

Hugo Pinell

Video Collage, Song Lyrics and Critical Analysis

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Kendrick Lamar & 2Pac, XXL; San Quentin Six, Beaver Button Museum; Chain Gang Women, Jail Project

Video Collage Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tary_phqu7E

Music: “Scary” by Tyrone “Tytanik Tracks” Hendricks

Section 1

Thanks for coming out to this meeting
All respects due, lets be seated
We been stressed it’s been getting heated
Escalating murders, increased beatings
Some of you want to roll your eyes at this
But you won’t when they
Swoll up in them bandages
This an agenda for advantages
Gutter for the fall of the alley pins

Calling arms like Ong Bak
Elbows and knees, we taking head shots
Between a hard and a stone rock
Guerrillas in the fields killing mascots
Criminals to revolutionaries
Wearing all black before the cemetery
Cap bleeding in the crunch like red berries
Tell em burn my body, don’t let em bury

I was the one in the mess hall
Not wearing clothes to the protocol
Never adjusted to the cattle call
Had a couple visits made a couple calls
No matter what they did I wouldn’t quit
Now we got a like-minded mosh pit
We got an army full of tactics
The strike is already like a matchstick

Lift

But whoa, I’m a tell you right now
Not trying to make a rider
From a nigga who just won’t ride
Or relying on a nigga who’s half committed
Part-loyal when there’s lives on the line
It’s on you to decide
But choosing nothing is
The same thing as choosing sides

But I could only die once and
There’s a bounty for the crimes
We alive, organize let’s

Chorus

*MOSH nigga
When you can’t take no more nigga
Tapping on the cell block wall nigga
Tell you relax and face the facts
Bullet in your back, now you gone
That’s MOSH
Say one thing do another that’s MOSH nigga
They be lying that’s MOSH, cover up MOSH
Gotta be strong when a motherfucker
Trying to show you who’s boss*

Section 2

How many followed
Took and swallowed
Picked a motto
Brains is hollow
How many took the plea, regrets
James Brown on the one—to life sentence
How many did the crime, paid your tithes
Still locked down and wondering why
How many doing time for crimes against you?
Now let me see you put your hands high

We gotta keep up with the stamina
Cause they can’t wait to call in the examiner
COs and nurses try to ravage ya
No views no World Star cameras
Don’t be a patient cause they testing niggas
MK Ultra, setting niggas
Don’t let em give you dopamine
Back-kitchen cooked vaccines
And “Men in Black” beams, no!

Cage deep like fornication
Red Hot Chili—Californication
Wings clipped by the ‘overseer’
Niggas won’t fly Pelican in isolation
It’s a lot of shit they won’t face
While they putting knight sticks in a dark place
Can you imagine that it came to this?
Hell yea we cause we knew
How long that it exists!

Black August Resistance you know the call
That means MOSH nigga MOSH MOSH!
Get your reps in on the yard
Meditating on the energy they wanna starve
Pass the word, mind the guards
Both sides of the wall we ain’t never gonna fall
Power from chaos, we gather like séance
Fitting to ring alarms in this bitch like...

So tell them get the books, check
Tell em we got rookies and the vets, check
Tell em we got women and the men
We ain’t trying to make amends
We just gon slam dance guitars
Strategic and we militant
Wu-Tang Chefs at the grilling pit
Using us as target practice, karma snatching
Orangutans boomerang quick
Everybody got assignments
Looked each other in the eye
And acknowledged this
Black, Brown, Yellow, Red, politics
Homies on the block, honeys on the strip
1,000 fleas on the lion’s lip
Can’t touch us all cause we “Too Legit”
Too much pride, too much lineage
“Ambitionz of a Ridah” we too lit!

Lift

Hook

Chant

*MOSHing for stolen lives and red rum
Lok’ing and focused while the Feds come
They gon come with all they got
But we ain’t gonna stop
We universal on the chop, chop
Get your fasting in and get right
Collect your clique and get your THUG LIFE
Youth-dem carry on in the fight
We already paid the price*

Outro Adlib

“If they take me in the morning, they’re coming for you
at night.” [Angela Davis]

“Methods of Change: Peaceful Protest, Disruption, Violence”

“The Use of Prejudice/Fear/Hatred as a Tool” – “Military Industrial Complex”

“Beyond Black and White” – “Complicit National Behavior & Subsequent Responsibility”

Black August¹ is a month of celebrating, self-sacrificing and uniting with like-minded energies worldwide for the current and “fallen soldiers” of revolutionary-liberation struggles. With its origins in the California prison system of the 1970s, specifically organized points of honor and procedure, and lastly its emphasis on a strategic, militant and dynamic history—it is a hugely noted difference from its cultural parallels in *Black History Month* and *Kwanzaa*. Black August stands out to me not just in its rejuvenating spirit and re-positioning of the diluted, “white-washed” history of freedom fighters, but in its ongoing delay to honor and highlight more *women*. This in spite of women being the fastest growing prison population² in the nation as well as continuing to play critical roles in ongoing movements against oppression.

It was during my first commemoration of Black August in 2015 that a noted figure of the prison and resistance movements, named **Hugo Pinell**, was murdered in a California state facility. Hugo was the last jailed member of the **San Quentin Six**³ and spent forty plus years of his incarceration in solitary confinement. He had been a political figure while in prison and while facing murder and gang affiliation charges he denied, was also responsible for uniting White, Black and Hispanic prisoners to halt interracial violence in 2012.⁴ Like his globally renowned comrade **George Jackson** he continuously spoke on justice, capitalism, social control and demonization of the prisoner identity rooted in his political education. And like George, he spoke with a spirit of the street—clear, intelligent, critical, and full of character. His death was a shock to many, and his life an inspiration to more.

By my upbringing and association with freedom fighters and “socially-conscious” artists such as from the **Black Arts Movement**,⁵ **Black Panther Party** and **Black Lives Matter**, I am well learned of the important role *women* have continued to play in bettering quality of life. Such women include **Afeni Shakur**,⁶ mother of Hip Hop superstar-icon **Tupac Shakur** who was also a speaker, leader and member of the New York “Panther 21.”

This song is an urgent meeting of the minds called by a *woman* to address “Black, Brown, Yellow, and Red politics” affecting inmates and communities. The current attention on the United States prison system including the suicide of **Kalief Browder**⁷ and unsolved water crisis in **Flint, Michigan**⁸ further convey urgency is necessary.

¹ Malcolm X Grassroots Movement. *Resistance: The Origin Of Black August*. 4StruggleMag. (August 21, 2009).

² ACLU. *Facts About the Over-Incarceration of Women*. <https://www.aclu.org/facts-about-over-incarceration-women-united-states>

³ Wald, Karen. *The San Quentin Six Case: Perspective and Analysis*. Social Justice 40.1/2 (2014): 231-251.

⁴ Martin, Patrick and Blake, Evan. *Hugo Pinell, last of the “San Quentin Six,” murdered in prison*. WWSWS. (August 2015).

⁵ Neal, Larry. *The Black Arts Movement*. The Drama Review. MIT Press. (1968): 29.

⁶ Guy, Jasmine. *Afeni Shakur: Evolution Of A Revolutionary*. Simon and Schuster. (May 2010).

⁷ Lee, Jessica. *Lonely Too Long: Redefining and Reforming Juvenile Solitary Confinement*. (January 2016).

⁸ Goodnough, Abby, Davey, Monica and Smith, Mitch. *When the Water Turned Brown*. New York Times. (January 23, 2016).