

# U. S. Department of Justice

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157

## FEDERAL BUREAU

19809

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FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION *of*

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## INVESTIGATION

*3/2/04* *3/2/04* *3/2/04* *3/2/04* *3/2/04*

"DO NOT DESTROY; HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES"

### USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

# Transfer-Call 421

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (157-6032) (C)

SUBJECT: BLACK PEOPLE IN DEFENSE  
OF ANGELA YVONNE DAVIS  
RACIAL MATTERS

DATE: 1/14/71

*Handwritten notes and signatures:*  
Y...  
Giovanni  
H...

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above. Local dissemination has been made of one copy to FOIA(b) (7) - (D) NYC and four copies to the 108th MI Group, NYC.

Indicies of the NYO show no casefiles on mentioned individuals.

The confidential source is

Confidential sources of the NYO contacted negatively re this organization were as follows:

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Inasmuch as this organization was never active except to issue a statement for publicity and as it never held any meetings, had no organizational offices or funds and in that none of the signers are known to be active in internal security matters, this case is being closed by the NYO. Sources have been alerted to inform the NYO of any activity of these individuals in this area.

This LHM is being classified "Confidential" as it contains information from a source of value whose exposure would be inimical to U.S. security interests.

*Handwritten notes:*  
Copy to SA... with cc of R/S to NY  
NYO should have furnished LA copy of LHM in view of interest in Angela Davis

EX-115  
REC-5 / 157-19607-2

ENCLOSURE

AGENCY:  SEC. SERV.,

DEPT: ISD,  IDIU,

1- Bureau (Encls. 11) (RM)  
1- New York (100-143665) (ANGELA DAVIS)  
1- New York (43)

JAN 18 1971



MOM:tf  
(4) HOW FORW  
DATE FORW: JAN 27 1971  
BY: *Pen/jet*

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR  
ADD. DISSEMINATION

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

January 14, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No. NY 157-6032

Black People in Defense  
Of Angela Yvonne Davis  
Racial Matters

An article appearing in the October 20, 1970, edition, page 32, of the "New York Times", a daily newspaper published in New York, New York, entitled "Blacks Told to Back Miss Davis Despite her Communist Links", reported that a group of black poets, artists and writers has urged the black community not to deny Angela Davis "money, time and involvement" because of her Communist Party affiliations. The article stated the group called itself Black People in Defense of Angela Yvonne Davis.

The article continued that the co-chairmen of the group are Nikki Giovanni, a poet, and Chester Higgins, Jr., a photographer.

An article in the May, 1970, issue of "Muhammad Speaks", the official newspaper of Nation of Islam (NOI), describes a Nikki Giovanni as an Afro-American poet and a teacher at Queens College, Queens, New York.

A characterization of the NOI is attached to this memorandum.

The Times article continued that a statement in support of Angela Davis was also signed by Sonia Sanchez, a poet; Maya Angelou, Harold Mc Dougall, Peter Bailey, Phyll Garland and George Goodman, all writers; Tom Feelings, an artist; Sandra Satterwhite, an editor; and Toni Cade, a writer and the editor of a recently published anthology "Black Woman". Other signers were Barbara Crosby, Marilyn Darling and Richard Baldwin.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is being loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

~~Group I  
Excluded from  
automatic downgrading  
and declassification.~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED BY 32133 AUC/PLB/VLS/HBR  
ON 3/26/04

ENCLOSURE

157-19609-1

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Black People in Defense  
Of Angela Yvonne Davis

Confidential sources in the New York area familiar with black nationalist and black extremist activity were unable to furnish any information indicating the existence or activities of this organization during November and December, 1970.

On January 12, 1971, a confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that the organization known as Black People in Defense of Angela Yvonne Davis was formed by Nikki Giovanni, a poet, for publicity purposes only. It had no funds, no organizational offices and was short lived. The organization is completely defunct at the present and no plans are known for its re-establishment. No meetings were ever held.

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Black People in Defense  
Of Angela Yvonne Davis

APPENDIX

1.

NATION OF ISLAM

A source advised on January 12, 1970, the Nation of Islam (NOI), an organization for members of the black race only, had its origin in Detroit, Michigan, in the early 1930's. Headquarters is Muhammad's Temple Number 2, 5335 South Greenwood Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, which affords direction to numerous affiliate branches, commonly referred to as Muhammad's Temples or Mosques, located throughout the United States. The leader is ELIJAH MUHAMMAD, self-styled "Messenger of Allah" and the only divinely appointed leader of the black race in the United States, who controls all policies and programs.

MUHAMMAD's teachings stress Allah (God) selected him to lead the so-called Negro out of slavery in North America through establishment of an independent black nation in the United States; the white man is the "devil" and open enemy of the black man; black and white races must be separated; the white man, his Government and religion will be destroyed by Allah through the forces of nature in the "War of Armageddon," a war between Allah and the "devil." MUHAMMAD's teachings are spread through weekly radio broadcasts throughout the United States and through "Muhammad Speaks," the official NOI organ which is published weekly in Chicago and distributed to affiliate Mosques for use in weekly sermons and for distribution to the public.

MUHAMMAD and other NOI members have refused to comply with Selective Service Laws stating that they respect laws of the United States provided they do not conflict with NOI laws. They do not believe the Government should force them to participate in wars when they have nothing to gain.

- 3\* -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

SAC, New York

November 9, 1970

Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. Shackelford
- 1 - Mr. Morrissey
- 1 - Mr. Nugent

**BLACK PEOPLE IN DEFENSE  
OF ANGELA YVONNE DAVIS  
RACIAL MATTERS**

Enclosed for New York and Los Angeles are single copies of self-explanatory article appearing in the 10/20/70 issue of "The New York Times."

If not already done, New York immediately institute discreet inquiry of captioned organization through established sources and informants. Determine its headquarters, officers, stated objectives in addition to those in the enclosed, sources of funds, and its affiliation with black extremist and/or subversive organizations or individuals.

New York submit results of inquiry in form suitable for dissemination. Incorporate in cover airtel recommendations with respect to additional investigative action to be taken regarding captioned organization as well as regards those individuals identified as the organization's officers.

Bureau files contain no data identifiable with Chester Higgins, Jr., identified as cochairman of captioned organization, or the signers of the group's statement in support of Angela Davis, on the basis of available data.

Bureau files contain information concerning Nikki Giovanni, an Afro-American poet, who in May, 1969, was interviewed by the official Nation of Islam newspaper,

Enclosure

1 - Los Angeles (Enclosure)

PEN:ekw  
(7)

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Brennan, C.D. \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Walters \_\_\_\_\_
- Soyars \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

763  
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NOV 10 1970  
COMM-FBI

REC-24 157-19609-1

NOV 18 1970  
ACT-12  
SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

FBI OFFICE  
REC'D NOV 11 1970

Letter to SAC, New York  
RE: BLACK PEOPLE IN DEFENSE  
OF ANGELA YVONNE DAVIS

"Muhammad Speaks," during which she made anti-Semitic remarks. Giovanni, at that time, was identified as a teacher at Queens College in New York City. It would appear this individual may be identical to the Nikki Giovanni serving as a cochairman of captioned organization.

NOTE:

Established source inquiry being instituted on captioned organization which issued a statement in New York on 10/19/70 in support of the notorious Angela Davis. Davis, a former Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of California in Los Angeles and a member of the Communist Party, USA, was arrested in New York in early October, 1970, by Bureau Agents on Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution process as a result of her involvement with black extremists in the kidnapping and murder of a judge in San Rafael, California, in August, 1970.

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Brennan, C.D. \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
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- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Walters \_\_\_\_\_
- Soyars \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

*Subject  
Improving*

*Interview  
A. Moore  
K. Cecil  
Richard*

*Borwick (last)*

- The Washington Post Times Herald \_\_\_\_\_
- The Washington Daily News \_\_\_\_\_
- The Evening Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Sunday Star (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_
- Daily News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- Sunday News (New York) \_\_\_\_\_
- New York Post \_\_\_\_\_
- The New York Times 32
- The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_
- The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_
- The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_
- The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_
- The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_
- People's World \_\_\_\_\_
- Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date 10 20 70

19609 7

**Blacks Fold to Back Miss Davis Despite Her Communist Links**

A group of black poets, artists and writers has urged the black community not to deny Angela Davis "money, time and involvement" because of her Communist party affiliations.

The group, called Black People in Defense of Angela Yvonne Davis, issued a statement yesterday that said:

"We have a responsibility to know that she is being mistreated because she is black. And we have a clear responsibility to know that if she gives up her life, it is not a Communist life but a black life. We are asking black people to face the awful truth: that we are on the line."

The co-chairmen of the group are Nikki Giovanni, a poet and Chester Higgins Jr., a photographer.

Miss Davis, 26 years old and a former assistant professor of philosophy at the University of California at Los Angeles, was arrested here last week by the Federal Bureau of Investiga-

tion. She is now in the Women's House of Detention awaiting a Nov. 9 extradition hearing.

She was charged with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution on California charges of kidnapping and murder in connection with a shooting in a San Rafael courtroom in August in which four persons were killed.

The statement issued by the group was also signed by Sonia Sanchez, a poet; Maya Angelou, Harold McDougall, Peter Bailey, Phyllis Garland and George Goodman—all writers; Tom Feelings, an artist; Sandra Satterwhite, an editor, and Tom Cade, a writer and the editor of a recently published anthology, "Black Woman." Mr. Higgins recently published a book of photographs, also called "Black Woman."

Other signers were Barbara Crosby, Marilyn Darling and Richard Baldwin.

*2-2 to NY + encl 11/10/70  
1 - LAC encl PENI, DHS*

*4210  
5/17*

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ENCLOSURE