



#BLACKAUGUSTFAST

LITANY FOR SAFETY & LIBERATION

(Leader) Black August is a time for Black people from every social, political, economic, and spiritual segment of our community to come together to reflect and build solidarity in the ongoing struggle for our freedom and humanity in America and everywhere in the African Diaspora.

(Collective) Black people in the Americas and in the Diaspora have acted boldly and courageously in the face of the world's powers, who throughout history have been uniquely arrayed to exploit, undermine and destroy Black life.

(Leader) Systems of economy, government, education, and even religion have all conspired to this end. In this present moment, we are particularly mindful of the ways that the system of mass incarceration and the larger (in)justice system continue to target and control Black bodies and communities.

(Collective) In this moment we come together in unity, by the power of Spirit, setting aside every line of difference that the adversaries to Black life have used to divide us and keep us at odds with each other. We acknowledge that in moments we have been our own worst enemy—competing with each other for crumbs at the fringes of the empire's rickety table rather than acting in our own interest to build a better table where our people can thrive, be safe, be free, and partake of the fullness of life.

(Leader) In the face of these challenges that have beset us, heroes and heroines, many of them whose names we do not know have fought back in defense of our families, our communities, our rich cultural heritage, and our future. We pause to call them now by name. *(invite those convened to do so in this moment)*.

(Collective) As we reflect and build solidarity together we will build our resolve to live into the fierce legacy that our ancestors have left for us. Help us. We ask that you collaborate with us so that together we might rise as a nation of millions and billions in the fight for the safety and liberation of our people.

(Leader) From this moment forward we recommit ourselves to the fight for the safety and liberation of our people. From every unique corner of Black life and expression we will support each other and hold each other accountable in the ongoing struggle—with the belief and affirmation that the work of liberating Black people and Black lives is sacred work.

(ALL) From Assata Shakur:

It is our duty to fight for our freedom!

It is our duty to win!

We must love and protect each other!

We have nothing to lose but our chains!

We have nothing to lose but our chains!

We have nothing to lose but our chains!

***Black August is a time for Black people from every social, political, and spiritual tradition to be in reflection and solidarity with each other about the ongoing fight for Black humanity and our freedom in America. It was initiated in 1979 by Black freedom fighters who were locked down in California's penitentiary system.