

into the prison recreation yard in Leavenworth in August 1985. Grenades and rocket launchers were to be used to attack the guard towers as both men escaped via the helicopter.

The FBI claimed to have knowledge of the plot due to an informant. Undercover agents allegedly aided the plot by providing explosives. Police also placed tracking devices on the vehicles, but one of the devices was discovered. Police eventually charged seven individuals, including Oscar Lopez-Rivera and Kojo Sababu. Also charged were two Puerto Rican independence activists, Jaime Delgado and Dora Garcia; prison activist and revolutionaries, Claude Marks and Donna Wilmott; and Richard Cobb, who pled guilty and testified against the others. Lopez-Rivera received an additional 15 years on his current sentence; Sababu received an additional three to five years in his sentence; Dora Garcia was sentenced to four years; Garcia received a three-year sentence.

Claude Marks and Donna Wilmott went underground. They were able to avoid capture for six years until they turned themselves in to the FBI. Marks was sentenced to six years in prison; Wilmott to three years in prison.

As a result of the attempted self-emancipation, both Lopez-Rivera

and Sababu were placed in solitary confinement at Marion Federal prison.

The Last Remaining

In August of 2009, Ojore Lutalo, Sababu's co-defendant from the bank expropriation was released from prison. Conquest, his co-defendant in the action against the drug dealer, was also released in the fall of 2015. Oscar Rivera-Lopez and all those associated with the attempted self-liberation at Leavenworth have also been released from prison. Sababu, however, remains behind bars for his participation in these actions. He remains committed and unwavering despite his imprisonment.

Kojo Sababu is one of those comrades who receive little support from the outside world - despite his commitment to the struggle. We encourage people to take the time to reach out to the comrade and support him in every way you can.

Write to Kojo here:

Grailing Brown

#39384-066

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Kojo Bomani Sababu

Black Liberation Army Prisoner of War



Kojo Bomani Sababu is a New Afrikan Prisoner of War, currently serving a 55-year sentence for a series of actions carried out by the Black Liberation Army (BLA) and for an attempted self-liberation from prison with Oscar Lopez Rivera, a member of the Fuerzas Armadas de Liberación Nacional (FALN).

Kojo Sababu was born as Grailing Brown on May 27th, 1953, in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He was born to Clarence and Edna Brown. Kojo described them as good parents. His father was a "diligent worker whose only indulgence was loyalty to the bosses." Sadly, tragedy would strike his family, fundamentally altering Sababu's path in life. In 1962, his father died coming home from work. Two years later his mother was murdered. She was a guiding presence in his life and Kojo was devastated by her loss. Still, he continued to live out the

lessons she taught him, specifically around the importance education and it being a tool to change society.

At a very young age, he began to develop a New Afrikan consciousness. Growing up in Atlanta City, New Jersey, organizations like the Nation of Islam were strong within the Black community. The organization helped Sababu gain his first experiences in nation-building. The Nation of Islam also reinforced his passion for knowledge and education.

In 1968, Sababu crossed paths with the Black Panther Party in Atlanta City. He began to participate in their political education courses. However, at that time, he was still greatly influenced by cultural and religious nationalism.

In January 1972, Sababu and his brother were arrested for robbery and sentenced to three to five years in prison. Sababu was sent to the New Jersey State Prison in

Trenton, where he met two Black revolutionaries, Kuwasi Balagoon and Andaliwa Clark. These two individuals greatly influenced his political development. After his release in 1975, Sababu joined the Black Liberation Army (BLA).

In September 1975, Sababu was charged as a material witness in the killing of two individuals during an attempted expropriation of drug dealers. Another individual Darryl Conquest was charged on two counts of homicide in the case. Sababu later described this action as one carried out by the Black Liberation Army to clean the streets of drugs that were poisoning communities. He would later be charged in the case along side Conquest.

On November 15th, 1975, Sababu and another BLA member, Ojore Lutalo, were arrested after a high-speed chase. The incident began when police received a report of suspicious occupants in a car. Sababu and Lutalo fled when the police approached the car but were captured after the car lost control and crashed. A third individual managed to avoid escape. The men were charged with eluding police and resisting arrest. After they were bailed out, the two men went deeper underground.

On November 21, another attack on a drug dealer left two people dead in Atlantic City. Sababu

would later be identified by eye-witnesses as being involved in this action.

“Do not abandon the political prisoners and prisoners of war, they are still insightful with their knowledge and experience.” - Kojo Sababu

One month later, on December 20th, four members of the Black Liberation Army expropriated funds from the Broad Street National Bank in Lawrence Township, New Jersey. The action turned into a shootout as police gave chase into Trenton. Three members of the BLA (Kojo Sababu, Ojore Lutalo, and Kenneth Robinson) were arrested, while a fourth individual escaped. The three men were charged with possession of stolen property, possession of a dangerous weapon and being fugitives.

While in held in custody, Sababu, Lutalo and Kenneth Robinson, managed to barricade themselves in a corridor at the county jail. They were able keep guards at bay for more than thirty minutes before seventeen guards overpowered them and placed them in solitary. All the men later received a 14-to-17 years in prison

for their involvement in the bank expropriation. Lutalo received an additional six-month sentence for contempt. Kenneth Robinson later escaped from prison in September 1979,

In addition to the charges related to bank expropriation, Sababu was also charged with the two separate attacks on the drug dealers. In May 1976, Kojo was sentenced to two life prison terms for September 1975 incident and would be sentenced to two additional life terms for the November 1975 action two years.

While in prison Sababu became active in the Inmate Legal Association (ILA), a non-profit legal aid organization that provided free legal assistance to prisoners at the New Jersey State Prison in Trenton, New Jersey. In 1981, he took on the role of the director. Conditions in the prison were dire. New criminal statutes in the state established mandatory minimums, creating overcrowding of the prisons. Prisoners started to find ways of escaping, causing further tension between the guards and prisoners.



Sababu, as a representative of the ILA, was quoted in the newspaper raising these concerns to the outside world and warned that conditions were so severe that the “joint’s gonna blow.” Within a month of raising these concerns, Sababu was accused of being a ringleader in a plot to take over the state prison in Trenton. He denied the accusation and argued that this was merely an attempt to silence those who were speaking out. He and two other leaders of the ILA were sent to a federal prison in Lewisburg, PA.

Months after the incident, the warden attempted to shut down the ILA by making accusations that its leaders were plotting to attack leaders of another prisoner rights organizations. Individuals from both organizations saw this for what it was - an attempt to undermine avenues for inmates to have their voices heard. The Warden’s plans failed, and the organization exists today.

Plot to Self-Liberate

In July 1986, the federal government claimed that a group of political prisoner supporters had organized a plot to liberate Puerto Rican Prisoner of War, Oscar Lopez-Rivera and Kojo Sababu from USP Leavenworth in Kansas. According to the government, the plan was to have a helicopter drop