

October 5, 1971

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Attached is a request from Civil Rights Division (CRD), Department, to conduct a limited investigation into the death of George Jackson, a convict who was shot and killed by a guard during Jackson's attempt to escape from San Quentin Prison, California, on 8/21/71, in which three guards and two other inmates were also slain allegedly by Jackson and another confederate. CRD requests autopsy report on Jackson and copies of investigative reports prepared by prison officials and local law enforcement agencies.

Our San Francisco Office which covers San Quentin Prison being instructed to conduct investigation requested by CRD. You will be kept advised of any pertinent developments.

JBI

SEE REVERSE
SIDE FOR
CLASSIFICATION
ACTION

WBS
ADD
AS
curB
jam
ASB

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-17-86 BY SP2TAP/bce
#4094

F B I

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel _____
(Type in plaintext or code) (Priority)

TO: SAC, **San Francisco**

Date **10/5/71**

REC-60
REC-60

ST-112
From: Director, FBI

50502 - 1

1 - [redacted] b7c

**UNSUBS - GUARDS,
SAN QUENTIN PRISON,
SAN QUENTIN (MARIN COUNTY), CALIFORNIA
GEORGE JACKSON - VICTIM
CR**

with

(This line for LEFT MARGIN.)

Enclosed are two copies of a self-explanatory Departmental letter dated **10/1/71.**

Complete the requested investigation in accordance with the provisions of Section **27, Volume II**, Manual of Instructions, and surep within **10** days of the receipt of this communication.

State in the first paragraph of the details of your report that it contains the results of a limited investigation and underscore the word limited
 preliminary preliminary

Advise all persons interviewed
 appropriate officials at the outset that this investigation is being conducted at the specific request of the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, referring to him by name as well as title.

Remarks:

**ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-7-86 BY sp2tj/bce
#4094**

JBL:ejs *ep*
(4)

Enc. (2)

(Do not type below this line.)

- Tolson _____
- Felt _____
- Rosen _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Miller, E.S. _____
- Callahan _____
- Casper _____
- Conrad _____
- Dalbey _____
- Cleveland _____
- Ponder _____
- Rates _____
- Tavel _____
- Walters _____
- Soyars _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

MAILED
OCT - 5 1971
FBI

263

55 OCT 13 1971

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE SAN FRANCISCO	OFFICE OF ORIGIN SAN FRANCISCO	DATE 10/15/71	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 10/11 - 13/71
TITLE OF CASE CHANGED UNSUBS - Guards, San Quentin Prison San Quentin (Marin County) GEORGE LESTER JACKSON - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED]	TYPED BY lml
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

Title marked changed to show the middle name of the Victim.

REFERENCE: Bureau airtel to San Francisco, 10/5/71.

- C -

ADMINISTRATIVE

The complete autopsy report for the Victim and the complete indictment for the State of California is set out inasmuch as these documents have been released to the press and have received a considerable amount of publicity. All persons interviewed were advised that this investigation is conducted at the specific request of DAVID L. NORMAN, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, US Dept. of Justice.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			PENDING OVER ONE YEAR
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT

COPIES MADE:
2 - Bureau
1 - San Francisco (44-1189)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-50522-2
OCT-27
REC-22
EX-101
OCT 18 1971

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				
Agency	CRS			
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.	10-19-71			
How Fwd.	6-94C			
	JBR:efj			

Notations

SIX
STAT SECT.

OCT 26 1971

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: [REDACTED]

Office: SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Date:

OCTOBER 15, 1971

Field Office File #: 44-1189

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS - Guards,
San Quentin Prison
San Quentin (Marin County)
GEORGE LESTER JACKSON -
VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: Autopsy report of GEORGE LESTER JACKSON shows he died from gunshot wound of head. Consolidated investigative report not available.

- C -

DETAILSTHIS IS A LIMITED INVESTIGATION

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of a memo from DAVID L. NORMAN, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, to the Director of the FBI, which requested the following:

"This Division has recently received several Congressional inquiries concerning George Jackson, a convict at San Quentin Prison, who was killed during a riot at that facility on August 21, 1971.

"In order to determine whether Jackson's death could have involved violations of 18 U.S.C. 241 or 242, please conduct the following limited investigation:

- (1) Obtain a copy of any reports of Jackson's autopsies.
- (2) obtain copies of any reports on this incident prepared by prison officials or local law enforcement agencies."

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/15/71

b7c

[REDACTED] Assistant Coroner, Marin County, California, made available the attached Coroner's report regarding the death of GEORGE LESTER JACKSON on August 21, 1971.

On 10/13/71 at SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA File # SF 44-1189
(MARIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA)

b7c

by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 10/15/71

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

8 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(8)

(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

(k)(6)

(b)(6)

(k)(7)

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

_____ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
44-40-50522-2

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/15/71

b7c [REDACTED] Marin County District Attorney's Office, Civic Center, furnished the following:

The investigation of the riot at San Quentin Prison during which GEORGE LESTER JACKSON was killed, was conducted by both the Prison Authorities and the investigators from the Marin County District Attorney's Office. The investigation was coordinated by the District Attorney, Mr. BRUCE BALES, and all investigative reports from both the Prison Officials and the District Attorney's investigators were incorporated into one report, which is being maintained by the District Attorney.

As a result of the investigation, the case was presented to the Marin County Grand Jury and indictment against seven individuals was returned.

b7c [REDACTED] furnished a copy of this indictment which is attached.

He also said that he would have to consult with the District Attorney to determine if the investigative report could be furnished to the FBI, or any other Federal Government Agency.

b7c [REDACTED] said the case is still under investigation.

On 10/11/71 at SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA File # SF 44-1189
 by SA [REDACTED] /ml Date dictated 10/15/71

3

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 10/15/71

Mr. BRUCE BALES, District Attorney, Marin County, California, furnished the following information:

As a result of the riots at San Quentin Prison and the death of GEORGE LESTER JACKSON on August 21, 1971, extensive investigation was conducted by both Prison Authorities and investigators in his own office. He, himself, coordinated the investigation and all reports were forwarded to him. These reports were incorporated into one consolidated report, which is maintained in his Office.

As a result of the investigation, witnesses were subpoenaed before the Marin County Grand Jury. An indictment was returned charging seven individuals with five murders and other violations.

When the indictment was returned, the Judge of the Superior Court ordered the transcript of all the Grand Jury testimony sealed. He ~~was~~ also ordered by the JUDGE not to disclose the contents of the testimony to anyone. The testimony is sealed, however, the indictment is not.

Mr. BALES added if he gives a copy of the report to anyone, this would be in violation of ~~that~~ order and he could be held in contempt of court. He said when a court order is rescinded the testimony and a copy of the report will be made available.

On 10/12/71 at SAN RAFAEL, CALIFORNIA File # SF 44-1189
 by SAs [REDACTED] & lml Date dictated 10/15/71
 4*

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

M. A. Jones to Mr. Bishop Memo
RE:GEORGE LESTER JACKSON (DECEASED)

b7C

of one year to life, due to his two previous commitments to the California Youth Authority. California prison records additionally reflect that during the period 8-5-61 to 11-18-70, Jackson was charged with 45 prison rule infractions, including disobeying orders, creating a disturbance, assault with a deadly weapon on another inmate, possession of contraband, fighting, possession of a weapon, assaulting an officer, throwing a liquid on an officer, and assault resulting in the death of a Soledad prison guard.

Jackson died from a gunshot wound during an abortive prison break from San Quentin on 8-21-71.



b7C

RECOMMENDATION:

For Mr. Gray's information.

Here is another Press slant.

TJB

JRA

*ack Jones to Bishop
memo 8-20-71
1-5-71
WASH POST
JRH dnc*

Prepare a draft of a proposed factual letter to The Eclipsa & let me see it. This does not mean that I contemplate sending such a letter. JTH 6/16 7:11AM

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- Felt _____
- Mohr _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Mr. Kinley _____
- Mr. Armstrong _____
- Ms. Herwig _____
- Mrs. Neenan _____

TO : Mr. Bishop

DATE: 6-13-72

FROM : M. Jones

SUBJECT: GEORGE LESTER JACKSON (DECEASED)

"SOLEDAD BROTHERS"
CRIMINAL RECORDS

b7c
uul

b7c By note to [redacted] of 6-7-72, Mrs. Neenan conveyed Mr. Gray's request for the full criminal records of captioned individuals whose backgrounds of criminality were grossly minimized in a "Washington Post" editorial of June 6th.

Attached are copies of the Identification Records of Jackson [redacted] reflecting several arrests for crimes of violence. Bufiles were additionally reviewed and inquiry was made through the San Francisco Office to secure additional details of the juvenile offenses perpetrated by these individuals.

b7c



b7c

JUL 11 1972
Jackson's adult arrest, on 9-18-60, at Los Angeles, followed the gunpoint robbery, with an accomplice, of a service station operator. The accomplice allegedly wielded the gun, threatening to kill the operator, and the pair secured \$71.00 loot, which they split. Jackson later admitted participation in the robbery but claimed to be unaware of a gun being used, and further claimed he could not remember what occurred because he had been drinking all weekend and was dizzy. He was subsequently sentenced to serve an indeterminate sentence

ENCLOSURE

Enclosures (2)

1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Kinley

JRH:dmc (7)

EX-112
JUL 17 1972
44-50522
1 - Mr. E. S. Miller
1 - M. A. Jones

CONTINUED - OVER

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

TEBR

[Handwritten initials]

June 7, 1972
6:20 PM

TBS

TO:

[Redacted]

FROM: MARJORIE NEENAN

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

Mr. Gray has requested that Crime Records
rebut, for his education only, the statements in the
Washington Post editorial of 6/6/72 concerning George
Jackson *[Redacted]*. In particular, he wants
you to show the full criminal record of these two men.

Jones
Handley
6/7

James Jones to
Beakup
JRH: Duce
6/13/72

ENCLOSURE

1 44-58522-3

Wash Post
6-6-72

Justice and the Angela Davis Verdict

The post mortems on the Angela Davis trial are bound to be as fascinating as they are conflicting. There are some who will take the jury's fairly quick unanimous vote to acquit on charges of murder, kidnaping and conspiracy as vindication of the American system of criminal justice. After all, they would argue, she is a black, a radical and a Communist and she was acquitted by a jury of eleven whites and one Mexican American. That should at least allay Kingman Brewster's fear that a black radical can't get a fair trial in America.

There will be others, offended by Miss Davis' politics, her hair style and her rhetoric, who probably think the country has gone mad. They will think that anyone who looks like that and talks like that must be guilty of something. And then there are those who, like Miss Davis' mother, believe that the only fair trial would have been no trial at all.

None of these reactions sounds entirely right or adequate to us. Reasonable men could probably differ about whether the California prosecutor had enough evidence to take the case to a grand jury in the first place. But consider the evidence he had at hand: Jonathan Jackson pulled his courthouse raid with guns which Miss Davis owned, she had been very close to him in the weeks that preceded the raid and there were eyewitnesses willing to swear that she had been at the scene just the day before Jackson tried to free three San Quentin prisoners who were participating in a trial in the Marin County courthouse. Thus, it seems to us hard to make the case that the judgment to go to the grand jury was entirely political.

And it is clear that the trial jury did not think Miss Davis was on trial for her politics, her hair style or her blackness. Once having framed its case as it did, the prosecution had to prove that she knew what Jonathan Jackson was planning to do, that she discussed and helped him formulate his plan and that he gained possession of her guns with her knowledge and approval. That was what the prosecution could not prove and what the jury could not accept.

But the fact that the San Jose jury voted to acquit does no more to vindicate the criminal justice system than the judgment of the Berrigan jury in Harrisburg, or the Seale jury in New Haven or the New York jury in the trial of the 13 Black Panthers. Those cases prove only that jurors in cases with celebrated defendants can be counted on to take their responsibilities seriously and to leave the country's prejudices outside when they withdraw to the jury room to consider the evidence presented in the courtroom.

This is all to the good. But it still leaves the system of justice somewhat less than perfect when it is confronted with less highly charged cases and less celebrated defendants. Day in and day out, the system still stands indicted by its failure and inability to deal fairly and equitably with the thousands of poor, unlettered and unknown people who are caught up in its maw every day. For example, when he was killed last summer, George Jackson was in the twelfth year of an "up to life sentence" for a \$70 armed robbery. Or take the case of Ruchelle Magee, Miss Davis' former co-defendant, who is serving a life sentence "without the possibility of parole" for an offense involving the transfer of \$10 worth of marijuana. Uninterested, distracted or merely inept representation; no bail; long prison terms—these are among the more normal fates that befall those who are too poor or too little known to marshal the resources that become available to a Bobby Seale, a Phillip Berrigan or an Angela Davis. Criminal courts in many places in this country are often little more than assembly lines where any resemblance between justice and the end product is largely coincidental.

While this situation prevails, we have no right to take solace from the fact that acquittals and hung juries occur with surprising frequency in the great emotional, publicity-charged cases where people begin with a sense that justice somehow cannot be done. The measure of a society, to distort Dostoevsky a bit, is in how it handles the least and most helpless of its members, not how it deals with the rich, the powerful and the famous.

Washington Post
June 6, 1972

ENCLOSURE 7 44-50522-3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

6-7-72

The following FBI record, NUMBER 469 691 C is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
 Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors.
 WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS
 DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
b3 [REDACTED]	George Lester Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	George Lester Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	George Lester Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	George Lester Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	George Lester Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	Jonathon Peter Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	George Lester Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	George Lester Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	George Lester Jackson	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
PD Los Angeles Calif	George Lester Jackson #LA 373 722-J	9-18-60	211 PC (robb) BKG 200985	HTA: robb 2nd St Prison D108 1-20-61 Cs 233815
SO Los Angeles Calif	George Lester Jackson #B-725784	9-20-60	rob	Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.

ENCLOSURE

782 KAS

44-57522-3

14