



A black man who dedicated his life to defending the black community from racist oppression was murdered in cold blood by Oakland police, April 6, 1968.

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR BOBBY HUTTON

FRIDAY, APRIL 12

1:30 PM

MERRITT PARK

Across from the Alameda
County Courthouse

BOBBY HUTTON MEMORIAL PROCESSION

Following the memorial meeting there will be a procession by car and bus to the prison where Eldridge Cleaver is being held captive. Bobby Hutton was killed as part of an effort by the police to wipe out the militant leadership of the Black Panther Party. A true memorial to Bobby Hutton will be to continue his struggle for the liberation of black people with still greater strength.

Five unarmed black people under 18 have been murdered by Oakland police in the past month. Oakland is a community where black people cannot walk the streets or drive their cars without fear of being stopped, harassed and intimidated by armed policemen - on mere "suspicion" that they might be doing something wrong.

The Black Panther Party has organized politically to raise the demand, STOP MURDERING AND BRUTALIZING OUR PEOPLE, and to put forward a concrete program for jobs, decent housing and quality schools. As a first step toward black control of black communities, the Panthers affirm the right of self-defense against the unjustifiable violence of this racist occupying army, the police. At the same time, the Panthers have consistently opposed spontaneous and aimless violence by the people, emphasizing instead the need for people to be organized and disciplined in their fight for their demands. Yet, the Black Panther Party is vigorously opposed to racism in all its forms.

When SNCC workers went into the South, one of the first things they had to fight for was the right to organize in the violently racist South. The Black Panther Party is still fighting for the right to organize in California. The incident in which Bobby Hutton was killed is the latest in what Eldridge Cleaver calls "a series of attempts to liquidate the leadership of the Black Panther Party by the Oakland Police Department."

Several Panthers in cars in west Oakland on Saturday night, April 6, were approached by two policemen and menaced with guns. When the Panthers tried to defend themselves, shooting began, and the Panthers ran into a nearby house. After about 90 minutes of shooting by some 50 members of the Oakland P.D., who set fire to the house and filled it with tear gas, the Panthers were forced to surrender. With floodlights covering the house, Bobby Hutton walked out with his hands up. Someone yelled that he had a gun, and he was shot. He was not armed; no gun was found anywhere near his body. Eldridge Cleaver, wounded in the leg, and eyes badly burned by tear gas, came out. In total, nine persons were arrested, including Panther National Captain, David Hilliard. Two policemen were wounded slightly.

Earlier the same day, a black policeman informed the Black Panther Party that the San Francisco and Oakland police had a plan to "wipe out the Black Panthers in the groups they run in." Panther leaders Huey Newton and Eldridge Cleaver are in prison after defending themselves against armed Oakland police. Huey faces the death penalty. Eldridge, his parole revoked, may be sent up for life. He and David Hilliard are charged with attempted murder. Bobby Seale faces trial for violating a century-old law against carrying a weapon near a jail.

For the past eight months, pictures and descriptions of Panther leaders have been widely distributed to police. Panther vehicles have been frequently stopped by Oakland police. In January, San Francisco police crashed in Eldridge Cleaver's door and searched his apartment - without a warrant. In February, police broke down Bobby Seal's door without a warrant on a phony conspiracy charge (quickly dropped for lack of evidence) and arrested him and his wife. Last Friday night police broke down the door of Ken Denman, PFP leader and Panther organizer in San Diego (without a warrant). These are only examples. Throughout, the mass media have carried on a campaign of slander against the Black Panther Party.

What we have seen is a systematic political persecution of the Black Panther Party. It happens because the Panthers have demonstrated their power to organize black people for their own liberation. THE ATTACK ON THE BLACK PANTHERS MUST BE RESISTED.

The Peace and Freedom Movement has been working in coalition with the Black Panther Party for the past five months. This relationship has been mutually beneficial and has aided each group in its struggle to change the oppressive nature of this system. Eldridge is a member of the State Steering Committee of the Peace and Freedom Movement. This latest attack was not only an attack against the Black Panther Party, but also an attack against the Peace and Freedom Party.

The Panthers are our brothers. They are working with us to build a political alternative to the present government which kills freedom fighters in Vietnam and kills them at home. Now is the time to show our united opposition to honor Bobby Hutton, a freedom fighter like Martin Luther King, and like him, a victim of political assassination.... to demand the release of Eldridge Cleaver, a freedom fighter they tried but failed to kill.

Free Eldridge Cleaver

JOIN THE BOBBY HUTTON MEMORIAL PROCESSION