

The Omaha Star  
The Deepest Injustice – Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa  
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**The Deepest Injustice: Edward Poindexter's and Mondo we Langa's  
44 Years of Life Imprisonment for a  
Crime They Did Not Commit (Part 1 of 3)**

By Walter V. Brooks

As a child of the Baby Boom generation, I grew up still saying the “Pledge of Allegiance,” with my hand over my heart, every morning from kindergarten through the 12th grade. And I never forgot the mantra about providing justice in the United States: “Better that 10 guilty men go free, THAN ONE INNOCENT MAN BE IMPRISONED FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT.”

Edward Poindexter and Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa (born David Rice), two native sons of Omaha, have been incarcerated in the Nebraska State Prison system for 44 years for a crime that they did not commit. I need to say this again. IT HAS NOW BEEN 44 YEARS!

And I am going to recognize the other elephant sitting in the room that we also keep trying to ignore. Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa ARE GOING TO DIE IN PRISON if a pathway to justice is not found for them. They each already have certain chronic infirmities that are well-known to kill tens of thousands of patients, especially African Americans, each year in this country. The mind can stay strong, but time takes its toll on every human body.

Ed and Mondo are no longer in their 20's, when first incarcerated; nor their 30's, their 40's, or their 50's. They both are now nearing the age of 70. And I think all of us can recognize the personal degree of difficulty their life longevity must represent. They have had to eat prison food for 44 years, breathe prison air for 44 years, live off prison health care for 44 years, and

been totally denied even the smallest amenities of human existence, the love of a woman, precious moments with family and loved ones, a walk in the park, pursuit of heartfelt passions of personal creativity and natural intelligence. AND ALL BECAUSE OF INCARCERATION FOR A CRIME THEY DID NOT COMMIT.

Why has their case, in particular, been so hard to redress? Why can't justice somehow, somehow be found to get these two men released? Please remember, these men DO NOT HAVE ALL DAY ANYMORE. They need the public's help, YOUR HELP, they need a revitalization of COMMUNITY INTEREST in their crucifixion. There are documentaries available about the case, multiple news stories and numerous summations of their case, both nationally and internationally. IT IS NOT THAT THE TRUTH OF THEIR FALSE CONVICTION ISN'T AVAILABLE. The preponderance of evidence that this was a government-inspired railroading of two black activists would be readily perceived by any jury in the United States today! THEY ARE INNOCENT OF THE CHARGES THAT CONVICTED THEM TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT in 1971.

Look at the landscape of human rights changes and government malfunctions that have happened in the last 44 years.

We have seen, since the release of Nelson Mandela after 27 years of incarceration in Robben Island in the Republic of South Africa, his former prison cell become the world's leading "holy shrine" in memory to unjust incarceration. I've seen photos of rock superstars, major American politicians, at least three Presidents of the United States, including Barack Obama, posed in meditation and virtual awe inside of Mandela's old prison cell. His victorious release and then, astonishingly, election as the first black president of South Africa made Mandela a human rights legend. But no major celebrities, or politicians or presidents have come

to Lincoln, Nebraska to visit Ed or Mondo, to ponder the intestinal fortitude and spiritual strength that they must have to withstand 44 YEARS OF UNJUST INCARCERATION.

The declassification of government documents and journalists' research over the last 30 years clearly indicates that Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa were targeted for destruction by the nation's top law enforcement agencies. Their false incarceration was a multiple-agency collaboration during a era of political unrest in America where being associated with the Black Panther Party was literally a death sentence for some -- assassination of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in Chicago in 1969, for example -- and a life sentence for MANY others, including Ed and Mondo. While such government collusion and mechanisms might have seemed preposterous to mainstream Americans in the 1960s and early 1970s, today the idea that our governments lies and schemes and destroys lives is well known.

Ed Poindexter is a U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam War. As am I, in the U.S. Marines. All of America knows now that the government excuse for declaring war on North Vietnam was a sham fabrication THAT NEVER EVEN HAPPENED. There were no "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq when America declared war in 2003, even though 15 of the 19 terrorist perpetrators on September 11, 2001 were from SAUDI ARABIA! Yet, 60,000 American men and women lost their lives in Vietnam and another 5,000 in Iraq. So the idea that our government will precipitate actions that lead to the death of American citizens, EVEN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, is now commonly understood.

Barely a few years after Ed and Mondo were imprisoned, President Richard Nixon became the first sitting U.S. President to resign from his office because of the Watergate scandal, which Nixon denied and denied until too much evidence was revealed to the contrary.

In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan escaped a similar fate for the Iran-Contra scandal that resulted in America's own Central Intelligence Agency providing tons of powder cocaine for black drug gangs to convert into crack that led to the national black community plague of drug addiction and violence, as well as the incarceration of hundreds of thousands of black youth. And the profits earned from the CIA's drug dealing were used to purchase small arms weaponry from Iran, A COUNTRY THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE AMERICA'S MORTAL ENEMY AT THE TIME, to give to insurgents challenging a popularly elected government in Nicaragua. The "Contras" used weapons and training SUPPLIED BY THE UNITED STATES to massacre thousands of Nicaraguan citizens supporting their own elected government.

Just last year it was revealed that the U.S. Bureau Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms was supplying assault rifles directly to known associates in Mexican drug cartels. The "thinking" was that they would follow the path of those weapons and it would lead them to the drug cartel leadership. This patently ridiculous and lethal "sting" operation only came to light when it was confirmed that one of those rifles was used to kill an American border patrol agent!

My point? It really will not be hard at all for a contemporary jury pool to grasp that our own government could set up Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa. The case against Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa COULD NOT PASS in this day and age. But, we have to find a pathway back into the court room for these men to finally find justice. It won't happen by wishful thinking. AND THEY NO LONGER HAVE ALL DAY TO WAIT FOR JUSTICE. Their biological clocks are ticking!

Finally, we are in a unique era of human rights reconciliation in the United States. Numerous museums and institutes memorializing the Civil Rights Movement have been created. Mississippi, itself, the single most reviled name in the history of violence, brutality and

degradation of the African American people, plans to build a \$40 million civil rights history museum and “come clean” on its past legacy of white supremacy. The Black Panther Party holds “reunions” now where those still alive and not incarcerated share their own afterlives; Panthers went on to become college professors, teachers, entrepreneurs and all kinds of occupations and avocations. But Edward Poindexter and Mondo we Langa are still on the clock in Lincoln, Nebraska and ON SCHEDULE TO DIE THERE if justice does not prevail in their case.

In Part Two, I will provide a host of links to documentary videos, interviews and news articles that the public can access that will show Ed and Mondo’s innocence beyond a shadow of doubt. And I will offer my own summation, a shorter narrative of the case that has now cost Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa 44 years of their lives and is going to kill them dead if we cannot find a pathway to justice for both of them in time.

See you next week.