

Tupac Shakur Would Have Turned 50 Today-If He Hadn't Threatened Deal Between Drug Traffickers and U.S. Banks Making Billions Laundering CIA Drug Money

By [John Potash](#)

Global Research, June 16, 2021
[CovertAction Magazine](#)

Region: [USA](#)

Theme: [History](#), [Law and Justice](#)

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On June 16, 2021, the late rap icon Tupac Shakur would have turned 50 had he survived a still unsolved drive-by shooting in Las Vegas 25 years ago. Few knew that behind his “gangsta rap” façade, Tupac was an activist leader who worked to counter CIA drug trafficking through street gangs.

Tupac did this with his Black Panther-extended family and others. Evidence supports that this and Tupac’s accumulating influence contributed to U.S. intelligence’s murderous targeting of him, his Panther family, and activist-converted gang leaders.



BMW in which Tupac was shot. [Source: hip-hop-music.fandom.com]

Panther Leader Tupac, Belafonte, and Black Panthers Politicize Gangs

By the time Tupac was 18 years old in 1989, the New Afrikan Panthers, a group active in at least eight cities and trying to replicate the Black Panthers, had elected [Tupac as their national chairman](#).

Tupac only left that leadership position in 1990 to eventually produce [five full CDs and hundreds](#) of unreleased rap songs before his death in September 1996. He also acted in [over six films](#), befriending his co-stars Janet Jackson, Mickey Rourke, Tim Roth, and Jim Belushi.



[Source: newafrikan77.wordpress.com]

In the early 1990s, former Black Panthers and other activists successfully [developed a gang](#)

[truce](#) between several sections of the Bloods and the Crips, who vowed to fight police racism instead of each other.^[1] Former Panthers and civil rights activists such as singer [Harry Belafonte helped the peace truce](#), and activist conversions spread to Oakland, which worried the intelligence community.^[2]



[Source: [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdUgHhKdUgH)]

The Bloods and Crips not only encompassed the majority of the [estimated 100,000 gang members in Los Angeles](#). News articles also acknowledged that the two gangs had spread to states across the U.S. ^[3] and were [reportedly active in all four branches](#) of the armed services.^[4]

Tupac worked on this movement with his imprisoned radical stepfather Mutulu Shakur and they [came up with Tupac's Thug Life Movement](#) as part of the gang peace truce movement. Mutulu had been a [member of the Republic of New Afrika](#) in the 1960s. Mutulu organized the gang peace truce movement in the federal prison system.^[5]

Tupac's [manager and longtime political mentor](#), Watani Tyehimba, confirmed that Tupac had decided to pretend to be a "gangsta" in order to appeal to gangs and then politicize them,^[6] as part of what he wrote out as a ["Code of Thug Life."](#) This plan also had Tupac hosting gang leaders meeting for truce summits. Tyehimba had been a Revolutionary Action Movement-based Black Panther in Los Angeles and was the co-founding Security Director of the New Afrikan People's Organization (NAPO).^[7]

As the movement spread nationwide, it further included Latino gangs, while activists such as comedian Dick [Gregory](#), NFL legendary running back Jim Brown, and others also got involved.^[8]

In Los Angeles, gang leader-turned socialist writer “Monster” Kody Scott and Congresswoman Maxine Waters helped the movement. Scott changed his name to Sanyika Shakur in deference to Tupac and Mutulu.^[9]

Gang-Activist Conversions Counter CIA Drug Trafficking, Death Row Link

Whistleblowers such as CIA agent John Stockwell have discussed [CIA heroin trafficking](#) during the Vietnam War, while Drug Enforcement Agency Director Robert Bonner detailed [CIA cocaine trafficking](#) in the 1980s and early 1990s, as reported by *60 Minutes*.^[10] Mutulu [Shakur had founded](#) Lincoln Detox in the Bronx in the early 1970s, with Black Panthers and the Young Lords backing him. Lincoln was the first to use [acupuncture to counter](#) drug addiction.^[11]

New York City first de-funded Lincoln Detox, reportedly due to its radical political education work. It then used dozens of [armed police to shut its doors](#) completely for a time, and its director received [death threats](#), just before his bizarre death.^[12]

In California, the late investigative journalist Gary [Webb had researched](#) and written extensively on the CIA’s work with the Nicaraguan Contras supplying cheap cocaine to the Los Angeles-based Freeway Ricky Ross. Ross then trafficked cocaine nationwide.^[13] [Webb wrote that Michael](#) “Harry-O” Harris worked as one of Ross’s two key buyers and understudies in trafficking crack cocaine.^[14]

Harris’s attorney, David Kenner, [helped Harris start](#) Death Row Records (Tupac’s last record label), while making himself owner of a parallel parent company, Godfather Productions.^[15]

Harris then went to jail for the next 30 years [he was pardoned in 2021 by Donald Trump], and Kenner continued operations. Investigating Los Angeles police detective Russell Poole found much support for the reports that [Death Row was trafficking drugs](#) and guns.^[16]

New York saw the conversion of the state chapter of the Latin Kings into the Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation (ALKQN). In *The Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation: Street Politics and the Transformation of a New York City Gang*, [published by Columbia University Press](#), it was reported that the 3,000-strong group stopped drug dealing and started to get involved in activism.^[17] Former Young Lords activist Vicente “Panama” Alba influenced Latin Kings leader, Antonio “King Tone” Fernandez to make this conversion.^[18]



Vicente “Panama” Alba of the Young Lords on our left walking away in 1996. Antonio “King Tone” Fernandez on the far right. [Source: photo courtesy of author John Potash]

Furthermore, former top-level Wall Street insider and U.S. Deputy Housing Commissioner Catherine Austin Fitts explained how [cash can increase stock values by twenty times](#), and this is why banks and other corporations [that launder](#) this money support the CIA drug trafficking.^[19] It is also why the Latin Kings’ conversion, alone, cost the CIA traffickers millions of dollars a year and the money launderers billions of dollars a year.

Law Enforcement’s Iron Fist Response

After King Tone converted the Latin Kings into the activist Almighty Latin King and Queen Nation, the NYPD arrested King Tone on many charges, but courts failed to convict him. Prosecutors finally sent King Tone to prison long-term for “conspiracy to sell and distribute heroin” in 1998. Panama Alba and other [prominent leaders have said on film they believe it was a frame-up](#) in line with other police machinations against ALKQN.^[20]

It came after the FBI and New York police spent a million dollars on Operation Crown that year. In a single raid during that operation, they [used 1,000 federal, state and local police to kick down doors just before dawn](#) but failed to find evidence against King Tone and 91 other ALKQN leaders in what was reportedly the largest raid in New York City since alcohol prohibition.^[21]

The law enforcement branch also responded fiercely in California, from the Los Angeles Police Department starting special gang units to U.S. Attorney General William Barr, saying gangs replaced Communism as the major domestic subversive threat. [The FBI deployed a 100-agent unit to investigate the Bloods and the Crips.](#)^[22]

Police raided activists' gang-truce meetings, gunmen murdered gang-truce leaders, and the government framed gang-truce leaders. For example, the government quickly freed a gunman accused of [murdering gang-truce](#) leader Tony Bogard in 1994.^[23]

Police also arrested gang-truce leader Dewayne Holmes at a gang-unity dance. Trial appearances on his behalf by California Congresswoman Maxine Waters and Governor Jerry Brown could not free him.^[24]



Los Angeles Bloods and Crips agree to a truce in 1993 but gang-truce leaders were afterwards arrested.
[Source: [finalcall.com](#)]

The Shakur Extended Family's Leftist Leadership and the Murderous Targeting of Tupac

[One-time Harlem Black Panther leader Afeni](#) Shakur named Los Angeles Black Panther leader Geronimo Pratt (later Geronimo Ji Jaga), [Tupac's godfather](#), and Bronx Black Panther Assata Shakur, [Tupac's godmother](#). Afeni Shakur lived with Mutulu Shakur, Tupac's stepfather, who was a member of the Republic of New Afrika. In 1984, Mutulu was arrested on charges of helping break Assata Shakur from jail in the 1970s and "conspiring" to rob a Brinks armored truck in 1981.^[25]

Afeni had worked with Watani Tyehimba on trying to free Geronimo Pratt and Watani introduced Tupac to New Afrikan People's Organization [national chairman](#) Chokwe Lumumba. Tupac made Lumumba his national lawyer.^[26]

The FBI War on Tupac Shakur and Black Leaders

U.S. Intelligence's Murderous Targeting of Tupac, MLK, Malcolm, Panthers, Hendrix, Marley, Rappers & Linked Ethnic Leftists



by **John Potash**

Foreword by **Pam Africa** with **Mumia Abu-Jamal**
Afterword by Chairman **Fred Hampton, Jr., P.O.C.C.**


The author's book that exposes the FBI's war on Tupac and other Black leaders. [Courtesy of John Potash]

Evidence supports at least four U.S. Intelligence attempts to murder Tupac before their successful fifth attempt. The FBI's Counterintelligence Program (Cointelpro) had targeted Tupac's Black Panther family before it officially ended in 1971.

FBI Cointelpro agent Wes Swearingen said in a [memoir](#) that Cointelpro [actually continued](#) into the 1990s under different names.^[27]

As a 2017 [biopic on Tupac](#) stated, evidence supports a Justice Department admission of more than 4,000 pages in Tupac's FBI file.^[28]

Regarding Tupac, in 1991, just days after his first MTV video release, Oakland police stopped Tupac for [jaywalking, choked him](#) unconscious, and repeatedly banged his head against the curb. Both police actions had previously led to victims' deaths. In 1992, police also passively watched as strangers punched and then shot at Tupac for no reason in Marin City, California.^[29]

	U.S. Department of Justice Federal Bureau of Investigation
Mr. John Potash Apartment 1R 413 Humboldt Street Brooklyn, NY 11211-2452	Washington, D. C. 20535 MAY 18 2000 Request No. <u>911992</u> Re: <u>Shakur, Tupac</u>
<hr/>	
Dear Requester:	
This is to acknowledge receipt of your oral communication date <u>May 9, 2000</u> expressing your willingness to pay the estimated fees of <u>\$405.00.</u>	

At ten cents per page, the author had to pay over \$400 to receive the FBI's 4,000+ page file on Tupac.
[Courtesy of John Potash]

In 1993, witnesses described how two purportedly off-duty police officers ran over to Tupac's car, smashed his car window and [shot at him using a gun stolen from an evidence locker](#). In 1994, a [doctor's affidavit confirmed](#) how alleged muggers shot Tupac twice in the skull as he lay on the lobby floor of a Times Square recording studio. Tupac miraculously survived, but police refused to review lobby surveillance video of the incident and simply closed the investigation.^[30]



Tupac after being assaulted by police. [Source: 2paclegacy.net]

And finally, by September 1996, Tupac had completed his short three-CD recording contract with Death Row Records. Los Angeles Police Detective Russell [Poole reported finding dozens of his fellow police officers at all levels of Death Row Records](#). In his book *LAabyrinth*, veteran reporter Randall Sullivan [quoted Poole](#) as saying his supervisors told him these Death Row cops could be considered “troubleshooters or covert agents.”^[31] Filmmaker Nick Broomfield said Poole stated that he believed his fellow cops were [involved in Tupac’s](#) murder.^[32]

Kevin Hackie, who was one of Tupac’s top bodyguards, said he [was on the FBI’s payroll](#) while working for Death Row.^[33] Hackie actually defied the FBI in telling Tupac not to go to Las Vegas the night of his murder. Death Row then fired Hackie, before the FBI then framed and jailed him. Hackie reported to Detective Poole that Santa Monica police had confiscated a gun that they gave to him. The FBI then told him to give that gun to police working for Death Row, and that was the [gun that killed Tupac](#).^[34]

Tupac’s murder temporarily ended the gang truce as Death Row spread the word that the Crips gang killed Tupac, before activists quelled the week-long reignited gang war.^[35]

Continued Attacks and Coverup around the Shakurs?

In one of the few definitive media investigations of Tupac’s murder, A&E’s *Who Killed Tupac?* [documentary series](#) (2017), attorney Benjamin Crump and others provided some answers. For one, they showed the ridiculous weakness of Los Angeles police disinformation agent Greg Kading’s evidence that Sean “P Diddy” Combs paid Crips gang members to kill Tupac. Secondly, they stated that 28 people associated with Tupac and the investigation suffered early deaths since his murder.

One of the first two examples came when Watani Tyehimba's son, Yakhisizwe Tyehimba, who acted as a Tupac bodyguard, died mysteriously soon after Tupac.^[36]

Then, Tupac's backup singer, Yafeu "Kadafi" Fula, the son of Bronx Black Panther Sekou Odinga and Panther Yaasmyn Fula, [was shot](#) in the head a few months after Tupac was shot.^[37] Fula was the top forthcoming witness to Tupac's murder but police never detained him for a statement.^[38]

In 2015, Afeni Shakur separated from her husband, and then filed for divorce in 2016. She died suddenly in 2016, at the age of 69, while in the middle of a court battle over Tupac's \$50 million estate. Afeni's body was bizarrely given to that [estranged husband](#) instead of her adult daughter Sekyiwa Shakur.^[39] Authorities also denied Mutulu Shakur parole in 2016, as well as compassionate parole [in 2020 when he was diagnosed with cancer](#).^[40]

While such attacks continue on Tupac's Shakur family, his legacy as a rap icon, film star, and particularly his important activism deserves more widespread attention.

*

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John Potash is the author of two books: [The FBI War on Tupac Shakur and Black Leaders](#), and [Drugs as Weapons Against Us: The CIA War on Musicians and Activists](#). Both books have been made into films. John can be contacted at: jlpotash@gmail.com.

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