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Muhammad Speaks

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Photo courtesy of www.unmultimedia.org

Iranian President Ahmadinejad: “Slave Masters.... Pay Reparations”



*“I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS
MOMENT ALL OF MY LIFE” PART: II*

BY THE HONORABLE SILIS MUHAMMAD (see centerspread)

DEDICATED TO FREEDOM,
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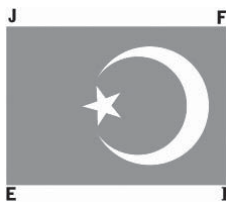
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'In the Company of My Elders'

I received a call on the morning of June 25, 2011 from Captain Shahidah Nadir inviting me to a cookout in nearby Jonesboro, Georgia. I had known about the cookout, but had not planned to attend. However, when I received the call I decided to go.

When I arrived I sat at a table where Brother Wadi, clearly now in his 80's and a pioneer Muslim, Brother Muwakkil, Brother Hasan Khaafid and Captain Shahidah were seated at also. The 3 of them are in their mid to late 70's. They had been following the Honorable Elijah Muhammad since the 50's and 60's when I was in junior high and high school and did not know anything about Islam or Muslims.



Captain Shahidah Nadir

They began to recall when the Mosque in Los Angeles, California was attacked by the Los Angeles Police Department and one of our brothers was killed, many were wounded, and one left paralyzed for life.

"After they attacked the mosque they drove past it with their shotguns sticking out of their windows so close to us you could see down the barrels," said Brother Wadi.

Captain Shahidah was there for the attack also and she recalled how the brothers got the women



Author and Editor Raushana Karriem

and children out of the mosque into safety.

I asked if the Honorable Silis Muhammad was hurt in that attack, but was told 'no'. However, the LAPD attacked the mosque a second time, and hit Mr. Muhammad in the mouth because he would not leave his post, according to Brother Wadi.

The Honorable Silis Muhammad later told me how he was brutalized by an LAPD officer in the mosque during the infamous Watt's Riot in 1965. Mr. Muhammad recalled how the Los Angeles police raided the mosque on a pretext of rioters being harbored there.

"I, along with some other brothers, were upstairs in the Mosque and some LAPD officers stormed in the room. One of them hit me in the stomach and the mouth with his shotgun. I was transported to jail in an ambulance but received no medical care along with a brother named Raymond. I was charged with attempted murder of a police officer, although I had no gun. The police claimed I had been a sniper on the roof of the mosque and hit the light on top of their police car."

The Honorable Silis Muhammad received 14 stitches in his head where the officer had hit him and several of his front teeth were knocked out.

Malcolm X came to Los Angeles after the attacks to deliver aid to the Muslims from the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

After the first attack there was a fatal plane crash in Los Angeles, and Malcolm said the Muslims had been praying for something like this, according to Brother Wadi.

One young brother, after hearing this, said that what they go through on the streets selling



Honorable Silis Muhammad and fellow Muslim F.O.I. after being beaten by the Los Angeles Police Department at Muhammad's Mosque No. 27 in 1965

Muhammad Speaks and Bean Pies is nothing compared to what the pioneering Muslims endured.

Captain Shahidah who is one of the best cooks in the Nation recalled how she used to cook for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad when He came to Los Angeles and how He liked His bean soup prepared. "He liked his bean soup whole with the jacket on the bean. He did not like it taken off. Also, He did not like a lot of spices in His soup," said Captain Shahidah.

It was an honor to be amongst these Muslim pioneers.

