

# The 19 black radicals who are still in US prison after four decades

Saturday 15 September 2018, by [PILKINGTON Ed](#) (Date first published: 30 July 2018).

**Some African American rebels, including Mumia Abu-Jamal and members of Move, are still incarcerated for their actions during the 1970s black liberation struggle**

**Mumia Abu-Jamal, AKA Wesley Cook, former Black Panther**



Former Pennsylvania death row inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal, seen here in a 13 December 1995 prison photo, was convicted in 1982 of murdering a Philadelphia police officer. Photograph: Lisa Terry/Getty Images

**Age:** 64

**Incarcerated since:** 1981

**Convicted of:** Murder of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner

**Sentence:** Life without parole

**Current prison:** SCI Mahanoy, Pennsylvania

‘Intoxicating freedom, gripping fear’: Mumia Abu-Jamal on life as a Black Panther

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**Delbert Orr Africa, Move organisation**



Delbert Africa and other members of Move, an organisation founded by John Africa, sit in front of their barricaded house in the Powelton Village section of Philadelphia. Photograph: Leif Skoogfors/Corbis via Getty Images

**Age:** 72

**Incarcerated since:** 1978

**Convicted of:** Third-degree murder of police officer James Ramp during Philadelphia siege

**Sentence:** 30 years to life

**Current prison:** SCI Dallas, Pennsylvania

A siege. A bomb. 48 dogs. And the black commune that would not surrender

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**Eddie Goodman Africa**, Move organisation



Move members continue the radical group's vigil at its west Philadelphia headquarters on 3 March 1978. Photograph: Bill Ingraham/AP

**Age:** 68

**Incarcerated since:** 1978

**Convicted of:** Third-degree murder of police officer James Ramp during Philadelphia siege

**Sentence:** 30 years to life

**Current prison:** SCI Mahanoy, Pennsylvania

**Janet Holloway Africa**, Move organisation



Janet Africa of Move talks to bystanders outside the Move headquarters in Philadelphia, on 3 August 1978. Photograph: Hires/AP

**Age:** 67

**Incarcerated since:** 1978

**Convicted of:** Third-degree murder of police officer James Ramp during Philadelphia siege

**Sentence:** 30 years to life

**Current prison:** SCI Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania

**Janine Phillips Africa**, Move organisation



Janine Africa, a member of Move, preaches to the crowd that gathers in front of their barricaded house. Photograph: Leif Skoogfors/Corbis via Getty Images

**Age:** 62

**Incarcerated since:** 1978

**Convicted of:** Third-degree murder of police officer James Ramp during Philadelphia siege

**Sentence:** 30 years to life

**Current prison:** SCI Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania

**Jalil Muntaqim, AKA Anthony Bottom**, former Black Panther, Black Liberation Army member



Jalil Muntaqim. Photograph: The Guardian

**Age:** 66

**Incarcerated since:** 1971

**Convicted of:** Murders of police officers Waverly Jones and Joseph Piagentini

**Sentence:** 25 years to life

**Current prison:** Sullivan Correctional Facility, New York

The Black Panthers still in prison: after 46 years, will they ever be set free?

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**Mutulu Shakur**, associated with Black Panther party and other groups



Mutulu Shakur in the Manhattan Correction Center. Photograph: New York Daily News Archive/NY Daily News via Getty Images

**Age:** 67

**Incarcerated since:** 1986

**Convicted of:** Helping Black Panther Party member Assata Shakur escape from prison in 1979

**Sentence:** 60 years

**Current prison:** Federal Correctional Complex, Victorville, California

**Russell 'Maroon' Shoatz**, former Black Panther



Russell Shoatz III and Sharon Shoatz with their father Russell 'Maroon' Shoatz after he was released from solitary confinement into general population at SCI Graterford. Photograph: Abolitionist Law Center.

**Age:** 74

**Incarcerated since:** 1970

**Convicted of:** Murder of Philadelphia police sergeant Frank Von Colln

**Sentence:** Life without parole

**Current prison:** SCI Dallas, Pennsylvania

**Sundiata Acoli, AKA Clark Squire**, former Black Panther, Black Liberation Army member



Sundiata Acoli in February of 2013, when he was 76. Photograph: Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign

**Age:** 81

**Incarcerated since:** 1973

**Convicted of:** Murder of New Jersey state trooper Werner Foerster

**Sentence:** Life plus 30 years consecutively

**Current prison:** FCI Cumberland, Maryland

**Chuck Sims Africa**, Move organisation



Charles 'Chuck' Sims Africa. Photograph: onamove.com

**Age:** 59

**Incarcerated since:** 1978

**Convicted of:** Third-degree murder of police officer James Ramp during Philadelphia siege

**Sentence:** 30 years to life

**Current prison:** SCI Dallas, Pennsylvania

**Michael Davis Africa**, Move organisation



Michael Davis Africa Photograph: onamove.com

**Age:** 62

**Incarcerated since:** 1978

**Convicted of:** Third-degree murder of police officer James Ramp during Philadelphia siege

**Sentence:** 30 years to life

**Current prison:** SCI Graterford, Pennsylvania

Born in a cell: the extraordinary tale of the black liberation orphan

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**Joseph Bowen**, former Black Liberation Army member



Joseph 'Joe-Joe' Bowen. Photograph: No credit

**Age:** 70

**Incarcerated since:** 1971

**Convicted of:** Murder of police officer, and later murder of two prison officers

**Sentence:** Life without parole

**Current prison:** SCI Coal Township, Pennsylvania

**Veronza Bowers Jr**, former Black Panther



Veronza Bowers Jr, convicted of murdering a US park ranger, shown in this undated family photograph. Photograph: Washington Post/Washington Post/Getty Images

**Age:** 72

**Incarcerated since:** 1973

**Convicted of:** Murder of US park ranger Kenneth Patrick

**Sentence:** Life

**Current prison:** Federal Correctional Complex, Butner, North Carolina

**Fred 'Muhammad' Burton**, former Black Liberation Army member



Fred 'Muhammad' Burton. Photograph: Handout

**Age:** 71

**Incarcerated since:** 1970

**Convicted of:** Murder of police officer, and later murder of two prison officers

**Current prison:** SCI-Somerset, Pennsylvania

**Sentence:** Life

**Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald**, former Black Panther



.Romaine 'Chip' Fitzgerald Photograph: No credit

**Age:** 69

**Incarcerated since:** 1969

**Convicted of:** Murder of security guard and attempted murder of a highway patrol officer

**Sentence:** Two life sentences

**Current prison:** California state prison, Los Angeles county

**Ruchell 'Cinque' Magee**

**Age:** 79

**Incarcerated since:** 1963

**Convicted of:** Aggravated kidnapping in 1970 courthouse break-out attempt in which Judge Harold Haley was killed

**Sentence:** Life without parole

**Current prison:** California Men's Colony, San Luis Obispo, California

- This entry was amended on 2 August 2018 to correct Ruchell 'Cinque' Magee's age from 65 to 79.

**Ed Poindexter**, former Black Panther



Ed Poindexter. Photograph: Courtesy of Ed Poindexter

**Age:** 73

**Incarcerated since:** 1970

**Convicted of:** Murder of Omaha police officer Larry Minard

**Sentence:** Life

**Current prison:** Nebraska State Penitentiary, Lincoln, Nebraska

**Kojo Bomani Sababu, AKA Grailing Brown**, former Black Liberation Army member



Kojo Bomani Sababu, aka Grailing Brown Photograph: No Credit

**Age:** 65

**Incarcerated since:** 1975

**Convicted of:** Murder of drug dealer, attempted prison escape

**Sentence:** Life

**Current prison:** USP Canaan, Pennsylvania

**Kamau Sadiki, AKA Freddie Hilton,** former Black Panther



Kamau Sidiki aka Freddie Hilton Photograph: Handout

**Age:** 65

**Incarcerated since:** 2002

**Convicted of:** Murder in 1971 of Atlanta police officer James Green

**Sentence:** Life

**Current prison:** Augusta State Medical Prison, Georgia

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## Ed Pilkington

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## P.S.

The Guardian

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jul/30/black-panther-radicals-still-in-jail>