

HARASSMENT— HELP BREAK THE CHAIN

If we do not collectively ensure a comprehensive redress of harassment, then individual by individual, victim by victim, and organization by organization, African American leadership will be destroyed and progressive voices silenced—all in the name of the law. A repeat of the Post Reconstruction era.

HARASSMENT IS OUR PROBLEM . . .

- Send case documentation to The Center;
- Contact The Center to become part of the national network to track incident cases;
- Participate and co-sponsor public hearings nationwide with The Center;
- Provide computer research services;
- Join the Growing Force of The Center Supporters who seek an end to this national disgrace.
- Send contributions to: **The Center For The Study Of Harassment Of African Americans, 110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 504, Washington, D.C. 20002-5626** [501(c)3 application being prepared];

To support CSHAA through The National Council of Churches, tax deductible contributions can be made payable to: The National Council of Churches, and mailed to: National Council of Churches-PJU 475 Riverside Drive, Room 572, New York, New York 10115-0050 c/o Rev. Joseph Agne, designated for CSHAA.

The Center is supported by the Prophetic Justice Unit of the National Council of Churches; World Council of Churches-Programme on Justice, Peace and Creation; National Black Caucus of State Legislators; members of the Congressional Black Caucus; National Association of Black County officials; NAACP; The National Conference of Black Mayors; and, many others.

HARASSMENT!

A NATIONAL EPIDEMIC
AN OUTRAGE

*' . . . A clear and present danger
to all of America!'*



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THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HARASSMENT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS (CSHAA)

**110 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20002-5626
Tel: 202-543-7778**

FREEDOM FIGHTERS— SOUNDING THE ALARM

"The destructive pattern of harassment is a clear and present danger to the African American community, and I submit it's a clear and present danger to all of America."

JOANN WATSON
NAACP, Detroit

"The way this case against Congressman Harold Ford of Tennessee is being handled is deeply disturbing to me. It is indicative of an ongoing pattern of selective prosecution of Black elected officials."

CONGRESSMAN JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Michigan

"What we really have to be concerned about is that we are talking about harassing people, a race of people, who have been denied, locked out, and locked up. What we are dealing with is the inability of a nation to cope with a new style of political leadership."

**THE MOST REVEREND
GEORGE STALLINGS, JR.**
*Bishop, African American
Catholic Congregation*

"We are not going to stand by and allow our African American elected and appointed officials to be harassed; because when they are harassed, we are harassed."

REV. DR. BENJAMIN CHAVIS, JR.
*Executive Director
Commission for Racial Justice
United Church of Christ*

"One of the benefits . . . from the long struggle for civil rights was the passage of the Voting Rights Act . . . in a sense it is ironic that . . . even though we have, some almost seven thousand strong, we still have so small a percentage of all elected officials."

DR. DOROTHY HEIGHT
*President, National Council
of Negro Women*

"The National Council of Churches has a very strong position on racial justice... 'The church is called to identify racism as a sin against God'..."

DR. KENYON C. BURKE
*Associate General Secretary
National Council of Churches*

"We must close ranks around our leaders, . . . or when they come in the morning, there may be no one left to be involved in our community."

ATTY. E. FAYE WILLIAMS
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

THE PUBLIC OUTRAGE...

National public hearings were held in New York, Detroit, and at the Congressional Black Caucus Legislative Weekend in Washington, D.C. Testimony and affidavits confirmed FBI policies of targeting Blacks. Unita Blackwell, Mayor, Mayersville, Mississippi, and president, National Conference of Black Mayors declared: "*It's a new way of keeping us in check, out of power, out of money.*"



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SPEAKING OUT:



"... Whites Get Bail
Blacks Get Jail!"

WILLIAM M. KUNSTLER
'Attorney for the Defense'

"... This is no coincidence... all over the nation, strong Black elected officials, ... are under harassing federal investigations and indictments as the Reagan-Bush Justice Department plots to drive them out of office and destroy the tremendous gains we've made ... I'm ready to march (to Washington) again."



**CONGRESSWOMAN
SHIRLEY CHISHOLM**
New York



"Harassment of Black officials ... is about vested economic interests. It is about the threat posed to existing power configurations."

DR. MARY SAWYER
Author
"The Dilemma of Black Politics" and "Harassment . . . Ten Years Later"

"If anyone ... is qualified from personal experience to address the question of prosecutorial abuses, it has to be a person like myself, who has been subjected ... to every ingenious illegal scheme possible to devise."

**CONGRESSMAN
WILLIAM CLAY**
Missouri



HARASSMENT—FINDING A CURE

Continuing and escalating incidents of investigations against African American activists and leaders in government, business, law, medicine—all walks of life—led to the founding of CSHAA. Its mission as a research institute and 'clearing house' for gathering data, is to develop a strategy to eradicate harassment, from which no one is immune; and insure equal justice. . .

ETERNAL VIGILANCE IS STILL THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

The Center will work to:

- Collect information and track incident cases of suspected harassment;
- Scrutinize data, develop statistics related to numbers and circumstances of cases;
- Build models of the patterns of harassment;
- Challenge prosecutorial and judicial misconduct;
- Publish findings and disseminate information;
- Convene public hearings and call for congressional hearings to investigate abuses to the system of justice;
- Promote public awareness and campaign for objective media coverage of the issues;
- Develop a speakers bureau;
- Organize massive community resistance;
- Support African Americans who come under unwarranted attack in their communities;
- Document prison inmate/family abuse and campaign for reform;
- Organize a committee of progressive attorneys to provide advice and counsel; establish a fund to support such activities;
- Organize a youth contingent to equip young people with the knowledge of what it means to be Black and survive in our political and legal system; to prepare future generations for leadership;
- Network with other political, church, civil, business, labor and human rights organizations;
- Join with the leadership to break the chain(s) of oppression and rid the nation of harassment.

STANDING UP . . .

HARASSMENT—THE SYMPTOMS

Among them:

- Investigations without probable cause;
- Selective targeting of victims;
- Illegal wire taps, Grand Jury and prosecutorial leaks to the press about reported 'investigations;' and use of same to begin 'official' investigations;
- Presumptions of guilt, created by sensationalized accusations in the press;
- 'Hand picked' judges presiding over kangaroo courts;
- Exclusion of Blacks from juries;
- Denial of appeal bonds;
- Excessive unwarranted sentences;
- African Americans hauled into court(s); Ethics committee appearances for 'others';
- Government's disregard for inalienable rights and constitutional guarantees;
- Attempts to circumvent the 1965 Voting Rights Act;
- A Justice Department for 'some' of the people.

HARASSMENT—THE DIAGNOSIS AN EPIDEMIC

"The widespread pattern of criminal investigations and charges against African American(s) . . . suggests the possibility that people with power are misusing the criminal and civil justice system to thwart the national growth of new potential forces.

"These incidents are not unrelated and reflect a concerted effort on the part of law enforcement agencies to discredit . . . the very number of these investigations and charges form a pattern that suggests political motivation rather than a true search for criminal activity.

"The issue is **not** the possible innocence or guilt of each of the many elected officials who have come under attack. The issue is the fact that this pattern of attacks by agencies of the government in itself constitutes criminal activity on the part of the government . . . it undermines the democratic process itself."

. . . Resolution of the National Council of Churches, adopted 11/16/89 (Drafted by Prophetic Justice Unit)



" . . . We're not looking for sympathy, we're looking for justice!"

. . . **JUANITA JACKSON MITCHELL**
Attorney and Freedom Fighter

"The experience of harassment is a very personal . . . experience . . . when I am harassed, members of my profession and race do not experience the emotions of that harassment . . . it is only when we relate our personal experience and pain to someone else . . . (that we) find our experience has been far from unique . . . (and) we see the pattern."

CONGRESSMAN MERVYN M. DYMALLY
California



" . . . Never again . . . The Post Reconstruction prosecutions that drove Black elected officials from office during the period 1880 to 1900, must never happen again."

C. DELORES TUCKER
Chair, National Political Congress of Black Women, Inc.

Now, if in the Justice Department, we abandon the presumption of innocence until proven guilty and, instead, move from a presumption of guilt . . . we're in serious trouble."

MAYOR RICHARD ARRINGTON
Birmingham, Alabama

