

# Hayward Brown Acquitted

On Thursday, May 10, at 2:43 p.m., a jury of ten blacks and two whites, (a majority of them women), acquitted Hayward Brown of four charges of assault with intent to murder. The charges resulted from a December 4th gun battle with four STRESS officers. The other two people charged along with Brown, (John Percy Boyd and Mark Bethune), were shot and killed in two police shoot outs in Atlanta, Georgia after a nationwide search as well as a block to block manhunt in Detroit.

The attorneys on the defense team, Kenneth Cockrel, Theodore Spearman, and Jeff Taft, (a From The Ground Up member), presented the court with evidence to show that 19 year old Hayward Brown was not a "mad-dog killer" as characterized by Police Commissioner John Nichols. In fact, Brown's testimony revealed that the three occupants of the Volkswagon, (Brown, Boyd and Bethune), were on their way to harass a heroin dealer but STRESS changed their plans.

**They had decided to try and rid the black community of drug dealers after two of their friends died from narcotics-related murders. "The community was being drowned by drugs and the authorized parties. . .weren't doing anything. We took it upon ourselves to do something about it," said Brown. "I have seen and I have heard of police who have not only protected pushers but sold drugs themselves."**

Brown testified that they were stopped by police in civilian clothes in an unmarked car who opened fire on the Volkswagon without provocation. Earlier in the trial, all four STRESS officers testified that the occupants of the Volkswagon had done nothing illegal before they were stopped.

Several unanswered questions came to light as the result of in-court testimony. Were the cops on the take? Were they involved in protecting a heroin shipment?! Why did they stop the Volkswagon?

## Prosecution Fails

Attorney Kenneth Cockrel, in a brilliant closing argument, asked the jury not to judge Brown on his actions but on the charges themselves: assault with intent to commit murder. Clearly, the prosecution failed to present evidence and witnesses to prove the charges. Even the prosecution's own witnesses strengthened the case for the defense.

Assistant Wayne County Prosecutor Thomas Bahen felt that the jury had been fed a "line" by Brown. Cockrel responded: "The jury knew we weren't running any lines on them. They were drawing from their own life experience. They know what it's like to have police stop them illegally. They know about dope. They know about police corruption."



**"The community was being drowned by drugs and the authorized parties. . .weren't doing anything. We took it upon ourselves to do something about it."**

— Hayward Brown

Brown is currently free on bond after posting \$10,200 with the court after a bond hearing, (held in front of trial judge, George W. Crockett, Jr.). Still outstanding against him are two charges of assault with intent to murder Wayne State University policemen on Dec. 27th, as well as a charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

People interested in supporting the defense of Hayward Brown as well as seeing how the criminal courts really function, should come to Judge Crockett's court on May 29, the date of the next trial. Financial assistance is also needed to help defray legal expenses.

**The Hayward Brown Defense Committee is coordinating the defense campaign and can be contacted at the Labor Defense Coalition office at 868-1612. Please make checks payable to:**

**Hayward Brown Defense Committee  
11333 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, Mi. 48202**

The spirit of the Defense Committee can be summed up in a statement made by Cockrel in an interview after Brown's acquittal. "Our position is that Hayward Brown is not a client—he's a comrade."

By Margaret Borys

# The FBI?

"The FBI" is an ABC television show. It creates a false and romantic image glorifying FBI agents as pro-