

# Ex-Black Panther set free on bail

**Special to Sentinel-Voice**  
**NEW ORLEANS**  
 (NNPA) — Albert Woodfox, a former member of the Black Panther Party for Self-Defense who has spent 37 years in prison at Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, must be released on bail, United States District Judge James Brady has ruled. On September 25, Judge Brady overturned Woodfox's conviction for the 1972 murder of prison guard Brent Miller. Though the state has announced its intention to appeal that decision, until such an appeal is successful, according to the judge, Nov. 25, there is no conviction on which to hold Woodfox.

In his decision, Judge Brady wrote: "[Woodfox] is a frail, sickly, middle-aged man who has had an exemplary conduct record for over the last 20 years. At the hearing before this Court on October 14, 2008, testimony was adduced that if released, Woodfox would live with his niece and her family in a gated subdivision in Slidell, Louisiana. Woodfox has withdrawn that request because of fear of harm to his niece and her family... This change was brought about by counsel representing the State of Louisiana contacting the subdivision home owners association and providing them with information regarding Woodfox. The court is not totally privy to what information was given to the association but from the documents filed it is apparent that the association was not told Woodfox is frail, sickly, and has had a clean conduct record for more than twenty years...this Court grants Woodfox's motion for release pending the State's appeal."

Brady's bail ruling is contingent upon Woodfox finding a place to live that the judge approves of. Trenticosta said he would

submit those plans, adding, "With any luck, he'll be a free man next week."

Louisiana Attorney General Buddy Caldwell said he plans to appeal the bail ruling to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal, threatening to block a release of Woodfox anytime soon.

Despite Judge Brady's description of Woodfox as "sickly" and "frail," Caldwell said Woodfox is a dangerous man with prior rape arrests that never went to trial once he received a life sentence for armed robbery.

Herman Wallace, who was also convicted in the murder, remains in prison at Angola. He has an appeal pending with the Supreme Court of Louisiana, which is similar in content to Woodfox's successful appeal. The two men were wrongly convicted based largely on the testimony of a fellow prisoner, Hezekiah Brown, a serial rapist who was promised and received a pardon in exchange for his testimony against them. Brown was the sole professed eyewitness to the murder, and none of the physical evidence put Herman or Albert at the crime scene.

Woodfox's legal team is now working with the court to reach an agreement on a suitable release location and plan for Woodfox; once they agree to a plan, Woodfox will be able to leave Angola. The lawyers anticipate the process to take more time.

Woodfox and Wallace were each held in solitary confinement from the time of the murder until last March, after a federal court concluded that their suit alleging that such confinement for three decades constitutes cruel and unusual punishment could go forward.

A third man, Robert King Wilkerson, was held in solitary at Angola at the same time for a different crime; he

was released in 2001 after showing that he had been wrongfully convicted. The three are known as the "Angola 3." All Black men, they had been organizing nonviolently for an end to gang-enforced sex slavery and for better conditions inside the prison. Angola at the time was known as the "bloodiest prison in the U.S."

"This is a major victory in a case where justice is long overdue. Albert went into Angola in his twenties, and he's walking out in his sixties. There is no conviction against him now, and the state should not take another day of his life," said Chris Aberle, Woodfox's lawyer.

"In 37 years, Albert never gave up hope that someday he would walk out the gates

of Angola. We hope that Herman will join him soon," said Nick Trenticosta, a lawyer in the case.

The case has attracted attention on the state and national level. The state had sought a stay of Judge Brady's ruling, ordering a new trial until the appeal process plays out. Judge Brady granted that request. The state must win its appeals, or will need to either release or retry Woodfox within 120 days of the end of its appeals.

Judge Brady held an initial bail hearing on October 14; he postponed issuing a decision at that time to allow for additional depositions to be taken from Angola Warden Burl Cain and from a doctor who examined Woodfox and his medical records.

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**Recruitment requirements:** Completed Housing Authority Application. **Resumes are not accepted in lieu applications.** For additional information visit our website [www.haccnv.org](http://www.haccnv.org). Applications must be received Clark County Housing Authority Human Resources Department by 4:00 PM on Friday, December 19, 2008, at 5390 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89122-5335.

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**Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas**  
 P. O. Box 1897, Las Vegas, NV 89125 · (702) 922-6806

## PUBLIC NOTICE EFFECTIVE MONDAY DECEMBER 15, 2008 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas (HACLTV) provides subsidized housing for low-income persons who meet both the Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) and HACLTV's admission criteria. Our agency also offers self-sufficiency programs to assist its participants in overcoming barriers to become self sufficient, including becoming free of all public assistance. HACLTV also offers Homeownership options for both its eligible Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Participants. This homeownership option includes purchasing some of HACLTV's scattered-site homes to eligible public housing residents or Section 8 participants.

HACLTV provides free translation and interpretation services for its program eligible clients, who may not read, write or speak English (Limited English Proficiency Persons) to ensure all programs and services are fully accessible to all eligible clients. HACLTV has bilingual staff available as well as services of professional interpreters to ensure language is not a barrier in providing services in a timely and professional manner.

The following wait lists are currently open; applications are currently being accepted for the following programs:

**Conventional Public Housing:** Bedroom sizes, 2, 3, 4, and 5 only.

**Juan Garica Gardens S8 Project Based:** Bedroom size – 4 Bedrooms only.

**The Section 8 Project-Based Program:** This program provides rental subsidy which is tied directly to 52 units located at 2851 Sunrise - named: Juan Garcia Gardens. Unit sizes are 3 and 4 bedrooms. Applicants must meet the income limit requirements of:

1	2	3	4	5
22,350	24,550	28,750	31,950	34,500
6	7	8	9	
37,050	39,600	42,150	44,750	

Section 8-Housing Choice Voucher Wait List is currently closed

Preference points for all applicants that meet the criteria for each preference shall be assigned to all applications. HACLTV provides preference, which will be verified, for:

- Applicants who are working 20 or more hours per week
- Full-time student in an accredited school or training program
- Receiving SSI/SSD or proof of inability to work
- 62 years or older
- Families that live or work within Clark County;
- Veteran or spouse of a veteran
- Disabled veteran or Spouse (disability must be service connected)
- Spouse of deceased veteran (must be service connected)

Preference points will impact your placement on the waiting list. Further explanations of preferences are printed on the cover of our preliminary application.

Applications are accepted Monday - Thursday from 8am -12 noon and 1pm -5pm (except holidays) at HACLTV's Admissions department located at 380 N. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101. Disabled and out-of-state applicants may call (702) 922-6954 and request an application be mailed. Applicants may also log into our website at [hacvlv.org](http://hacvlv.org) and print a preliminary application and return this preliminary application by mail or by bring it into our office. For additional information, please call (702) 922-6954 or our TDD (for hearing impaired) number at (702) 386-0789. Please ensure all questions are answered to prevent your application from being returned. If you require future communication in a format other than written English, please advise staff as soon as possible.

Please be informed that you can only apply for programs that are currently open. If we receive an application for a program that we are not currently open for the application will be returned.

HACLTV shall provide reasonable accommodations to all eligible clients with a disability. Please advise staff if you require a reasonable accommodation to access services or programs.

Our goal is to ensure all "eligible" applicants have every opportunity to access our programs. Please advise staff if we can assist you with any concerns.

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The Housing Authority of the City of Las Vegas is an Equal Housing Opportunity provider.

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