

Attorney General Brown: End the SF 8 Prosecution! Drop the Charges against Francisco Torres!

The failed, costly and unethical prosecution of the San Francisco 8 must end. For the last six years, prosecution of this case has ripped respected elders from their families and from their service to their communities.

Previous attempts to prosecute this case in the 1970s were dismissed when it was revealed that so-called “confessions” were the product of torture by the New Orleans police department.

Although this is a California state and not a county prosecution, the cost of the case, which is in the millions, is being borne by the City and County of San Francisco at the precise moment when vital services are being cut back.

After all these years, the results of this prosecution show the weakness of the state’s case and the unjust nature of the charges:

On July 6, your office was forced to drop all charges against four of the SF 8 (Ray Boudreaux, Richard Brown, Hank Jones and Harold Taylor) acknowledging that you had “insufficient evidence” to prosecute them.

Your office had already been forced to drop charges against a fifth member of the SF 8, Richard O’Neal, a year earlier.

Your office offered pleas to Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim for lesser charges in exchange for probation and time served.

Mr. Torres is now the only remaining SF 8 defendant. Your office also offered him probation and time served in

exchange for a plea to a lesser charge. He refused your offer, and maintains his innocence. Mr. Torres is a Vietnam veteran and a former member of the Black Panther Party. He was born in Puerto Rico and raised in New York City. Mr. Torres is a respected elder, community activist, and mentor for youth. He is a husband, a father, and a grandfather.

Enough is enough! The continued prosecution of this discredited case based on torture is unconscionable.

We urge you, Attorney General Brown, to drop all charges against Francisco Torres and end the prosecution of the SF 8.



The SF 8 (l to r): Francisco Torres, Ray Boudreaux, Richard O’Neal, Harold Taylor, Richard Brown, Hank Jones. Not pictured: Herman Bell and Jalil Muntaqim.

Signers of the Open Letter (partial list; individuals’ organizations are listed for identification purposes only): **Rev. Dr. Desmond Mpilo Tutu**, 1984 Nobel peace laureate • **Cynthia McKinney**, former GA congresswoman & 2008 Green Party presidential candidate • **Danny Glover**, award-winning actor • **Cindy Sheehan**, peace activist & 2008 congressional candidate • **Jahahara Amen-RA Alkebulan-Maat**, past chair, Nat’l Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America • **All African People’s Revolutionary Party** • **All of Us or None** • **Max Anderson**, Berkeley City Council • **ANSWER Coalition** • **Asian Prisoners Support Committee** • **John Avalos**, SF Board of Supervisors • **Ellen Barry**, 1998 MacArthur fellow • **China Brotsky**, sr. v.p., Tides Foundation • **Rev. Lea D. 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