S. prison system has been a clear reality of his humanity and love for his people and humanity in general. He is a voice of a generation born in the midst of the latest phase of America's war against it's African colony. But, Aaron is also one who lived to tell!

FREE AARON ISRAEL!!

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