

P.O. Box 471 Cooper Station
New York, N.Y. 10003
September 21, 1976

TO ALL ORGANIZERS AND ANTIRACIST WORK DIRECTORS

Dear Comrades,

Recently Imani Kazana, a leader of the National Black Assembly in Washington, D.C., announced the formation of a new independent national defense committee for the Wilmington 10. The Wilmington 10 were framed up on charges stemming from their involvement in a desegregation case in Wilmington, North Carolina in 1971. They received prison sentences totaling 282 years. (See Sept. 10 Militant for more details.)

Although general support exists for the Wilmington 10 around the country, little effort has been made to organize an ongoing national defense committee. Until now the Wilmington 10 defendants, in particular the Rev. Ben Chavis, have relied on the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression (NAARPR) to organize their public defense. The Communist Party plays the major political and organizational role in the NAARPR.

In the last five years the NAARPR and the CP have organized two major demonstrations for the Wilmington 10. The recent one held on September 6 in Raleigh, North Carolina, turned out 2,000 people after the CP and NAARPR predicted publicly that over 50,000 (then later 10,000) people would attend. (See Sept. 24 Militant for more details.)

As a result of the NAARPR's and the Stalinists' failure to effectively organize support for the 10, and following discussions with Chavis, Kazana decided to initiate a national defense committee. Chavis is presently an officer of the NAARPR.

Kazana had originally worked with the NAARPR in D.C. to build support for the Wilmington 10. She apparently disagrees with NAARPR leaders, however, in believing that an independent national defense committee is the best way to organize support for the 10. She is frustrated with what she feels have been feeble efforts by the NAARPR over the last three years to build an effective national defense effort.

In D.C., the local leaders of the NAARPR have participated in meetings of the Wilmington 10 Defense Committee that have taken place so far. Kazana also spoke at NAARPR's Labor Day rally in Raleigh.

Based on discussions comrades in D.C. have had with Kazana, it seems she shares our approach to building a defense campaign, with the idea of a broad and united defense involving

prominent groups and individuals across the country. She has a number of contacts in several other cities who she hopes to work with to build other chapters of the defense committee.

The formation of this committee provides a big opportunity to build an effective defense for the Wilmington 10. We want to get involved in it and help to build support for the case. In D.C., we have had discussions with Kazana about perspectives for building the defense and have attended defense committee meetings.

Enclosed is a list of several committees whose addresses were publicized in a leaflet that was distributed at the September 6 march. Comrades in these areas should contact the names listed and find out more about the committee's activities.

We should also encourage NSCAR to make the Wilmington 10 case one of its national defense campaigns. NSCAR has already invited Kazana to their third national student conference in November. She has accepted the invitation and will organize a workshop on the case. NSCAR leaders also plan to have more extensive discussions with Kazana soon on the type of activities SCAR chapters can organize in support of the 10.

Reports on any new developments should be sent to the national office.

Comradely,

Nan Bailey
Nan Bailey
YSA National Office

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Local Wilmington 10 Defense Committees:

AMHERST, MASS.---Bonnie Cain, 92 Pufton Village (01002)
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN -- Rev. Herbert Lowe, Church of the Good
Shepherd, 2145 Independence Blvd. (48104)
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND -- Nancy Wagoner, 4141 Fairview Ave. (21216)
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA -- Michael Cato, Box 10622, Southern Univ.
BOSTON, MASS. -- Kenneth Bryant, 16 Center St., Roxbury, Mass.
(02119)
CAIRO, ILLINOIS -- Rev. Charles Koen, United Front, P.O. Box 544
(62914)
*CHARLOTTE, NO. CAROLINA -- Helen Othow, P.O. Box 16147 (28216)
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS -- Diane Alexander, 3625 S. Lake Park (60653)
DETROIT, MICHIGAN -- Carolyn Moody, 2209 Seminole St. (48214)
FREDERICK, MARYLAND -- Sylvia Hall, Black Student Union, Hood College
HARTFORD, CONN. -- Robert Gibson, Trinity Coalition of Blacks,
P.O. Box 1590, Trinity College (06106)
KINSTON, NO. CAROLINA -- Jessie L. Rouse, 313 Asphalt Rd. (28501)
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. -- Maria Caldwell, 930 So. Bonnie Brae #230
(90006)
MEMPHIS, TENN. -- Cheryl Little, 1430 Jefferson St. #12 (38104)
MIAMI, FLORIDA -- Ray Greenwood, 1834 N.W. So. River Dr. #3
(33125)
NEW HAVEN, CONN. -- Bro. Khalid, Afro-American Cultural Center,
Yale University, 3439 Yale Station (06520)
NEW PAITZ, N.Y. -- John Burton, Prison Workshop, room 318, Student
Union Bldg., State University College (12561)
NO. CHARLESTON. SO. CAROLINA -- Bob Jennings, 39B Bluffwood Ave.
(29405)
POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y. -- Bernadette Whitsett, Vassar College (12601)
*RALEIGH, NO. CAROLINA -- Ann Mitchell, P.O. Box 14307 (27610)
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI -- Coraminita Mahr, 4838 Cote Brilliante
(63106)
SPRINGFIELD, MASS. -- Thomas Wilson, 441 Coldspring Ave.; West
Springfield, Mass.
TALLADEGA, ALABAMA -- Karen Davis, Talladega College (35160)
YELLOW SPRINGS, OHIO -- Sherline Brogdon, Black Student Union,
Antioch College

*chapters of the Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression