

National Alumni Association of the Black Panther Party Statement of Support and Endorsement for the 2021 International Tribunal



We, the members of the Black Panther Party, which comprises the National Alumni Association of the Black Panther Party (NAABPP), support the Spirit of Mandela Coalition and endorse the 2021 International Tribunal.

The Tribunal charges of racist police violence, mass incarceration, political prisoners, environmental racism, racism in public health, and genocide against Black, Brown and Indigenous people are the very same issues and conditions that the Black Panther Party fought against in the 60s and 70s. Many of the Political Prisoners in prison today for the last 50 years are Black Panthers and Black Liberation Army members. We support our comrades 100%. The 2021 International Tribunal is a people's movement and mechanism to generate power and strength behind the demand to free all Political Prisoners and to place these issues – politically and legally - front and center on the international stage.

We recognize that the international community, including the United Nations, has been historically ineffective and nonresponsive to the issues of oppression, racism, and exploitation of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people in the United States. In the context of the 1951 "We Charge Genocide" documentation, and the Organization of Afro-American Unity's attempts to bring these issues before the world arena, and subsequent efforts, the 2021 International Tribunal plans to go beyond basic presentation of the findings and verdict to the UN. Though these results will be presented to the UN at the close of the Tribunal in October, the coalition has a unique set of outcomes which provide an opportunity for organizing on a mass level across many social justice arenas. "We are our own liberators!" This empowering statement by Jalil Muntaqim, recently released Black Panther Political Prisoner, co-founder of the National Jericho Movement, and Tribunal organizer, clarifies in a word what we the people must do. The Spirit of Mandela coalition strongly agrees with this sentiment and plans to build the Tribunal as a powerful and effective organizing tool to mobilize people from all walks of life. The charges are expansive yet focused enough to embrace and address much of the oppression experienced by Black, Brown, Indigenous, poor, and working-class people throughout history to today. The 2021 International Tribunal not only vets the facts and proclaims a demand for justice; it is also a plan of action!

The NAABPP stands able and ready to support this initiative - body and soul.

All Power to the People! Free all Political Prisoners!!!

Yasmeen Sutton July 2021