



Struggle-La-Lucha.org

Jalil Muntaqim, recently paroled after 49 years, was arrested Friday and is facing re-imprisonment for completing a voter registration form

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 3, 2020



Jalil Muntaqim

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Monroe County District Attorney Attempts to Reincarcerate a Respected Elder [recovering from COVID-19] Jalil Muntaqim on Fabricated Charges



PHOTO:
Jalil and mother Billie
upon his release

Jalil Muntaqim, former Black Panther and respected elder, was recently released after nearly 50 years in prison. The NYS Board of Parole, in his 14th hearing, interviewed him at length and determined that he met the criteria for discretionary release. **He had an exemplary prison record, expressed sincere remorse, and posed no threat to the community.** DOCCS' own risk assessment tool, COMPAS, scored Jalil as having the lowest risk for reoffending. In prison, he earned multiple college degrees and helped avert prison riots; his release on parole was endorsed by hundreds of people, including academics, faith leaders, and the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic & Asian Legislative Caucus (of NYS). **Jalil entered prison as a 19-year-old; today, he is a 69-year-old great-grandfather.**

On October 30th, Monroe County District Attorney Sandra Doorley's office issued a warrant against Jalil with charges for which no one in the state of New York has ever been arrested or indicted. This attempt to reincarcerate an elder recently recovering from COVID-19 does not work in the interest of justice, public health, or public safety.

The DA's calls are outrageous, unprecedented, and come on the heels of a petition by Bill Napier, Chairman of the local Republican Party, to prosecute Jalil for voter fraud. **These charges are politically-motivated, senseless and a waste of taxpayers' money.** None of the people in Monroe County who oppose Jalil's release know him; they believe that anyone convicted of a serious crime should never leave prison. Whether or not one agrees with this sentiment, **Jalil was released from prison according to the lawful procedures of this state.** Jalil has **scrupulously followed the instructions given him by his parole officer.** In fact, hundreds of faith leaders, community members, elected officials, academics, legal experts, and civil rights organizations in Rochester and throughout the State of New York oppose this politically motivated effort by the District Attorney.

**Jalil is grateful to have strong community support,
is putting down roots, and reconnecting
with friends and family.**

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**If you would like join the growing list
of community supporters,**

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**please sign-on here
<https://urlat.co/8KOpt>**



Community sign on letter is here -
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdW2zfSqUm28Xk7BbUi2gicD-YwAcbwfI3vG3ToOdyiYeXDw/viewform?usp=embed_facebook

Please sign the [**Support for Jalil Muntaqim Petition**](#) immediately:

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR JALIL MUNTAQIM

We the undersigned fully support the New York State Parole Board's decision to release Jalil Muntaqim. The parole process is meant to evaluate a person for release based on who they are today, not to extend one's sentence into perpetuity.

Mr. Muntaqim has been incarcerated since 1971, when he was 19 years old. During his 49 years in prison, Mr. Muntaqim has led education and mentorship programs for prisoners, earned several educational degrees and mentored many younger incarcerated men. He has been commended for preventing prisoner violence and promoting safety.

As a result, hundreds of organizations and individuals have stepped forward to support his release including community and faith leaders, family members, and the NY State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian Legislative Caucus. The Parole Board finally acted honorably in following the guidelines put forth by New York State Executive Law 259-(i). A 2011, bi-partisan amendment to the law passed by Republican and Democratic lawmakers makes it clear that an individual's readiness for successful re-entry should take priority in the decision to grant release.

Upon his release, Mr. Muntaqim was warmly welcomed by a large, diverse set of community leaders and residents of Rochester, New York. Now, the Rochester District Attorney is attempting to reincarcerate an elder recovering from COVID-19.

We are statewide and national organizations, community and faith leaders, elected officials, civil rights organizations, public defenders, and residents of the Rochester

area. We pledge our continuing support for Mr. Muntaqim and our assistance in facilitating his reintegration into society. We vehemently oppose any efforts to remove him from our community and/or place him back in prison.

Please click the [link](#) to sign.

This petition is sponsored by the Movement for Black Lives.

Source: [San Francisco Bay View](#)

