

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Thursday, November 9, 1967

TO CHARLES GAIN AND WHOMEVER ELSE IT MAY CONCERN:

The brutal savagery of the Oakland police during the demonstrations at the Oakland Induction Center and the vicious attack upon Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party For Self Defense, make it crystal clear that Oakland cops constitute a political police force with purposes and tactics similar to those of the German gestapo. The widespread and unprovoked clubbing and gassing of women, children, and other citizens---most notably on October 17th leave little doubt that the Oakland police are not the servants and protectors of the people, but their bitter oppressors. These acts---which were well-documented by many members of the press who were not only witnesses but often innocent victims as well---are consistent with the common police practice of harassing, brutalizing and terrorizing black people in the ghettos of Oakland. In fact, the Oakland police represent nothing more than an army of occupation in the black communities.

In cases where participants in the demonstration against the Induction Center were arrested by Oakland police and charged with assaulting "peace" officers, an examination of the facts reveals that it was in fact the Oakland police who, without provocation, attacked the demonstrators and viciously beat them. Then, after the victims of these police attacks attempted to defend themselves, they were charged with assaulting policemen! This is also totally consistent with the Oakland police practice of attacking black people, without provocation, in their homes, on the streets, and in police stations. Here again, when the victims of these attacks attempt to defend themselves, they are charged with assaulting police officers.

For this reason, we fully support Huey P. Newton, Minister of Defense of the Black Panther Party For Self Defense, in his leadership of the resistance against these brutally oppressive tactics. We know Huey P. Newton to be a courageous leader in the struggle against oppression and we further know that, despite the long-standing and undeniable grievances that all black people have against occupying forces like the Oakland police, Huey P. Newton would not have confronted cops in the manner described by the Oakland police. Our own experiences with the same Oakland police strengthens our conviction that Huey P. Newton is a victim of police assault and is now being held as a political prisoner. We therefore pledge our continuing support for him in his struggle against the oppressive and discriminatory "legal" system, of which the police and the courts are both parts.

In light of the above incontrovertible facts concerning the conduct of the Oakland police and the consequences resulting from it,