



A Light of Resistance & Self-Determination

NAPO/MXGM Statement on The Life and Legacy of Imam Jamil Al-Amin

The New Afrikan People's Organization (NAPO) and the Malcolm X Grassroots Movement (MXGM) pay tribute to the life and legacy of the honorable Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin (aka H. Rap Brown). Imam Jamil, as he is affectionately known in the Islamic community and amongst friends and comrades in Atlanta, joined the Ancestors on Sunday, November 23, 2025. We send our condolences to his family, who has had to endure the weight of Imam Jamil's confinement as a political prisoner for over two decades, and his spiritual community, which suffered a significant loss when Imam Jamil was taken away by state agents. We are saddened by his passing due to medical neglect of federal prison authorities and that We were unable to free him from his unjust captivity. Even as an Ancestor, Imam Jamil remains a symbol of resistance to oppression, self-determination, and speaking truth to power.

Imam Jamil rose to national attention in 1967, when the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) named him their National Chairman during the Black Power era. The name Rap Brown became synonymous with the voice of rage during a period of Black rebellion. Before this, he challenged President Lyndon Johnson in a meeting with Civil Rights organizations at the White House during the 1965 crisis in

Selma, Alabama. He also distinguished himself in Black majority Greene County in the Alabama Black Belt by organizing one of the first freedom organizations to use a black panther for its symbol in 1966. For his courage, ability to speak effectively to grassroots people, and willingness to act, SNCC chose him to replace Stokely Carmichael (aka Kwame Ture) as its chairman and national spokesperson during a critical time in the movement. The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense named him their Minister of Justice in 1968 and, and he was appointed to Minister of Defense in the Provisional Government of the Republic of New Afrika the same year.

For all the above reasons, the repressive agencies of the u.s. empire targeted H. Rap Brown to be eliminated as a leader and voice for Black revolution. He was named by J. Edgar Hoover in his infamous Black Nationalist Hate Groups memorandum in the COINTELPRO (FBI's counterintelligence) program as a potential "Black messiah" who could bring unity to the various forces of the Black Power national liberation movement. The agents of repression worked it double time to manufacture a series of trumped-up charges against him to compromise his effectiveness as a leader and organizer. Rap decided to go underground to build resistance against the settler colonial empire. He was ultimately captured engaged in actions to expropriate illicit drug enterprises in our community and became a prisoner of war.

H. Rap Brown converted to Islam during his captivity in New York State prisons and became known as Jamil Al-Amin. He and his wife Karima moved to Atlanta upon his release, and he built a respected Islamic community in Atlanta's West End neighborhood. The area around the West End Park became a drug and violence free zone. As Imam of the West End community, Al-Amin was nationally and internationally recognized as an Islamic spiritual leader. Despite the positive work by Imam Jamil and the West End Islamic community they were surveilled and infiltrated by federal agents.

On the evening March 16, 2000, one Fulton County Sheriff, Ricky Kinchen, was killed, and another officer, Aldranon English, was wounded in a gun battle with an assailant in the West End while attempting to serve Imam Jamil with a warrant. English claimed their shooter was six foot tall with gray eyes. Imam Jamil was 6'5" with brown eyes. Sheriff English also said the assailant was wounded from return fire from the officers and media reports from the police declared that there was a trail of blood on the scene likely from the shooter of Kinchen and English. The evening of the gun battle, West End community was invaded by soldier cops terrorizing the neighborhood. Sheik Bilal Sunni Ali (peace and blessing upon him) issued the call and MXGM and other New Afrikans mobilized to the neighborhood to protest the police occupation of the community. Imam Jamil was captured by federal agents in Lowndes County, Alabama days after the gun battle with no wounds. This contradiction and other evidence support the argument that Imam Jamil was innocent of the murder of Sheriff Kinchen and the shooting of English.

After his capture Imam Jamil was convicted in a trial where evidence was suppressed and the legal defense team was prevented by the trial judge, Stephanie Manis, from presenting to the jury testimony supporting a continued federal conspiracy

to neutralize him. While he was convicted in the settler colonial state of Georgia, Imam Jamil was turned over to federal custody to be in captivity in institutions in different regions far from his family and loved ones. He received needed medical attention only after popular campaigns from family, friends, and comrades to have him moved to facilities that could provide him care. We believe the isolation and lack of medical attention played a critical role in shortening his life.

Our organizations continued to support the innocence of Imam Jamil Abdullah Al-Amin during his captivity. We supported efforts to secure his release and to make the national and international community aware of his unjust incarceration. We will support his family's efforts to clear his name and to win redress for the ordeal they have suffered.

Imam Jamil was a friend of NAPO and MXGM and our work particularly in the Atlanta area. Moreover, as an Ancestor, he will be a continued symbol of resistance and self-determination for our movement. "Revolution comes when human beings set out to correct decadent institutions," he said. The thoughts and words of Imam Jamil Al-Amin aka H. Rap Brown will never die. We will teach the youth his story and will continue to learn the lessons he taught.

Ase! Free the Land! Free 'em All! Imam Jamil Live Like Him! Dare to Struggle!
Dare to Win!