

commissioners from giving fair and impartial consideration to his release, despite the overwhelming community support.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

While in prison, Seth continues to work for the betterment of the community in which he lives. He has participated in programs with the NAACP, the Jaycees and other organizations and has worked as a librarian, pre-release advisor and AIDS counsellor. He has been a member of the Lifers' and Long Termers Organization, whose primary goal is to educate and instruct newly arriving inmates in adjustment to and preparation for final release from incarceration. Seth has coached basketball and participated in a local restorative justice project. Whenever possible, he has taken college courses. He is also a longtime advisor and collaborator in the annual Free Political Prisoners Calendar project. These are but a few of his many accomplishments over his years of incarceration. Seth is dedicated to continuing to work for social justice when he gets out of prison.



### **IT'S TIME TO BRING ROBERT SETH HAYES HOME!**

Join the campaign to bring Seth home:  
Educate your family, friends, co-workers and members of your faith-based community about Seth and the campaign for his freedom;

Organize a meeting on Seth's parole campaign at your home, school, union hall, faith-based institution, local coffee shop, etc.;

Post information about Seth and other political prisoners on your Facebook page;  
Send emails and Twitter messages to your friends/followers calling for parole for Seth and other political prisoners;

Let your elected representatives know that freedom for Seth and other political prisoners is one of the issues you are concerned about. The addresses of all elected officials from the President to the City Council are available on the internet;

Put up a poster/picture in your home/windows of Seth and other political prisoners;

To learn more about Seth check [www.jerichony.org](http://www.jerichony.org).

#### **Write to Seth:**

**Robert Seth Hayes #74A2280  
Sullivan Correctional Facility  
P.O. Box 116  
Fallsburg, New York 12733-0116**

New York City Jericho Amnesty Movement  
[nycjericho@gmail.com](mailto:nycjericho@gmail.com) • [www.jerichony.org](http://www.jerichony.org)  
917-544-1577 • 718-325-4407

## **Campaign to Parole Robert Seth Hayes**



Seth and his wife Sheila in 2008

**Black Panther Party/  
Black Liberation Army  
Political Prisoner**

## **BRIEF HISTORY**

Robert 'Seth' Hayes is one of the longest-held political prisoners in the USA.

Robert Seth Hayes was born in New York in October 1948. His father, John Franklin Hayes, was the child of sharecroppers and came to New York City from South Carolina; his mother, Francine Washington Hayes, moved to New York from Pittsburgh. Both of Mr. Hayes' parents worked for the U.S. Postal Service, trying to provide a better life for Seth and his four brothers and sisters.

They also instilled in their children the desire to work for the betterment of their community. Seth writes, "My mother taught me to visualize family universally, not individually." Seth's father was a World War II veteran and a member of the United Negro Improvement Association, the Black Nationalist organization founded by Marcus Garvey.

Growing up in New York City, first in Harlem, later in the Bronx and Queens, Mr. Hayes saw one Black neighborhood after another suffering from neglect, despair, anger and defeat. At the same time, he recalls witnessing over the years a birth of hope and determination to overcome these conditions.

After his schooling in New York City, Mr. Hayes worked as a psychiatric aide at Creedmoor Hospital. He was drafted into the U.S. Army and sent to Vietnam. He saw combat, was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart, National Defense

Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In the armed forces, Seth underwent a change of consciousness. After the death of Martin Luther King Junior in 1968, Seth's troop was ordered to patrol the city streets with fixed bayonets to put down the rebellions resulting from Dr. King's assassination. "It was the saddest day of my life," Seth remembers, "and I could never identify again with the aims of the armed forces or the government."

Seth was swept up in the Black Liberation movement and joined the Black Panther Party. He worked in the free breakfast for children program and began dedicating his life to the betterment of Black people. His knowledge of the effects of racism on the Black community convinced him that the Black Panthers' program of community service and community self-defense was what was needed. Seth, like many other activists, was forced underground by FBI and police repression of the Panther movement due to COINTELPRO.

In 1973, following a shootout with police, Seth was arrested and convicted of the murder of a New York City police officer, and sentenced to 25 years to life in prison.

Jailed for over 45 years, Seth has long since served the time he was sentenced to and while in prison he has worked as a librarian, pre-release advisor, and AIDS counselor. He has remained drug and

alcohol free throughout his entire period of incarceration and has maintained a charge free record in prison.

Seth first came up for parole in 1998, but prison officials have refused to release him, and are effectively punishing him for having been a member of the Black Panther Party, and of having remained true to his ideals after 45 years behind bars.

Seth finally received treatment for his Hepatitis C in 2016, and no longer has Hep C. However, he developed Congestive Heart Failure and emphysema that year. Seth also suffers from Type I Diabetes and high blood pressure. He has been extremely ill and has had great difficulty procuring necessary healthcare. He has needed the help of his lawyers and some state political leaders in order to get adequate treatment.

## **PAROLE CAMPAIGN**

Seth has been to the parole board ten times since 1998, when he first became eligible for parole. The parole board denied him release each time, stating either: "Nature of the crime" or "To grant your release at this time would so deprecate the seriousness of your crime as to undermine respect for the law, and your release to supervision is not compatible with the welfare of society."

Seth's release on parole has been supported by activists, academics and community leaders from across the country. The political nature of his conviction has prevented parole