Jersey Panthers attacked

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The office of the Jersey City Black Panther party was firebombed four days in a row last week.

The first bombing occured late at night Jan. 19. "I was on the phone when I noticed smoke coming in under the door," reported Ronnie Morris, Panther officer on duty at the time. About an hour later, after several Panthers and supporters had put out the fire, several shots were fired through the front of the office.

"There were about five rounds fired, real quick and everybody hit the floor," Morris said. Then another volley of shots were fired. After counting bullet holes the next day, the Panthers estimated that 31 shots had been fired. No one was injured.

For the next three nights, Jan. 20-22, the bombers tried again. "We found the remains of the bombs in the morning," a Panther member told the Guardian, "two in the back and one in front of the office."

The police, according to Morris, "the so-called servants of the people said they would seek out the person or persons who committed this crime. But we know that Fred Hampton of Illinois was murdered by the same type of policemen and nothing will come out of this investigation."

The police took away the bullet-riddled door of the office over the protests of the Panthers. "They said they were removing the door because this was a criminal offense," said Mrs. Clara Vincent, chairman of the local party. "We said this was an illegal seizure and a violation of the Fourth Amendment."

The Panthers believe the attacks were the result of their recent support of community efforts to bring to trial a white policeman's wife charged with the murder of a black man and their defense of the murdered man's brother-in-law, who is being held for attempted murder while the woman is out on bail.

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