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# ON TRAITORS

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*Excerpted from A Soldier's Story: Revolutionary  
Writings By a New Afrikan Anarchist*

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# Introduction

Throughout the history of the Black Liberation Movement, there's been a literal plague of traitors. Perhaps every revolutionary movement can note the appearance of traitors; individuals who "roll over" once in the clutches of the enemy state, who sell out to the oppressors to make personal gains at the expense of former comrades, who use the power of the oppressors to attack those they may have had personal problems with, by volunteering themselves to be used by the state, who for whatever reasons make deals that involve the giving up of information which the state then uses to attack the revolutionary forces.

However, to say that this happens in every movement gives us no clue as to why these individuals could not be pointed out to the revolutionary forces prior to their ultimate transgressions or of how to spot those who very well may do harm intentionally to not only the armed political participants but to those who support the people's army, those who are sympathetic, and the colony as a whole. People are discouraged when they note that every offensive is defeated from within. Inhibited for good reason to pick up arms alongside those who may later finger them out, inhibited from opening their doors, or even speaking on the behalf of revolutionary forces. This is so to an extent today. The movement lays in frozen waste, not because New African People are generally loyal to the empire or think that there is no just cause, but because they think that war with the U.S. government is futile. Partly because of the tremendous firepower and technology of the U.S. government, but also that they have seen countless revolutionaries murdered and imprisoned due to betrayal. This compounds itself, in that we have not been able to contest the strength of the enemy along the lines of protracted war due to our failure to divert or weed out traitors. Once we get the information that someone has informed, it is after the fact, with a large portion of damage done.

Meanwhile, the toll of casualties and the weight of discouragement continues. In 1981 after an unsuccessful expropriation of one unit, the state picked up clues that allowed them to take the offensive. The U.S. government (federal) prosecuted one case under its RICO statute, the state of New York prosecuted another case. In the federal case eight people fought a legal battle against the prosecution armed with five informers who actually took the stand. Under the state indictment of four, one traitor had given literally pages of information without taking the stand—never disclosing what it was he said. In other words, out of a total of fifteen people allegedly involved in a war of liberation, six turned out to be informers—in two related cases. If you count those not on trial due to flight, six out of nineteen. All six informers came from the ranks and associations of the Black Liberation Movement. Counting as many people from this as were brought to trial, there were as many informers as there were those of us who took political prisoner, prisoner of war, and innocent citizen positions. Half of the people brought to trial under indictment were opposed by the same amount of traitors.

There are two major reasons for this; first, the means of acceptance by the clandestine forces, that is, the ways or methods that people were recruited and the type of behavior that was valued. The second is the overall lack of a counterintelligence program, which would have included observation and judgement on the character and political cultivation of all participants, by all participants. Every army in the world demands the loyalty of its troops, not only to the army but to the cause for the army's existence. Recruits should be questioned and tested as to their principles and motives, and more importantly when the actions of personnel are not consistent with revolutionary morality, aboveboard conduct with comrades, honesty in dealings with proletarians and lumpen proletarians, and the goals of the revolution, they should be expelled or terminated.

It is of note that the empire was not able to infiltrate actual trained agents of the state into the ranks of the BLA,

which means that the only channel they had, the only sources of information, came from betrayal. That is, creatures who betrayed confidences, betrayed commitments, took advantage of situations to “help” themselves personally at the expense of former comrades. Had these traits been uncovered during times and circumstances of less gravity, these creatures could have been purged without disruption to the organization that is the cutting edge of New Afrikan resistance, with the effect of providing safety to the rest of the membership. This treatise is a personal inventory of traitors who were known personally by me, a listing of character traits that hopefully will enable others to see these types coming beforehand and purge them from their ranks, by having the guidelines to check and a historical account to be certain of the seriousness of the matter.

## Character

There is a lot that goes into the makeup of a person’s character, which should stand out in greater relief than the personality, for those who are in political association. Whether a person is outgoing or an introvert is a question of personality, whether a person is subject to twist the truth in order to have his or her way is a question of character. In other words, it’s the quality of the relations, interrelations, and behavior that determines character; while, on the other hand, personality is a question of style. It is very important not to confuse these things, for, on the one hand, everyone who seems a bit odd shouldn’t be purged right off the bat without any investigation into character, while anyone who doesn’t take responsibility for mistakes or transgressions, who has a history of selfish actions, of victimizing people other than the enemy, of committing crimes against our side, should be purged immediately; there can never be a question as to where loyalties lay. Of course, a

defector will insist that he or she is loyal up to the point where he or she turns their back on the revolution and embraces reaction, but both words and actions must be noted and judged.

A revolutionary, and a revolutionary combatant in particular, must have impeccable character. Those who support his or her actions should know that they will not be harmed through any intentional words or actions, and that the participant is deliberate in his or her behavior in that regard. Participants should be seen as competent and trustworthy.

It will be noted that Sam Brown at one point before he became a member of a cell of guerrillas habitually beat a woman with whom he shared an apartment. It was known that it wasn't and could not have been a case of self-defense, as the woman was beaten past the point of submission. It was obvious also that it wasn't a case stopping her from calling the police, as he had overpowered her to the point of being able to tie her up, and besides, even after his assault she turned to the revolutionary forces for justice.

Knowing that his acts were inexcusable he fled and hid for two years from the cell sent out looking for him. After that time, he plugged into a new group which had members who had been members of the group which had been dispatched to bring him to justice, who did not inform other members. Thus, without a trial or any collective discussion, or even a self-criticism, he was allowed to participate, when he should have at the very least been given the same kind of beating he had given out and been purged.

It will be noted that Tyrone Rison took collective money, which he used for his own purposes, and that when this was discovered he blamed the theft on another member of the collective. He was purged but allowed to be a participant after a sham disciplinary procedure where he was given the task of paying back the money, finding a military objective, and submitting a self-criticism. He never forthrightly admitted his crime, and therefore should have been purged and never allowed to reenter.

Peter Middleton, who was not an urban guerrilla, and who, if he had ever faced charges, faced charges of possessing small amounts of cocaine, was taken to be a revolutionary and allowed to be around revolutionaries. His associations gave his fabrications substance in the minds of reactionary and apolitical jurors. It was discovered that not only did he roll over—the FBI took over the clinic he worked in, but he had also met agents in Central Park to pass information to them prior to that. He was offered fifty thousand dollars to collaborate, just as were others who refused. He was a heavy user of cocaine who should have been purged because of that alone, but he was valued by other cocaine users who were in the collective.

Yvonne Thomas was obviously insane. Before burning down a safehouse and cutting her child with a razor and becoming an informant, she had disappeared and was found after being arrested for molesting another child. An instance of personal effects was missing from a person friendly to the guerrilla after she had visited, she had a habit of secreting away a few extra joints for herself, prompting suspicion when later a few rings and watches were missing. She was an associate through marriage to an actual political participant, and there is much to be said as to why she actually lived in a safehouse where she could witness the planning of military operations and financial transactions. However, the basic fact is she should not ever have been around any information of consequence.

It is supposed to be an honor to be a part of a liberation army, and membership and association is supposed to, in and of itself, denote a high degree of honesty, it's the basic requirement for the job, and once we see that requirement lacking in a member of a cell or a member of the support, that member has to go, either through expulsion or blood purge they must be put out of the way, not only because dishonesty will be the weakness by which the state will attempt to destroy the entire cell and everyone associated with it, but because each member is a representative of the cause and a member of the superseding society—if it is our desire to build a just society we must begin by being just and insisting on just participants.

Thomas should not have been shot for being petty, but that and clearly irrational behavior should have been the basis for her being outside the circle of any gravity.

Acts of contempt, especially violence against members who have not been collectively prescribed to be dealt with violently, is grounds for expulsion if not outright blood purge. There is enough opportunity for someone with a “bad” temper to find release, there is enough enemy to fight. Any charges against a member that one feels calls for a consequence should be brought before the collective, otherwise we could wipe ourselves out.

So bad character traits when exposed should be dealt with as soon as possible, not only because they are possible indications of someone being a political traitor, but because, in and of itself, dishonesty and contempt in the instances and in similar instances as described earlier makes for a band of rogues and not an army of liberation.

There will be other traits listed in the following inventory of the personality makeup of a few traitors; although many may not be as dangerous in and of themselves as some things mentioned, i do believe that they are indications that a member could very well be a traitor.

Certainly, a number of similar traits should indicate such, even when outside the boundaries of a collective, as there are certain things an honest and principled person will not do under any circumstances.

These cases, which call to our attention the need for full examinations, are also the subject of self-criticisms which have been written but do not fall within the scope of this work. It is our duty to compile personality inventories on all traitors, so as to be armed against them, and to complete and update criticisms, so as to be clear as to what we are doing.

# Rison—Ego

1. Rison had more than a few ego problems that resulted in countless run-ins with comrades, which included him cutting people off in the middle of sentences during conversations and collective meetings. Coarsely, “shut up,” and etc. If not to interject then usually so someone he agreed with could—he would never apologize for this and said in so many words that he had rank just below the person who comrades collectively considered a leader. He asserted this based on seniority, even though this was challenged and no credence was paid to it.
2. Declared himself a weapons expert based on his experience in Vietnam, when he just had knowledge of the usual small arms most guerrillas are familiar with.
3. Although stating that he spent a lot of time in Vietnam and had been sent on countless patrols, etc., he never stated that the U.S. government had used him and others of African descent, the point was always how he survived.
4. Attempted to justify obvious security violations (see Security Violations, 1).
5. Rather than develop a front, to serve to satisfy inquiries as to his means of support he insisted that by simply telling police that he gambled and hustled to provide for himself and family. He went on to attempt this explanation when questioned by police in regards to a bank robbery.
6. Always had a lot of “ra ra shit” in the form of advice from an old vet. For instance, when children were being killed in Atlanta in what we agreed was the work of a conspiracy, he put forth that we should go there to kill white children as black children were killed. During an expropriation when a guard was disarmed without a shot fired, he insisted that the guard should have been killed for resisting, as well as all guards who resist.



# Rison—Projections

1. Spoke on several occasions of how he would dread going to prison and the possibility of being raped by prisoners, and therefore never getting out because of having to kill his attacker.

# Rison—Signs of Contempt

1. Pilfered money from collective war chest—never making an outright clear admission. When told that he would have to submit a self-criticism brought in a tape that never faced up to the charges.
2. Did in fact say that another collective member took money, he himself pilfered.
3. Rewarded himself with collective property after completing a task of transporting property, after it being collectively agreed that all property would be secured intact.
4. Borrowed money without any effort to repay borrowed money, only giving bullshit explanations when pressed.
5. Spoke at great length on how he and some of his army buddies tied up and skinned a woman to death in Vietnam, always being rather deliberate in his retellings, never expressing remorse and always sounding quite satisfied with himself.

# Rison—Security Violations

1. Upon being bailed out on a bank robbery charge and brought home by relatives, he immediately got on his personal phone at his known residence to make a long-distance call to another city to inform comrades that he'd just been busted and released from jail. He further attempted to justify this by saying he had to make the call as soon as possible, when obviously he could have made the call from a booth.
2. Made long distance calls from residence prior to arrest, although told several times not to and although it was established collective policy to use phone booths. He continued this even after comrades had been busted and the state was in hot pursuit of several members of collective.
3. He indicated in conversations with people he hardly knew that he often had large sums of money and lived outside of legality.
4. At one point when two comrades were actively sought by police in a nationwide police hunt and at least one other comrade was in hiding, the collective was leaving a building with friends with the knowledge that the building was being watched by plainclothes police at a late hour (after 2:00 a.m.). Upon leaving the building, while knowing that police were looking at something unrelated, he went up to undercover police on his own to make clear that he knew who they were and beat on their windshield. He did this after it was collectively agreed that we would leave the scene as inconspicuously as possible, since it was a place subject to our return and we were too far away to scramble to our destination, and pigs would consider it no big deal to stop a crowded car of blacks, and that furthermore there were unarmed women with us.

5. Stated that certain people were slandering him and preventing him from seeing particular comrades, so that his personal value would not be acknowledged.

## **Brown—Ego**

1. Stated that he had been a Yoruba priest, leader of the five percenters, a Lt. in the U.S. Army, 101 Airborne division, an engineer, among other things.
2. Talked a lot of “ra ra shit” about how down he was. At one point when it was suggested that he shouldn’t be involved in a military action because he did not have a bulletproof vest, he stated that the speaker should exclude himself, rather than him, when the point was preparation.

## **Brown—Signs of Contempt**

1. Stated to comrade during arrangement, “Fuck these assholes, let’s go for ourselves.”
2. Took up extra space in vehicles by sitting wide-legged, even though it was clear that other comrades would be packed in.
3. Beat a sister up past the point of subduing her—went on the run from the collective when this was discovered and it was clear that he would be dealt with because of what he did.

# Brown—Projections

1. Spoke of the possibility of going to jail and being faced with having to decide whether or not to “bump the fags.”

# Thomas—Contempt

1. Made agreement to meet sisters in subway station on route to meeting, knowing that the sisters would get off of a subway to wait in the subway station for her. When this was discovered and she was confronted with her action of finding a ride and not telling the people who she knew would be waiting for her, she made no apologies.
2. She admitted that she hoped that military action by collective would not be successful. Her reasoning was that if the collective was successful in an expropriation, her husband would have money, would buy cocaine, would beat her, and since she wasn't gonna leave him, eventually he would kill her.
3. She asked questions that were tantamount to interrogation. Questions about acts, details, etc.
4. During social affairs would secrete joints given out for hospitality purposes in her pocketbook.
5. Displayed a sloppiness that was damaging to other people's property.

# Thomas—Security Violations

1. Excessive talking in public to strangers about past that it was clear authorities knew about.
2. Would get high and disappear for days at a time. At one point was arrested for child molesting.
3. Display

*At this point, this document ends. It is not known whether Kuwasi ever finished writing it, or if a more complete version exists.*

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