

New Bethel rally demands justice for Imam Abdullah

Bukowski, Diane . Michigan Citizen ; Highland Park, Mich. [Highland Park, Mich]. 04 Apr 2010: A3.

[ProQuest document link](#)

ABSTRACT (ABSTRACT)

"There were abrasions on the Imam's face and lips, either claw marks or bite marks," [Imam Dawud Walid] said, implying the FBI dog attacked Abdullah. "They never called for emergency assistance, which is standard protocol even when there is no pulse, but there is no time of death listed. He was handcuffed, and his body was moved to a trailer. The medical examiner said they never took photos of the actual shooting site, only of his body in the trailer."

The following day, at CAIR's annual banquet attended by 1,000 people, Walid as well as Rev. Jesse Jackson condemned the Imam's killing, calling it "illegal" and "immoral." [John Conyers], who heads the House Judiciary Committee, said he plans to meet either with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder or a representative in coming weeks about the FBI and police assaults on Masjid El-Haqq.

Funds for the defense of the Masjid El-Haqq12, and the pursuit of justice for Imam Abdullah, are being collected by CAIR, according to Imam Walid. CAIR's address is 21700 Northwestern Hwy # 1199, Southfield, MI 48075-4924. Its phone number is (248) 559-2247. Imam Walid can be emailed at dwalid@cair.com.

FULL TEXT

Headnote

Freedom for the Masjid El-Haqq 12

DETROIT - Forty-one years after police fired 800 rounds into a meeting at the New Bethel Baptist Church, a crowd gathered there March 27 to demand justice for Imam Luqman Abdullah. The Black Islamic cleric was shot 21 times and killed by an FBI "terrorism task force" at a Dearborn warehouse last October.

Speakers also condemned Detroit police for raiding Abdullah's mosque, Masjid El-Haqq, that evening, as they had raided New Bethel in 1969.

Rhonda Fuller and Deja Walker connected the events, reading a poem for their father and grandfather Chaka Fuller. Fuller was assassinated four months after he and two other Republic of New Africa (RNA) members were acquitted of killing a cop during the New Bethel siege.

"I was viciously stabbed in every one of my organs; I stumbled home to hear my screaming wife and children cry and died in their midst," Walker read as her mother wept.

Members of the Imam's family and mosque were present as his son Omar Regan eloquently called on the audience to continue his father's struggle for the oppressed. Leaders from New Bethel, the Council on Islamic American Relations (CAIR), the Nation of Islam, the NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta, the Urban Network bookstore, and the Detroit Coalition Against Police Brutality, Inc. U.S. Congressman John Conyers also addressed the rally.

"I am happy today because Muslims have come to church, but it saddens me that this tragedy had to happen for Muslims and Christians to come together," Regan said. "We must stop allowing our leaders to be killed. ... We must stop gang violence and bring our families together. We must stop the system from selling liquor and drugs and destroying our schools so it can build prisons for our young people."

Regan also called for the freedom of 12 other El-Haqq members awaiting trial either in prison or on tether. They are Muhammad Abdul Bassir, Muhummad Abdul Salaam, Abdul Saboor, Mujahid Carswell (son of Imam Abdullah), Abdullah Beard, Mohammad Al-Sahli, Yasir Ali Khan, Adam Hussain, Gary Laverne Porter, Ali Abdul Raqib, and Acie

Pusha.

They are accused of receiving and selling stolen goods, committing firearms offenses, and one charge of obliterating a vehicle ID number. None of the offenses are terrorism-related. A pre-trial conference was held in February in front of U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood. A status conference on July 23 is the next scheduled hearing date, according to court records.

Masjid El Haqq members have reported that FBI agent provocateurs infiltrated the group, but Imam Abdullah nonetheless welcomed them because they claimed they were in need of shelter and food.

Nation of Islam Minister Rasul Muhammad, a son of NOI founder Elijah Muhammad, recalled the COINTELPRO infiltration of Black revolutionary organizations in the 1960s and 70s. It resulted in the FBI and police murders of at least 31 Black Panthers and the murders and incarceration of many other leaders.

He told Regan, "I know in my heart that your life is in danger because you have a beautiful heart. They are determined that Islam should never be allowed to flourish. Pure hatred motivated the death of the Imam. We in the NOI are your brothers and sisters. As the Koran says to our oppressors, 'If you knew how many the enemy were, you would certainly turn back.'"

Imam Dawud Walid, head of Michigan CAIR, revealed shocking details of the Imam's death gleaned from autopsy photos, which contradicted earlier reports from the FBI and the Dearborn police.

"There were abrasions on the Imam's face and lips, either claw marks or bite marks," Walid said, implying the FBI dog attacked Abdullah. "They never called for emergency assistance, which is standard protocol even when there is no pulse, but there is no time of death listed. He was handcuffed, and his body was moved to a trailer. The medical examiner said they never took photos of the actual shooting site, only of his body in the trailer."

Regan said his father's front teeth were broken out as well, and one leg was broken in numerous places.

Walid condemned Detroit police who raided Masjid El-Haqq the same day with guns drawn as its members were at prayer. Police claimed a Detroit News reporter had been assaulted outside.

He said that neither Mayor Dave Bing nor Detroit Police Chief Warren Evans have responded to CAIR's calls for investigation of the Detroit raid, despite his personal conversation with Bing when they happened to be on the same airliner.

Ron Scott of the Coalition Against Police Brutality chaired the rally. Other speakers included Rev. Robert Smith, pastor of New Bethel, a Flint Imam who said Abdullah was his best friend, Heaster Wheeler of the NAACP, Sandra Hines, Yusef Shakur, and Dorothy Burrell.

The following day, at CAIR's annual banquet attended by 1,000 people, Walid as well as Rev. Jesse Jackson condemned the Imam's killing, calling it "illegal" and "immoral." Conyers, who heads the House Judiciary Committee, said he plans to meet either with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder or a representative in coming weeks about the FBI and police assaults on Masjid El-Haqq.

Funds for the defense of the Masjid El-Haqq¹², and the pursuit of justice for Imam Abdullah, are being collected by CAIR, according to Imam Walid. CAIR's address is 21700 Northwestern Hwy # 1199, Southfield, MI 48075-4924. Its phone number is (248) 559-2247. Imam Walid can be emailed at dwalid@cair.com.

Sidebar

At the rally, Imam Abdullah son, Omar Regan, exhorts audience to continue his father's struggle.

Deja Walker, right, reads a poem about her grandfather who was victim of 1969 New Bethel raid, as mother Rhonda Fuller listens. DIANE BUKOWSKI PHOTOS

AuthorAffiliation

By Diane Bukowski

Michigan Citizen

DETAILS

Subject:	Demonstrations & protests; Shootings; Police; Clergy; Justice; Terrorism; Task forces; Islam; Freedoms; Mosques & temples
Location:	Dearborn Michigan
People:	Abdullah, Imam Luqman
Company / organization:	Name: New Bethel Baptist Church-Detroit MI; NAICS: 813110
Ethnicity:	African American, Caribbean, African
Publication title:	Michigan Citizen; Highland Park, Mich.
Volume:	32
Issue:	21
Pages:	A3
Number of pages:	1
Publication year:	2010
Publication date:	Apr 4-Apr 10, 2010
Section:	Detroit
Publisher:	Michigan Citizen
Place of publication:	Highland Park, Mich.
Country of publication:	United States, Highland Park, Mich.
Publication subject:	African American/Caribbean/African, General Interest Periodicals--United States
ISSN:	10722041
Source type:	Newspaper
Language of publication:	English
Document type:	News
Document feature:	Photographs
ProQuest document ID:	89137227
Document URL:	https://proxy.lib.umich.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/newspapers/new-bethel-rally-demands-justice-imam-abdullah/docview/89137227/se-2?accountid=14667

Copyright:	Copyright Michigan Citizen Apr 4-Apr 10, 2010
-------------------	---

Last updated:	2011-10-27
----------------------	------------

Database:	Ethnic NewsWatch
------------------	------------------

LINKS

[Availability at University of Michigan](#)

Database copyright © 2022 ProQuest LLC. All rights reserved.

[Terms and Conditions](#) [Contact ProQuest](#)