

THE REPRESSION OF THE RNA

Source: *The Black Scholar*, Vol. 3, No. 2, BLACK ECONOMICS (October 1971), p. 57

Published by: Taylor & Francis, Ltd.

Stable URL: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/41203686>

Accessed: 26-12-2018 23:53 UTC

JSTOR is a not-for-profit service that helps scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content in a trusted digital archive. We use information technology and tools to increase productivity and facilitate new forms of scholarship. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Your use of the JSTOR archive indicates your acceptance of the Terms & Conditions of Use, available at <https://about.jstor.org/terms>



JSTOR

Taylor & Francis, Ltd. is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve and extend access to *The Black Scholar*

THE REPRESSION OF THE RNA

On August 18, 1971, in a predawn raid on the headquarters of the Republic of New Africa (RNA) in Jackson, Mississippi, a detachment of 36 policemen and FBI agents equipped with an armored car and ambulance, surrounded the headquarters, presumably to arrest a black man suspected of murder in Detroit.

While admitting they lobbed teargas canisters into the residence before any shooting began, the police deny firing the first shots.

In the shootout that followed, police lieutenant Louis Skinner was fatally wounded and two other lawmen were wounded, including an FBI agent.

The black murder suspect was not in the building.

The police arrested 11 New Africans during that sweep, including RNA President Imari Obadele I (s.n. Richard Henry) who was in his house four blocks away at the time.

Those 11 New Africans have all been charged with murder, assaulting a Federal officer, and TREASON AGAINST THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

Chained and dragged after they were arrested, the Mississippi 11 are now held in maximum security on notorious Parchman Farm. Parchman Farm's 4,000 acres of plantation are surrounded by marshes and patrolled by dogs and guards on horseback with whips.

Since that time, an additional nine New Africans have been arrested in Jackson, Mississippi on harassment charges, such as spitting, talking back to an officer. The Courts of Mississippi have allegedly ordered all bondsmen not to provide bail and New Africans are subject to daily beatings.

The attack upon the RNA continues in Detroit. On Friday, September 3, approximately 65 Detroit police attacked the House of Uhuru, West Side office of the RNA, with a search warrant based on testimony from an anonymous source, that a murder weapon was inside the house. On the same day, Michigan State Po-

lice arrested at gunpoint, on a Michigan highway, Acting Vice-President Chokwe Lumumba and three of his passengers, including Imari Obadele II, the 15 year old son of Brother Imari. Young Imari has been charged with first degree murder.

The sweeping nature of these arrests and attacks is reminiscent of the persecution of The Black Panthers in 1969 and 1970 and suggests national coordination. The RNA program calls for the carving of an African nation from the states of Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina, with full sovereignty as a nation, socialist economics and diplomatic relations with revolutionary African and Asian countries.

According to the Westchester County Press, New York, Thursday, April 22nd, the state attorney general of Mississippi, A. F. Summers, wrote to Attorney General John Mitchell, urging that he, "determine the U.S. Government's position in the event of a conflict with the RNA." The presence of FBI agents during these raids raises the question of Mitchell's involvement.

The RNA has requested the Congressional Black Caucus to investigate the impropriety of military tactics, the detention of New Africans without bail, the seizure of its property, records and files and correspondence by the Jackson police.

Brothers and sisters who wish to provide support for the RNA may write to Attorney William E. Miller II, Minister for Justice, RNA, 1040 Dalton St., Jackson, Miss. 39207. Phone (601) 948-3471. Because of theft and harassment, it is suggested that all donations be sent by certified mail. The national information office is RNA East Bay Consulate, 1444 Alcatraz Ave., Berkeley, Calif. (415) 654-4368. The RNA has also requested that letters of support be sent to the Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Charles Diggs, Jr., House of Representatives, Washington, D. C. 20515.