



Imari Abubakari Obadele

Imari Abubakar Obadele (1930-2010) was co-founder of the Malcolm X Society (1967) and the Republic of New Africa (1968). In 1971 as provisional president of the Republic of New Africa (RNA), he and ten other members of the provisional government were arrested and convicted of murder, assault and sedition after local police raided their headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1973 he was released from prison, but he and six others were arrested and convicted on federal conspiracy charges and incarcerated in a federal prison in Illinois. In 1977 while serving a seven year sentence, he filed a civil suit against the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) which resulted in the release of government documents confirming that the RNA had been targeted for subversion by the covert and often illegal Counter Intelligence Program of the FBI. Subsequently, he was released from prison in 1980 and pursued an academic career, he received a B.A. in 1981, a Master's degree in 1982, and a Ph.D. in 1985 in political science, with a specialization in American government, constitutional law, international relations and African American politics from Temple University, and thus taught at colleges in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Texas (Prairie View A&M University). Throughout his adult life, he published numerous books and articles on the RNA, reparations, and African nationalism. His 1975 book, *Foundations of the Black Nation* is considered a critical text in the area of Black revolutionary nationalism. He also wrote *Free The Land!: The True Story of the Trials of the RNA-11*, exposing the FBI frame-up of RNA activists, and edited *Decolonization U.S.A.: The Independence Struggle of the Black Nation in the United States Centering on the 1996 United Nations Petition* in 2004, and he also served as a contributing and advisory editor of *The Black Scholar*, a journal of Black Studies and research established in 1969.