

imprisonment and a \$50,000 fine. He was also convicted of six counts of attempted murder of police stemming from his defense of Sundiata and himself during the police attack two years earlier. For this, he was sentenced to 25 years to life, to be served consecutively.

Initially Sekou was sent to maximum security in Marion II, "which is a joint they claim is for those who can't deal in regular prisons, who kill and run drugs and try to escape. They never gave me a chance. They sent me there right away. So when you talk about my conditions in the joint, and how the prison system has dealt with me, you see that they have never dealt with me as a regular prisoner."

"They treat me differently. They just don't acknowledge that I'm a Prisoner of War."

However, international law certainly does, Sekou observes: "There is a clause in the Geneva Convention of 1948 and 49, and follow up protocols of 1977 and '78, which was actually signed in 1980. It states that a colonized people have a right to self-determination. And to gain it, they have a right to struggle by any means necessary, including armed struggle. As such, if captured, they must not be considered a criminal and tried as a criminal. They can be turned over to their own country. Under that law, it was illegal for them to try me as a criminal."

Sekou Odinga is currently trying to raise funds for an appeal of his state charges based on jurisdictional issues. He says

this is his last and best chance to get out of prison.

This is why the Sekou Odinga Defense Committee was recently formed. We need to raise at least \$20,000 and probably more for legal expenses.

We encourage all organizations, especially those involved in political prisoner work, to hold fundraising events for Sekou, as the need is urgent. If your organization is planning an event, please send us the information so that we can post to the website: www.sekouodinga.com.

Our fiscal sponsor is the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO), located at 418 W. 145th St., New York, NY 10031. For more info on IFCO, visit their website: www.ifconews.org.

Make checks out to: IFCO/NYC Jericho and be sure to write Sekou Odinga in the memo line. Send to:

Sekou Odinga Defense Committee
P.O. Box 1272
New York, NY 10013
212-234-4336

sekouodingadefensecommittee@gmail.com

www.sekouodinga.com

Write to Sekou:

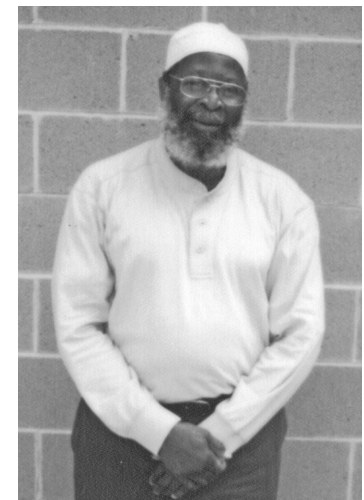
Sekou Odinga #09-A-3775
Shawangunk Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 700
Wallkill, New York 12589

Prisoner of War in the United States



Sekou Odinga in 1981

Sekou Odinga: New Afrikan Freedom Fighter!



Sekou Odinga in 2010

Who is Sekou Odinga?

Sekou Mgobozi Abdullah Odinga is a prisoner of a war that started more than 400 years ago and that rages even today.

“When we say prisoner of war,” explains Sekou from behind the walls of Shawangunk Correctional Facility in New York State, “the obvious question that should come to mind is, “What war? Is there a civil war going on in this country?” No, not a civil war. New Afrikan (Black) people are not part of this country. So, it can’t be civil war. Our people were illegally kidnapped and brought to this country more than 400 years ago. That was an act of war.”

“We have to distinguish first who we are and how we can be at war with the U.S. government,” says Sekou. “We are a colonized people, but many of us don’t understand what that means. A colonized people are a group or nation whose every aspect of life is controlled by another nation.

Among the colonized, there are those who don’t accept the colonized force. International law gives them the right to be free and independent by any means, including armed struggle. We want to establish a New Afrikan State. While participating in that war I was captured, which makes me a prisoner of war.”

He didn’t declare the war, nor did he start it. But Sekou Odinga, 66, father of 8 and grandfather of 18, has committed his life to fighting back. First as a community activist, then as a Black Panther Party

leader, and later as a soldier in the Black Liberation Army.

Odinga earned international recognition from his efforts to educate, organize, and liberate Afrikan people worldwide. Even from behind bars, Sekou Odinga remains a cornerstone of the New Afrikan Independence Movement. Comprised of a broad coalition of New Afrikan-nationalist organizations, the NAIM seeks to establish a Republic of New Afrika in land currently designated as Mississippi, Georgia, Louisiana, Alabama, and South Carolina.

As part of its efforts to crush this movement, the United States has mislabeled Sekou as an outlaw, saddling him with a lifetime sentence for crimes that he did not commit.

In 1969, Odinga was forced into hiding when he and 20 other Black Panther Party members were falsely charged with criminal conspiracy in the New York Panther 21 case.

Months later, while still underground, he traveled to Algeria to establish an international chapter of the Black Panther Party. On October 23, 1981, Odinga and comrade Mtyari Shabaka Sundiata were ambushed in Queens by a joint task force of New York police officers and FBI agents. The cops murdered Sundiata in the street. They captured Sekou, then tortured him mercilessly, eventually charging him with the liberation of Assata Shakur and the expropriation of money from an armored car.

“When I was captured, I was burned with cigars, beaten, had my head flushed in toilets,” recalls Sekou. “I was taken to a window, and the officers threatened to throw me out. This went on for about six hours, when they were trying to get me to give up information on other comrades. I was captured in October 1981, and didn’t get out of the hospital until February ’82.”

When he was released from the hospital, Sekou was thrown into a trial that was anything but fair. For instance, during his trial, in which he faced 11 federal counts and an assortment of state charges, the judge refused to allow Sekou to submit his medical records as evidence, suggesting that the freedom fighter may have fabricated his wounds.

Even before his trial, the charges against Sekou were manipulated to ensure cruel and unusual punishment. “They called the liberation of Assata Shakur kidnapping because jail-breaking was not a federal charge,” he points out. “It was a state charge. So that the feds could get the case, they claimed that while liberating the sister, the comrades tied up and held two of the guards.

Even though they didn’t take the guards off the grounds, the court said taking them from one rooftop to another was kidnapping.”

In 1983, Sekou was convicted of two federal charges under the Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organization (RICO) Act, and was sentenced to 40 years