

See intv of Cook by Sandy Silver, KPFA 15 Sep 71 (excerpts)

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## Acquittal in Killing of Ex-Convict

Maalik Al-Maalik, 31, has been acquitted of a charge of murdering Paul Cook, 31, a former partner with Al-Maalik in operating a rehabilitation center for ex-convicts and drug addicts in Oakland.

A jury of six men and six women deliberated for four hours before returning the verdict June 19 following a 14-day trial before Alameda Superior Court Judge Harold B. Hove.

Al-Maalik, a former lack studies instructor at the University of California at Berkeley, was accused of shooting Cook at the Alternative House, 526 32nd street, on Oct. 14, 1972.

Police said Al-Maalik and Cook, a former inmate of San Quentin prison who was a friend of prison revolutionary George Jackson, had a falling out over the operation of the rehabilitation center.

The prosecution produced four witnesses who claimed to have witnessed the unprovoked shooting of Cook from a front porch. But the defense produced six witnesses who testified that the porch was unoccupied at the time.

Assistant public defender Charles B. Johnson, representing Al-Maalik, contended the defendant acted in self defense.

Cook had threatened to kill Al-Maalik and his family, the accused testified. He shot Cook only after Cook started to rush him, Al-Maalik said.