

GALLEY

This Tuesday, September 23, a man is going to die in the electric chair. He is Fred Ahmed Evans. Perhaps many people at Bennington have never heard of him, much less his execution. The following is a quote from an article (Guardian 8/30/69) by Julius Lester, noted author and radio commentator:

"On July 23, 1968, the blacks of the Glenville section of Cleveland responded to months of harassment by taking up arms in self-defense. The battle ended 15 minutes after it began and the black community emerged as the unquestioned military victors. Police suffered 17 casualties, including 3 dead. The black community -- 7 casualties with one dead. Arrested and charged with the murder of the 3 policemen was Brother Ahmed. The police, of course, have no idea who killed the 3 policemen, but it was clear that they had to arrest and prosecute someone. Brother Ahmed was chosen. He has never denied his participation in the battle of Cleveland."

Evans told the court after being sentenced to death: "I don't think there is any doubt that the people of my race have every right in the world and every reason in the world to reach out and become what they were created, men -- not symbols, not anything but whole, as I am whole... I fully understand the ways of life as they are now and the truth of the matter is I have no regret. That is to say I have no malice towards anyone, white people or anyone else, just the reality of the matter counts."

Fred Ahmed Evans is not a man who deserves to die. The state has no right to execute him but it does have the power. Though it may seem futile, the least we can do is send telegrams asking for clemency. They should be addressed to Gov. James Rhodes, State Capitol, Columbus, Ohio. Time is short.

Bennington Red & Black

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