

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF NEW YORK POLITICAL
PRISONERS: HERMAN BELL, ROBERT SETH HAYES, MALIKI SHAKUR LATINE,
JALIL MUNTAQIM AND DAVID GILBERT**

WHEREAS, Herman Bell, Robert Seth Hayes, Maliki Shakur Latine, Jalil Muntaqim, and David Gilbert have been incarcerated for their political affiliations and actions in support of the Black Liberation Movement;

WHEREAS, Herman Bell, Robert Seth Hayes, Maliki Shakur Latine, and Jalil Muntaqim, joined the Black Panther Party and David Gilbert joined Students for a Democratic Society and other groups working in solidarity with the Black Liberation Movement;

WHEREAS, even while in prison, Herman Bell, Robert Seth Hayes, Maliki Shakur Latine, Jalil Muntaqim and David Gilbert continue to adhere to their principles;

WHEREAS, the term “political prisoner” is accepted throughout the international community;

WHEREAS, the Black Panther Party and Students for a Democratic Society were targeted by COINTELPRO, the infamous and illegal counter-intelligence program of the U.S. government, coordinated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the 1960s and 1970s;

WHEREAS, a congressional subcommittee, popularly known as the Church Committee, investigated COINTELPRO and concluded that “many of the techniques used would be intolerable in a democratic society even if all the targets had been involved in violent activity...”;

WHEREAS, members of the Black Panther Party and Students for a Democratic Society went underground as a result of COINTELPRO;

WHEREAS, New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has the power to grant clemency in the form of reprieves, commutations, and pardons under the New York Constitution and state law;

WHEREAS, Herman Bell joined the Black Panther Party as a college student at UC-Oakland, but due to relentless FBI attacks on the Black Panther Party, he went underground and was arrested in September of 1973 and extradited to New York on charges of having killed two New York City police officers, along with his co-defendants Albert Nuh Washington and Jalil Muntaqim, and after his first trial ended in a hung jury, he was convicted at his second trial and sentenced to 25 years to life;

WHEREAS, while imprisoned Herman Bell earned his B.S. degree from the SUNY-New Paltz, and has coached sports teams inside the prison system, as well as mentoring younger prisoners, and, after 43 years, Herman Bell should be free;

WHEREAS, Jalil Muntaqim joined the Black Panther Party at age 18, and less than 2 months before his 20th birthday he was captured with Albert Nuh Washington in a shootout with San Francisco police, and subsequently convicted of killing two police officers in New York City, and was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison;

WHEREAS, while imprisoned Jalil Muntaqim earned a B.S. in Psychology and a B.A. in Sociology from the SUNY-New Paltz, and has established many programs, such as the first Men's Group for therapeutic training in the NY State prison system, an African/Black Studies program, a computer literacy class, a Sociology class and a poetry class, and he has received two commendations for preventing prison riots, and, after 44 years, Jalil Muntaqim should be free;

WHEREAS, Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim's co-defendant, Black Panther Party member and political prisoner Albert Nuh Washington, died at the Regional Medical Unit at Coxsackie Correctional Facility in New York on April 28, 2000 from cancer after having been imprisoned for 29 years;

WHEREAS, Robert Seth Hayes joined the Black Panther Party following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and worked in the Party's free medical clinics and free breakfast programs, but went underground because of FBI and police repression and, following a shootout with police in 1973, Seth was arrested and convicted of the murder of a New York City police officer, and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison;

WHEREAS, while imprisoned Robert Seth Hayes has worked as a librarian, pre release advisor, and AIDS counselor, and has mentored younger prisoners, and, after 43 years, Robert Seth Hayes should be free;

WHEREAS, Maliki Shakur Latine, first became involved with the Nation of Islam, and later, in 1969, joined the Black Panther Party, but went underground because of FBI and police repression and, following a shootout with police in 1979, Maliki Latine was arrested, indicted and convicted on charges of attempted first-degree murder, and sentenced to 25 to life in prison;

WHEREAS, after more than 37 years, Maliki Shakur Latine should be free;

WHEREAS, David Gilbert first became active in the Civil Rights movement in 1961, then in 1965, he started the Vietnam Committee at Columbia University, in 1967 he co-authored the first Students for a Democratic Society pamphlet which named the U.S. system "imperialism," he was active in the Columbia University strike of 1968, and later went underground;

WHEREAS, David Gilbert was arrested in 1981 after police stopped a getaway car after the robbery of a Brinks truck, convicted and received a sentence of 75 years (minimum) to life under

New York State's "felony murder" law, whereby all participants in a robbery, even if they are unarmed and non-shooters, are equally responsible for all deaths that occur;

WHEREAS, while in prison, David has been a pioneer for peer education on AIDS and has continued to write and advocate for justice and liberation and after more than 35 years, David Gilbert should be free;

THEREFORE, be it hereby resolved that the National Lawyers Guild at its convention in New York City in 2016 calls upon New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to commute the sentences of Herman Bell, Robert Seth Hayes, Maliki Shakur Latine, Anthony Bottom (known as Jalil Muntaqim), and David Gilbert and immediately grant their release.

THEREFORE, let it be further resolved, that the National Lawyers Guild reaffirms its support for the above listed prisoners who are imprisoned for actions taken in support of movements for social justice.

IMPLEMENTATION: This resolution is to be implemented by the NLG Political Prisoner Support Committee, in coordination with the NLG National Office, and the anticipated support of other committees and chapters to educate their members and the public about this issue.

Submitted by: NLG Political Prisoner Support Committee (Benjamin Evans, Daniel McGowan, Judith Mirkinson and Melinda Power) Contact: politicalprisoners@nlg.org; 401-258-4239

NLG Executive Director Pooja Gehi has consented on behalf of the National Office to assist in implementing this resolution.