On Sunday, October 27th, over 16,000 people jammed New York's Madison Square Garden to demonstrate for the independence of Puerto Rico from U.S. imperialist exploitation. This exploitation takes the form of direct colonization of the island of Puerto Rico, exploitation of its mineral resources, and its use as a military base in the conquest and domination of other Caribbean and Latin American nations; and also in the forced migration of over two million Puerto Ricans to the United States, and the gross economic and political exploitation of the Puerto Rican people here.

The rally was spearheaded by the Puerto Rican Socialist Party, and featured as its main speaker, Juan Mari Brant, Secretary General of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party. He denounced U.S. imperialism, saying, "The case where the imperialist voracity is probably manifested in all of its brutal backward and fanatical nature is the case of Puerto Rico...In Puerto Rico all forms of colonial exploitation prevail, from the primitive traffic in slaves—in its present version which is the massive flow of migrant workers—through the classical forms of exploitation of the natural resources, labor force and the monopoly of the captive market, to that new manifestation of imperialist aggression which in Puerto Rico we have named 'environmental colonialism'". His speech was very well received by the majority Third World crowd.

Another well received speech was that of Owusu Sadakai, member of the African Liberation Support Committee's executive committee. He emphasized the close relationship of the black and Puerto Rican peoples' struggles against imperialism, saying "Those of us who daily work in the black liberation struggle are doing this to show solidarity with the Puerto Rican Struggle and to fight against the barriers that divide our struggles." He clearly pointed out, "Our struggle is the same!"

Gerald Rivera, the ABC public Puerto Rican, was loudly booed by the very conscious crowd who knew of Rivera's lukewarm stance towards Puerto Rican independence.

Other speakers included Corky Gonzales, Crusade for Justice; Jerry Tung, Worker's Viewpoint; Irwin Silber, the Guardian; Russell Means, American Indian Movement; Pedro Albizu Meneses, son of Puerto Rican Nationalist Don Pedro Albizu Campos; and the CPUSA's Angela Davis. The rally was clearly one of the most important political gatherings to take place since the anti-war rallies of the early 70's showing the people's determined and united will, and that (as the crowd often chanted in Spanish as well as English) "The people united will never be defeated!"

FREE MAULANA KARENGA!!

For over three years (since June 1971), Maulana Karenga has been held captive in San Luis Obispo, California. Although originally charged with "assault", a 6 month to 10 year sentence, he has come up for parole consideration and been turned down time after time. It grows more obvious each day that there is no other reason for this except a torture like repression which seeks to destroy his spirit.

We are calling on all of our readers to support Maulana Karenga's struggle for freedom by sending donations for MAULANA KARENGA BAIL FUND
to: Tiamoya Karenga
P.O. Box 1597
Altadena, California 91001

The most recent example of police repression is the arrest and impending indictment of Kwaida advocates on charges ranging from kidnapping to assault and robbery. These advocates have been brought on 7 advocates by one well known narcotics pusher, second story man and police informer. These charges obviously cannot be substantiated, but in the meantime the bail comes to over $100,000. We are asking this because we are in desperate need of funds to pay these bail charges. This police approach is called legal assassination where repressive forces try to reduce progressive forces by taking them in and out of court. We know that we can count on you for some measure of support. Please not only give as much as you can to Temple of Kawaida, 13 Belmont Avenue, Newark, New Jersey, but encourage others to send money to help this struggle against police repression and support the building of Kawaida Towers.

Amiri Baraka

Habari Gani,

In the past year and a half, since the attempt to build Kawaida Towers, advocates of Kawaida have been beset by continuous legal problems. All these problems have stemmed directly from the continuous harassment by the police and other racist elements of the white community. The most recent evidence of police repression is the fact that 4 advocates of Kawaida were indicted and brought to trial for incidents at the site of Kawaida Towers. Advocates were accused of assault & battery on a policeman even though police attacked the advocates. Three were acquitted, but one was convicted of assault and battery on a police officer in an incident which has been fully documented by TV and journalists as a blatant example of police attack and police brutality. But to top that off, now the advocates who were attacked are being re-indicted for the same charge, this time brought about by anonymous whites also supposed to be on the scene.

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