

Armed Struggle Natural Response to Fascist Rule

Martin Sostre

Sisters and Brothers:

The escalating repression by this predatory, racist and sexist capitalist system makes glaringly clear to all but the most politically backward, that the dire predictions that U.S. capitalism would evolve into fascism have come to pass. Restoration of the death penalty, life sentences for drugs, recent Supreme Court rulings upholding the denial of the right to live in communes, the right to privacy and human dignity (by granting police the right to arbitrarily invade peoples' persons and homes, and use as evidence in court, anything seized during the illegal search), police electronic eavesdropping, infiltration, frame-ups, assassinations, brutalizations, dehumanizations, behavior modification, and genocide are some of the repressive fascist measures now being implemented.

The question now is: What are we going to do about this murderous fascism? Shall we continue spouting empty revolutionary rhetoric without commensurate deeds and passively stand by like sheep while our comrades are framed by the gestapo police, kidnapped off the streets and murdered one by one? Must we each passively await our turn to be led to the oppressor's cages, brutalized or murdered? Or shall we oppose the choking fascist oppression which, if allowed to continue encroaching on what's left of our personal freedoms, will eventually convert us into dehumanized mindless robots? The answer is obvious. Indeed, to defend ourselves by all means necessary against the destruction of our human rights and personhood not only is the natural right to self-defense but a human duty.

By what means then shall we resist the fascist oppressors? The answer to this is determined by the means employed to oppress us. Our oppression is multi-dimensional. We are oppressed economically, legally, psychologically, culturally, physically and by all other means deemed necessary by the criminal ruling class, to maintain themselves in power. Since oppression is multi-dimensional does not common-sense dictate that resistance to it be multi-dimensional; with each level of oppression challenged by a commensurate level of revolutionary resistance?

For example, the fascist lies propagated by the controlled media press must be challenged with revolutionary truth disseminated by the movement press, tapes, films, books, pamphlets, leaflets, posters, etc. Not too many militants and revolutionaries will disagree with this. Only when the

same common-sense is applied to opposing fascist violence, with revolutionary armed resistance, do many of them become horrified. Witness the reaction of most of the movement people to the SLA's [Symbionese Liberation Army] armed revolutionary response to fascist repression.[1]

The current revolutionary action of the S.L.A. is the correct and inevitable response to the countless kidnappings, frame-ups, brutalizations and murders perpetrated by the ruling class members, upon resisters of oppression. At long last, the individual members of this exploitative racist sexist system are being subjected to revolutionary justice. As Malcolm X said: "It's a case of the chickens coming home to roost." I extend my revolutionary love and solidarity to my SLA comrades and wish them success.

Why are so-called militants and revolutionaries so horrified when the armed fascist repression is resisted by the armed might of the people? Do they expect the people to revert to the turn-the-other-cheek stage of the 1950's and respond to fascist murder, sadistic brutalization, frame-ups and torture with passive acquiescence, love for our fascist enemies and cooperation in our own oppression?

Or is it that these horrified so-called militants and revolutionaries see the liberation struggle as one-dimensional, to be fought solely on the level of consciousness they happen to be on? Surely they cannot be so politically retarded as to believe that in a liberation struggle the enemy should be fought on only one level—that approved by the enemy!

It is just as absurd to propose that everyone resist fascist oppression through peaceful means as to propose armed resistance for everyone. Just because I'm a revolutionary anarcho-communist who believes in armed struggle does not dogmatize me to propose that everyone arm and go underground. Nor would I denounce those who refused to do so.

Paradoxically, though these leftists bitterly denounce all violence by U.S. revolutionaries against the U.S. ruling class, they highly praise as "heroic" the armed violence of revolutionaries in Africa, Asia, Ireland, Mideast and Latin America. The rule seems to be that armed violence is an acceptable form of revolutionary struggle *except when employed by the U.S. revolutionaries against the fascist ruling class of the U.S.* In effect, it's as if the role of these left groups is to

protect the ruling class from violence and confine the liberation struggle to the boundaries of legal activities approved by the ruling class.

However, the irrefutable truth is that a liberation struggle is revolutionary war. Revolutionary war is a complicated process of mass struggle, armed and unarmed, peaceful and violent, legal and clandestine, economic and political, where all forms of struggle are developed harmoniously around the axis of armed struggle. Anyone who by now has not grasped these basic facts does not know what liberation struggle is—or is trying to palm off reformism for liberation struggle.

A distinction must be made between reformists and revolutionaries. Reformists seek merely to *reform* through legal means, and not overthrow the existing fascist system. That's why they panic when the people exercise their right to armed self-defense against the genocidal violence of the fascist ruling class. Revolutionaries seek the *complete overthrow* of the fascist system by all means necessary including armed struggle. Revolutionaries seek moreover to subject to peoples' people's justice individual members of the criminal ruling class for their many crimes against humanity.

The spreading to the East and West coasts of the philosophy of subjecting members and agents of the ruling class to people's justice attests to how widespread this revolutionary concept has become. It can never be erased from the consciousness of the people, the revolutionary clock.

At long last the peoples' armed force has emerged within the United States to oppose the gestapo of the fascist ruling class. The balance of power has radically shifted. Gone forever are the days when the fascists could perpetrate every conceivable crime with impunity. The price of oppression has been raised, and shall soon become prohibitive.

The stolen billions of dollars possessed by members of the criminal ruling class shall soon become a liability. They'll be forced to convert their mansions into fortresses protected by round-the-clock armed guards and electronic protective devices. Every venture outside the besieged fortress will require escorts of armed guards. Even this will not guarantee safety. For revolutionary justice shall stalk the fascist criminals at every turn. Already the people's army has sent shivers of fear through the spine of the criminal ruling class who clearly recognize the signs as meaning: the beginning of the end.

Conversely, the people's armed self-defense force has created new hope in the hearts of the oppressed—particularly revolutionary comrades held hostage in fascist prisons serving long sentences. Soon the fascist ruling class will be forced to free these prisoners of war in exchange for captured members of their own class.

The denunciation of the SLA by the movement press is indistinguishable from that of the ruling class. Indeed, some movement newspapers quoted statements from the controlled press, to support their claim that the people rejected the kidnapping. The criminal ruling class rubbed their hands in glee and publicized how divided the left was over the SLA; Each left organization seemed to be competing with the others for legitimacy by denouncing the SLA. It was utterly disgusting, reactionary and opportunistic.

Nor were the denunciations made in a spirit of constructive criticism by fellow comrades. No attempt was made by the movement press to publicize the SLA program, analyze it and point out where it was erroneous. The criticism was deliberately hostile and designed to isolate the SLA by poisoning people's minds against them.

Conspicuously absent from the denunciations of the SLA in the movement press is any discussion of the role of armed struggle. The impression given is that armed struggle is not an essential part of the revolutionary struggle; that revolutionary violence is something repulsive which should be shunned. The left movement press would have one believe that to overthrow the criminal ruling class we have merely to organize mass movements, demonstrations, protest and repeat revolutionary slogans. Even after Chile (the latest of a series of tragedies where thousands of defenseless comrades were slaughtered because of the criminal refusal of leftist leaders to arm the people against the armed might of the ruling class) the movement in the United States still follows the same ill-fated line of Allende—as evidenced by the bitter denunciations of the armed action of the SLA.

Most movement organizations are so busy following their dogmatic party lines, repeating revolutionary cliches and downing other movement groups that they're unable to see the self-evident. Were their natural powers of perception and consciousness not stultified by party-lineism they would know that a revolutionary liberation movement must deal with the enemy concurrently on all levels, including armed violence. Otherwise when the inevitable

showdown with the ruling class comes, the revolution will be left defenseless and the lives of our beloved comrades needlessly sacrificed.

The SLA is the armed resistance of the people to the exploitative, racist and sexist fascism which now is upon us. All resisters of oppression, on whatever level of conscience they may be, should rejoice at SLA's existence, at their successful deeds and the fear they put in the hearts of the criminal ruling class. It's therefore the duty of us all to support, by all means necessary, our SLA comrades. We must close ranks with them and give them the support they need. Let's not fall for the malicious lies spread by agents of the F.B. I. about the SLA which are designed to isolate SLA from the people to make it easier to capture or murder them.

I have carefully studied the declaration of Revolutionary War and the Symbionese Program of the Symbionese Federation and the Symbionese Liberation Army and find it generally sound. It incorporates much of our historical revolutionary experience. I believe the Symbionese Liberation Army has one of the most advanced revolutionary programs for liberation in operation within the United States of America.

The SLA represents the greatest challenge to fascist power because it objectifies the nucleus of the people's army which as history shows is necessary to deliver the death-blow to the military arm of the fascist parasitic class.

Your comrade in struggle,

Martin Sostre

Federal Detention Headquarters

427 West Street

New York, New York 10014

April, 1974

