

Parole Denial Appeal
Robert 'Seth' Hayes

July 28, 2006

Greetings,

I am writing to thank you for your support, love and concern in my bid for release at my fifth parole board appearance. Sadly, release wasn't granted. Instead I've received once again, an additional two year hit for the fifth time "due to the seriousness of the crime, release at this time would undermine respect for the law".

This is a standard, pat answer based upon political views (the governor continually insists that violent felony offenders should not receive parole) rather than the application of the law. We are going to appeal.

Naturally that brings up the need for your continued support. You have been strong for me over this difficult period and I ask you for that support and commitment awhile longer. I have already submitted my appeal papers. I now await the transcripts from the parole board hearing. It is from those transcripts and our strategy that I hope to secure release via the courts.

As things develop, I will update everyone through mail and the web page www.sethhayes.org.

It is hoped that the court will agree that there is unreasonableness by the parole commissioner's decision and opt for another hearing that follows the guidelines of parole law rather than the implicit political stance of the governor. Again thank you for your continued show of love and support. I look forward to seeing your efforts in the vanguard of the future. We are correct, and we will win.

In struggle,
Robert Seth Hayes
BPP/BLA PP/POW 2006

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Robert ‘Seth’ Hayes is one of the longest-held political prisoners in the USA. Born in the Bronx in 1948, Seth was imprisoned due to his activity in the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army, a fighting formation which grew out of the Black liberation movement of the 1960s.

It was in the period of social upheaval in the late 1960s that Seth was radicalized and joined the Black Panther Party and later the Black Liberation Army. Drafted in the US Army and sent off to fight in Vietnam, Seth was wounded and awarded a variety of military awards including the Purple Heart, the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Back in the US, when riots exploded across the nation in response to the April 4, 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King, Seth’s troop was ordered to assist in putting down the massive rebellions which took place and spread across the United States. According to Seth, “It was the saddest day of my life, and I could never identify again with the aims of the armed forces of the government.”

After the assassination of Martin Luther King and the social upheaval which followed it, Robert Seth Hayes joined the Black Panther Party, working in the Party’s free medical clinics and free breakfast programs. Seth, like many other activists was then forced underground by FBI and police repression of the Panther movement.

In 1973, following a shootout with police, Seth was arrested and convicted of the murder of a New York City police officer, and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison. Seth has always maintained his innocence. Jailed for over 30 years, Seth has long since served the time he was sentenced to, and while in prison he has worked as a librarian, pre-release advisor, and AIDS counsellor. He has remained drug and alcohol free throughout his entire period of incarceration and has maintained a charge free record in prison. Seth first came up for parole in 1998, but prison officials have refused to release him, and are effectively punishing him for having been a member of the Black Panther Party, and of having remained true to his ideals after 30 years behind bars.

Seth has been diagnosed with Hepatitis C and adult onset Diabetes since the year 2000. Unfortunately, despite his repeated requests Seth has not been receiving adequate health care ... and his condition has deteriorated.