

New Black Panther Party for Self Defense

Updated: November 21, 2014



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
RECENT ACTIVITY	3
Exploiting the Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin Shootings	4
Black Power Radio	4
Election Controversy	5
IDEOLOGY	6
Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism	7
Calls to Confront Jews	8
Confrontational Tactics against Law Enforcement	9
NBPP and NOI	9
LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES	10
Hashim Nzinga	11
Malik Zulu Shabazz	12
King Samir Shabazz	13
Chawn Kweli	16
Divine Allah	16
ORIGINS	17
Michael McGee	17
Aaron Michaels	18
Khalid Abdul Muhammad	19
EARLY EXPANSION	20

INTRODUCTION

The [New Black Panther Party for Self Defense](#) (NBPP) is the largest organized anti-Semitic and racist Black militant group in America. Since October 2013, [Hashim Nzinga](#), who previously served as the group's Chief of Staff, has led the group.

By taking on racially-charged issues, the NBPP has received national media attention for its efforts, garnered some support from prominent members of the African-American community, and attempted to attract followers. The group's demonstrations, conferences, and other events often blend inflammatory bigotry with calls for violence, tarnishing its efforts to present itself as a responsible voice that addresses concerns in the African-American community.



The group often attracts attention for its threats against police, which the NBPP views as culpable for Black suffering in the U.S. Most recently, the group made several threats against local law enforcement in response to the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson, Missouri.

The NBPP's divisive positions have been condemned by members of the original Black Panthers. Co-founder Bobby Seale believes that the NBPP has "hijacked our name and are hijacking our history." David Hilliard, a former Panther and executive director of the Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation, has said that the racism that the group "espouse[s] flies directly in the face of the Black Panthers' multicultural ideology and purpose." The NBPP continues to use the Panther name and logo in spite of a permanent injunction prohibiting them from using either, which the original Panthers obtained in May 1997.

RECENT ACTIVITY

After serving as NBPP National Chairman for over a decade, [Malik Zulu Shabazz](#) stepped down from this position in October 2013. He currently identifies himself as the head of Black Lawyers for Justice, an organization he founded in 1996 to ostensibly provide legal services. However, Shabazz continues to play a significant role in the NBPP as the group's "spiritual guide."

Under the leadership of Hashim Nzinga, who succeeded Shabazz as National Chairman, the group's hateful ideology and efforts to take on racially-charged issues around the country have remained unchanged.



Nzinga and Shabazz in Ferguson

Exploiting the Michael Brown and Trayvon Martin Shootings

The NBPP [arrived in Ferguson, Missouri, with Shabazz](#), in the aftermath of the shooting of Michael Brown in August 2014. While claiming to play a peacemaking role, their calls for violence against police officers only inflamed the situation further.

Shabazz led protesters in chants calling for the death of the officer who shot Michael Brown. Using a megaphone, Shabazz yelled, “Who do we want?” Protestors responded, “Darren Wilson!” Shabazz: “How do we want him?” Protestors: “Dead!”



In a post on Facebook, Shabazz also threatened to release the name and address of the officer who shot Michael Brown to “give the demonstrators a clearer target.” NBPP Chief of Staff [Chawn Kweli](#) also commented on this issue on Facebook. “If need be put as many aggressors in the coffins they picked out for you in self-defense...If you die, die like a warrior,” Kweli wrote.

The NBPP similarly injected itself into the high-profile shooting of African-American teenager Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida in 2012. After Martin’s death, the NBPP offered a [\\$10,000 reward](#) for the “capture” of George Zimmerman. The group also released a flyer with [a photo of Zimmerman’s face in crosshairs](#) on its website calling for a “National Day of Action and Absence.”

Furthermore, the NBPP’s Tampa Chief of Staff Michelle Williams called for violence in the aftermath of the Trayvon Martin shooting on the NBPP’s online radio program *Black Power Radio*. “I am for violence if non-violence means we continue to postpone a solution to the American Black man’s problem just to avoid violence,” she said. “This could not have happened in St. Petersburg, Florida, where the Black man over there ain’t scared to kill a cracker...If someone put their hands on you, you better send that goddam cracker to the cemetery grave.”

Black Power Radio

Black Power Radio, hosted by NBPP Chief of Staff Chawn Kweli, is the NBPP’s main platform for disseminating anti-Semitism and racism and attempting to attract new members.



For example, on the program in August 2012, then National Field Marshal King Samir Shabazz went on a vicious tirade about [killing white babies and bombing white churches](#). If Blacks want to be free, Shabazz explained,

“you’re going to have to kill some of these babies, just born three seconds ago. You’re going to have to go into the God damn nursery and just throw a damn bomb in the damn nursery and just kill everything white in sight that ain’t right.” Later in this rant, Shabazz claims white churches are also a legitimate target: “Well we gonna throw a bomb in that God damn church, burn up the cracker, burn up the cracker Jesus, and burn up some cracker white supremacy.”

Shabazz’s outburst was just one in a series of racist and violent messages from NBPP leaders and members on *Black Power Radio*. A June 2012 episode featured [General T.A.C.O.](#) (Take All Capitalists Out) of the Black Riders Liberation Party ranting about hunting down white people. He added that after they die “we should dig them up, and kill them again! Bury them, dig them up, and kill them again, and again, and again!” In a [May 2012 broadcast](#), Samir Shabazz warned, “You should be thankful we’re not running around here hanging crackers by nooses... yet...yet...yet.”

Election Controversy

In January 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice filed suit against the group in response to an alleged incident of voter intimidation involving two of its members at a Philadelphia polling station on Election Day 2008.

The lawsuit alleged that King Samir Shabazz, then the group's local leader in Philadelphia, and Jerry Jackson, the chapter's Chief of Staff, intimidated voters outside of a North Philadelphia polling station. Samir Shabazz, dressed in NBPP uniform, brandished a weapon described by the Department of Justice as a “police-style baton weapon.” Jackson, reportedly a member of the 14th Ward Democratic Committee and certified poll worker, stated at the time that he was “making sure that media agitation does not disturb voters.”

The lawsuit further alleged that Malik Shabazz and the NBPP had “managed, directed, and endorsed” Samir Shabazz and Jerry Jackson's actions. It cited initial claims by Malik Shabazz that the men were at the polling station to protect voters against intimidation by white supremacists and that their presence was part of a national NBPP initiative to patrol election sites nationwide.

As a result of the lawsuit, Samir Shabazz was prohibited from displaying a weapon within 100 feet of any open polling location in Philadelphia through 2012. The Department of Justice dropped all charges against the NBPP, Malik Shabazz, and Jerry Jackson in May 2009.

Malik Shabazz suspended Samir Shabazz and the Philadelphia chapter less than a week after the Department of Justice lawsuit was announced. Nevertheless, Samir Shabazz's actions, which were consistent with the NBPP's long record of confrontational and disruptive behavior, were apparently validated by the group in January 2010 when he was reinstated to his position.



[Samir Shabazz outside Philadelphia polling station in 2008](#)

IDEOLOGY

Influenced by a variety of groups including the original Black Panthers, Black Panther Militia, and the [Nation of Islam \(NOI\)](#), the New Black Panther Party (NBPP) is rooted in a mix of Black Nationalism, Pan-Africanism and racist and anti-Semitic bigotry.

By feeding off of the nostalgia for, and presenting itself in the image of, the original Black Panther Party, a radical Black Nationalist group active in the 1960s and 1970s, the NBPP has been able to maintain some influence in the Black community. However, while the NBPP attracts some followers under the guise of championing Black empowerment and civil rights, its record of racism and anti-Semitism has tarnished its efforts to promote Black pride and consciousness.



Original Black Panthers logo

Much of the NBPP's ideology derives from the notion that African-Americans continue to suffer as a result of a racist white power structure that has oppressed them politically and economically since slavery. The primary perpetrators of this institutional racism, according to the NBPP, are whites, whom it views as ultimately responsible for Black exploitation; Jews, whom it sees as wielding disproportionate control of political and economic affairs; and law enforcement, which it sees as facilitating racial injustice on the ground.

The 2008 election of President Barack Obama compelled the group to address the continued relevance of its outlook on race in the U.S. Malik Zulu Shabazz, then NBPP National Chairman, maintained that despite his admiration for Obama and his high hopes for Obama's presidency, the challenges facing Black Americans remain.

Efforts by Shabazz to convey a nuanced view of race and politics are tainted by the fact that as leader of the NBPP for nearly a decade, he has espoused some of the group's most incendiary views against whites. During demonstrations and speaking engagements Shabazz has, among other things, likened white people to the devil and contended that [“the very nature of white people”](#) creates problems in the world.

Black separatism and reparations for slavery are necessary solutions to address the suffering African-Americans have endured, according to the group. The group's 10-Point Platform outlines its ultimate goal of establishing an independent nation for people of African descent. It reads:

“As our political objective, we want NATIONAL LIBERATION in a separate state or territory of our own, here or elsewhere, 'a liberated zone' ('New Africa' or Africa), and a plebiscite to be held throughout the BLACK NATION in which only we will be allowed to participate for the purposes of determining our will and DIVINE destiny as a people.”

The NBPP maintains that so long as Black Americans are subject to such grave injustices against them by law enforcement and within the justice system, they should not be expected to abide by laws or other practices designed by the U.S. government. The group's official manual charges that the “wicked racist” U.S. government has “robbed” Black people, and asserts they should be exempt from all military service and taxation “as long as we are deprived of equal justice under the laws of the land.”

Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism

The NBPP's bigotry is further evident in its positions on Jews and Zionists. It accuses them of exerting undue influence over national and world affairs to the detriment of minorities in the U.S. and around the world. In promoting this position, the group often evokes classic anti-Semitic stereotypes of Jewish power.

Members of the group have blamed the Jews for killing Jesus; claimed that the Talmud teaches that “Black people are cursed;” and promoted the anti-Semitic notion that Jews were “significantly and substantially” involved in the transatlantic slave trade.

In May 2007, when Shabazz was denied entry into Canada in advance of a speaking engagement in Toronto because of a five-year-old misdemeanor charge, he responded with accusations of Jewish control: “B'nai B'rith has won this one, and I'm starting to see the power of the Jewish lobby in Canada, full force. I thought Canada was free.” Hashim Nzinga, then NBPP Chief of Staff, repeated similar charges. “They told Canada not to let us in and Canada followed their rules, because this country is run from Israel,” he said.

The group [blamed Jews for Cynthia McKinney's defeat](#) following the 2006 Congressional primary election in Georgia. Several NBPP members got into a confrontation with the media while volunteering as McKinney's security the day of her concession speech. During the scuffle, they made racist and anti-Semitic remarks, including blaming Jews and Israel for McKinney's failure to be reelected.

The NBPP was particularly brazen in promoting its anti-Jewish and anti-Israel conspiracy theories in the wake of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The following month, Shabazz blamed Zionism for the terrorist plot and made [a series of other accusations about Israeli terrorism and Jewish control](#) during a news conference he co-sponsored at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., which was broadcast on C-SPAN. Amir Muhammad, an officer with the NBPP, advanced the myth that Jews were forewarned of the disaster: “There are reports that as many as 3,000 to 5,000 so-called Jews did not go to work [at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon] that day, and we need to take a serious look at that.”

Two anti-Semitic Muslim clerics present at the event made equally conspiratorial remarks about Israel and Jews. Imam Muhammad al-Asi, a Muslim activist based in Washington, DC, accused Israel of carrying out the attacks. Imam Abdul Alim Musa, founder of the anti-Semitic Muslim group [Sabiqun](#) and head of the Masjid al Islam mosque in Washington, DC, likened Israel to a cancer and accused Zionists throughout the U.S. of collaborating to oppress Blacks and Muslims.



Image from "Zionist Money" video

Zionism, by extension, is also inherently detrimental to Africa and people of African origin, according to the NBPP. In its official 10-point platform, the group cites Zionism as being representative of “robbery of the Black by the capitalist... the capitalistic domination of Africa.” Other examples cited in the document include imperialism, racism, sexism, apartheid and “criminal-settler colonialism.”

Many of the NBPP's positions on Israel are featured in a song and corresponding video called "Zionist Money." In its lyrics and imagery, "Zionist Money" accuses Israel of committing apartheid, likens Zionism to racism and terrorism, compares the African slave trade to the Holocaust, and criticizes the U.S. for supporting Israeli policy. It also accuses ADL and AIPAC of attempting to censor criticism of Israel and making false accusations of anti-Semitism. The song and video were released in early 2009 by Jamarhl Crawford, the NBPP's then-National Minister of Information and Boston chairman, who resigned from the organization in March 2010.

Calls to Confront Jews

The group often broadcasts its hostile views towards Israel during rallies and demonstrations organized expressly to antagonize Jews.

In advance of the 2011 "National & International Day of Action & Unity," the NBPP released promotional materials highlighting "Zionism" as one of the "pressing issues" the event aimed to address, listing Jews and Jewish institutions among its stated targets. The materials cited what it views as Jewish economic exploitation of Blacks, in particular, as a driving force behind the action. "It's good to expose the manipulation... the abuses of the Zionists and the Jews on how they have manipulated our community and [sic] sucking our resources," then National Chairman Malik Zulu Shabazz stated the month before the event. He continued, "What you gonna do about it? They still have their hands in our economy. They still are making money off of us. What ever happened to the spirit of 'shut 'em down'? Why don't we shut some people down? Some tennis shoe companies down, shut some diamond stores down, why don't we start to impact the economy of our oppressor?"



NBPP member in Houston

Stated plans to demonstrate outside of U.S. Jewish institutions never materialized, despite Shabazz's initial claim that the NBPP was organizing at least one such event. In March, following an alleged assault of a Black teenager by two Jewish men in Baltimore, Shabazz provided the address of a Jewish institution in Baltimore and invited local supporters to join in his group's planned action: "[If] you're mad about it and you're ready to load up and go over there and go deal with it on April 23, check right on in."

In July 2004, Shabazz and seven other NBPP members attempted to disrupt an interfaith vigil in Washington, DC, organized by the local Jewish community council, religious leaders and elected officials. Shabazz shouted at demonstrators, who had gathered to protest ethnic cleansing in Sudan, "God condemns you... Nobody on the face of the earth wants to agree with you or unite with you... The Zionist has no right to open his mouth anywhere on the planet." Shabazz also referred to organizers as "Zionist liars" and accused them of "robbing the gold mines in Africa" and having "the blood of Palestinians on" their hands.

During an April 2002 demonstration the NBPP organized in front of the B'nai B'rith building in Washington, DC, Shabazz led chants of "death to Israel" and "Jihad," and shouted, "Kill every goddamn Zionist in Israel! Goddamn little babies, goddamn old ladies! Blow up Zionist supermarkets!" Participants held posters that read, "The American Israeli White Man is the Devil" and "The State of Israel Has No Right to Exist."

Confrontational Tactics against Law Enforcement

Law enforcement, viewed by the NBPP culpable for Black suffering in the U.S., is a frequent target of the group's confrontational tactics.

In the aftermath of the shooting of Michael Brown in August 2014, NBPP leaders and Malik Zulu Shabazz called for violence against law enforcement. Shabazz engaged protesters with chants calling for the death of the officer who shot Michael Brown. Using a megaphone, Shabazz yelled, "Who do we want?" Protestors responded, "Darren Wilson!" Shabazz: "How do we want him?" Protestors: "Dead!" Additionally, in a post on Facebook, Shabazz claimed he would release the name and address of the officer who shot Michael Brown to "give the demonstrators a clearer target." NBPP Chief of Staff [Chawn Kweli](#) also made threats via Facebook. "If need be put as many aggressors in the coffins they picked out for you in self-defense...If you die, die like a warrior," Kweli wrote.

In January 2008 Mikhail Muhammad, the group's leader in Jacksonville, Florida, responded to police shootings of two local African-American men with promise of payback: "We believe an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth because we believe the undercover vice is going around and killing our people." Muhammad also accused police of planting a handgun on one of the victims and likened the local sheriff's office to a terrorist organization.

During a December 2006 rally in Queens, New York, Shabazz pointed at police, pledged revenge for any more shootings, and shouted, "We will kill you!" Shabazz issued a similar warning to law enforcement officials during a May 2004 rally in Dallas outside of police headquarters. "We may have to go get the shotguns... I don't think they are taking us seriously," he remarked. Derick Brown, another NBPP member, said through a bullhorn, "We're ready to die in self-defense."



Shabazz in Queens

The NBPP's hostility toward law enforcement began in 1998 with Khalid Muhammad, who at the Million Youth March incited the crowd to clash with New York City police officers, encouraging attendees to beat the police with rails and to shoot them with their own guns in "self-defense." Twenty-eight people suffered minor injuries, including 16 police officers, who were struck by chairs and bottles.

NBPP and NOI

The NBPP's bigotry is bolstered by its close ties to [Louis Farrakhan](#) and his organization, the [Nation of Islam \(NOI\)](#), which has maintained a consistent record of racism and anti-Semitism since its founding in the 1930s.

The NBPP promotes the NOI's anti-Semitic book [The Synagogue of Satan](#), written by Assistant Editor of the NOI's [Final Call](#) newspaper Ashahed Muhammad. The book trades in Jewish conspiracy theories and Holocaust denial, alleging, among other things, that the world is being manipulated and corrupted by Satanic powers led by Jewish elites.

The book features a foreword by Malik Zulu Shabazz, who was the NBPP's National Chairman when the book was written. In the foreword, Shabazz contends that Israel practices a satanic political and colonial agenda, and suggests that there is a conspiracy to silence Black leaders who challenge "White Jewish involvement" in slavery and in "athletics, entertainment, [and] political relationships." He attacks Jewish organizations, suggesting that they exist solely to suppress "legitimate opposition to Israel" and news of "illegal Zionist behavior."

In a March 2014, *Black Power Radio* broadcast host Chawn Kweli interviewed Ashahed Muhammad. After profusely praising Muhammad and his book, Kweli asked Muhammad what motivated him to write the book, and Muhammad responded with the following reasons: "the battle with the so-called Jews on campus," Jewish organizations' "awesome control of public knowledge," and the "controlled media" that allegedly portrays the African-American community in a negative light.



Continuing to invoke anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about supposed Jewish control, Muhammad described African-Americans as being "hoodwinked and bamboozled by the Zionists" who "have to be exposed and uncovered because as long as they are allowed to continue to lie and influence so many people with their lies, they stop us from unifying."

In the same online radio broadcast, Kweli also promoted the ideology espoused by the NOI's book [The Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews](#), stating "the so-called Jews...don't want their hands to be exposed in terms of their role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade." He continued, "They don't want you to talk about your enslavement...and how the blood-sucking capitalist jewelers and others have benefited from our mishaps."

Though the relationship between the two groups wavered under the NBPP's former leader, [Khalid Abdul Muhammad](#), who died in 2001, it solidified in February 2005, when Farrakhan appointed then NBPP National Chairman Malik Zulu Shabazz as [national co-convenor](#) of the 10th anniversary commemoration of the NOI's Million Man March. In the eight months that followed, Shabazz organized and spoke at [local outreach events across the country](#) in an effort to drum up support for the event. Since then, Shabazz has continued to be a frequent guest at NOI events, including its annual Saviours' Day conventions.

LEADERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

A network of national and local representatives around the country enables the New Black Panther Party (NBPP) to spread its bigoted views nationwide. By organizing rallies and demonstrations in response to instances of police brutality, hate crimes and other social issues, NBPP representatives are able to mobilize and in some cases expand the group's membership.

Below is a sampling of notable NBPP representatives, national or local, who uphold the group's most combative and bigoted positions.

Hashim Nzinga

[Hashim Nzinga](#), current NBPP National Chairman and former Chief of Staff, has been a member of the NBPP since 1994, when he first met Khalid Muhammad and became his personal assistant.

[Nzinga replaced Malik Zulu Shabazz](#) as National Chairman in October 2013 after Shabazz announced that he was stepping down to devote his time fully to the Black Lawyers for Justice, an organization he founded in 1996 to supposedly provide legal services. Shabazz continues to influence the NBPP as the group's "spiritual guide."

Like [Shabazz](#), Nzinga has a long history of racism and anti-Semitism.

[In August 2014](#), Nzinga addressed the NBPP on an online broadcast of *Black Power Radio* titled "Murder In Missouri— Michael Brown And Blood Thirsty Pigs— The Battle Is On!" and claimed that white Americans are committing "genocide" against Black males: "The Black male is being exterminated...The ones who are not being exterminated, they're pushing them to be gay and fags so they won't be productive on reproducing babies. This is about genocide."

Nzinga injected anti-Semitism into the discussion, blaming the recent incident on the supposedly Jewish-controlled media. "Jews' media and the Jews' TV, they have made it look like we're the villains of America..." said Nzinga. He also blamed violence in Chicago on Mayor Rahm Emanuel who he described as "a Jew, and that Jew is a master at propaganda."

In a June 2013 online radio broadcast, Nzinga claimed that Jews conspire to promote a negative image of Black youth through their supposed control of the media, stating, "The Jews' news...shows us before the world looking like damn fools" and called for a boycott of companies that "continue to help the Jews' news make our youth look like buffoons before the world."

In January 2010, Nzinga advanced a series of anti-Semitic views and theories on *Black Power Radio*. He accused Jews of having disproportionate power over the media and entertainment industries, which he asserted was achieved by exploiting alliances with Blacks during the Civil Rights era. Jews, he argued, "used us as cannon fire while they directed our leaders, they directed Dr. King, they directed the NAACP, they directed those who they control."

As a consequence of their actions in the 1960s, Nzinga said, Jews were able to "infiltrate" American institutions and create an "international Zionist machine" that now controls most major U.S. media outlets and record labels. This control over the media enables Zionists to "own what we look at and what our kids look at every day, which means they control our mind by remote controls in our living room," according to Nzinga.



Nzinga at 2013 MYM in Harlem

Nzinga further protested what he sees as Jewish monopoly on suffering, stating, “If we mention our Holocaust even the Jews get mad, but you say something about their Holocaust, they call you anti-Semitic. And they always say they’ll never forget, but if we say anything about our history they don’t want to hear it.” Nzinga asserted that Jewish accusations of anti-Semitism are particularly insulting since Jews do not have a legitimate claim to the term Semite—a position frequently advanced by the NBPP.

At one point during the interview, Nzinga accused Jews of “infiltrating” historically Black colleges, where he said they bring Jews and whites to campus to teach “white supremacy” to Black students. Black colleges, he said, must empower themselves financially in order to free themselves from the grip of whites and Jews: “Until we forget about them crackers’ money and start taking Black colleges and start taking back over our colleges and give them crackers they checks back and draw money from our own pool, we can never educate our kids. So we let the Jews and the different foundations come in with their monies and control the college professors, control the colleges.”

Nzinga’s bigotry is not limited to Jews or supporters of Israel. Referring to two white men charged with the murder of an African-American man in Texas in 2009, Nzinga called on Attorney General Eric Holder in August 2009 to “prosecute these white beasts” and “get down here to Paris, Texas, and give these white boys some Texas justice.” During a December 2005 appearance on FOX’s Hannity & Colmes, he expressed agreement with a statement by Kamau Kambon, a professor at North Carolina State University, calling for the extermination of white people.

Nzinga’s conspiratorial view of the world is apparent in other theories he has advanced in speeches and interviews, including accusing Jews of having foreknowledge of September 11 attacks during a September 2005 appearance on Hannity & Colmes. He has also charged that the pro-Israel lobby controls the Canadian government and accused white-run U.S. government agencies of infiltrating and plotting to “destroy” the NBPP.

Malik Zulu Shabazz

Malik Zulu Shabazz, the anti-Semitic and racist former leader of the NBPP, served as the group’s National Chairman from the death of [Khalid Abdul Muhammad](#) in February 2001 until October 2013, when he left his position to focus on an organization he founded in 1996, the Black Lawyers for Justice. He continues to be involved with the NBPP as its “spiritual advisor.”

While he was head of the NBPP, Shabazz, born Paris Lewis, presented the NBPP as a militant response to issues faced by the African-American community and inserted himself in racially-charged issues around the country. He has forged alliances with some leaders in the Muslim community and has, at times, garnered support from elected officials and activists in the African-American community.



Shabazz at 2013 MYM in Harlem

However, his attempts to gain acceptance and respectability are tainted by his long record of racism and anti-Semitism, which he continues to embrace.

At the 15th [Anniversary of the NBPP's Million Youth March rally](#) in Harlem in September 2013, Shabazz used at least one anti-Semitic slur and singled out supposedly Jewish-owned stores for a boycott, "If I had it my way, we would blackout and boycott every bloodsucker on 125th Street and start with these so-called Jewish owned diamond stores." He then engaged in a call-and-response with the audience where he called out repeatedly, "Shut 'em down!" The event attracted some support from public figures. For example, then NYC Comptroller and mayoral candidate John Liu spoke as a "supporter of the Million Youth March," and told the audience that it was "great" to see so many in attendance and that it "means a lot." The event was also endorsed by then Mayor of Jackson, Mississippi [Chokwe Lumumba](#), entertainer [Nick Cannon](#), and St. Louis businessman [Michael V. Roberts](#).

Shabazz's record also includes promoting anti-Semitic themes of Jewish financial control and manipulation. In May 2013, at [Clark Atlanta University and Georgia State University](#), Shabazz told students that Blacks have "been cheated out of [their] divine destiny by a cheating system, and a cheating people who have cheated us," and that he had information about "white Jewish entertainment firms who control our artists...all of them." He also discussed "pulling a cover off of the so-called Jews who are exploiting our people."

Shabazz regularly espouses conspiracy theories about Jews, claiming that they control the media and other industries and that Jews had foreknowledge of the September 11 terrorist attacks. He has also claimed that Jews were "significantly and substantially" involved in the transatlantic slave trade, and that "[the very nature of white people](#)" creates problems in the world.

King Samir Shabazz

[King Samir Shabazz](#), formerly the NBPP's National Field Marshal, is notorious for his violent rhetoric. He has also been arrested multiple times.

The NBPP announced Shabazz was no longer part of the NBPP, and no longer held his leadership position, on November 9, 2014.

In June 2014, Samir Shabazz was arrested "on alleged probation violations and gun related charges" according to former NBPP leader [Malik Zulu Shabazz](#). Samir Shabazz was previously arrested in June 2013 in New York for [carrying a loaded, unlicensed firearm and illegally wearing body armor](#).



[Shabazz at Georgia State](#)

Samir Shabazz frequently calls for violence against white people. In a *Black Power Radio* interview on June 17, 2014 Samir Shabazz, born Maruse Heath, ranted about the “damn lying bastard, the white man,” stating, “I don’t plan on committing no damn suicide. Damn it, I’m preparing for some homicide, on my enemy.”

[Such violent rhetoric is nothing new for Shabazz](#), who publicly stated that NBPP members should [press their uniforms](#) so the crease could “cut that cracker’s throat in half and watch his head roll down the street.”

In an August 2012 *Black Power Radio* broadcast, he went on [a vicious tirade describing white nurseries and churches as legitimate targets](#) for bombing stating “You’re going to have to go into the God damn nursery and just throw a damn bomb in the damn nursery and just kill everything white in sight that ain’t right,” and “Well we gonna throw a bomb in that God damn church, burn up the cracker, burn up the cracker Jesus, and burn up some cracker white supremacy.”



Samir Shabazz described in detail to *Black Power Radio*’s audience how he would like to go to New Jersey and Pennsylvania suburbs to “drag some of these god damn rusty dusty ass crackers out of their homes, skin their asses alive, hang their asses up by some damn rope in some trees, drag them up and down the streets by God damn trucks, sick the pit bulls on them, pour acid on their asses, dump them in a God damn river, bring them back up, bust them in the head with a rock.”

When Samir Shabazz was head of the NBPP’s Philadelphia chapter, he garnered national attention in January 2009, after the U.S. Justice [Department filed suit against the group](#) over alleged voter intimidation by him and another NBPP member on Election Day 2008.

The suit alleged that Samir Shabazz and Jerry Jackson, the chapter’s chief of staff, intimidated voters by standing outside a North Philadelphia polling station in NBPP uniform, with Samir Shabazz brandishing what the Justice Department described as a “police-style baton weapon.” As a result of the case, he was prohibited from displaying a weapon within 100 feet of any open polling location in Philadelphia through 2012.



Though he was suspended by the NBPP’s national leadership shortly after the incident, Samir Shabazz was reinstated as head of its Philadelphia chapter just over a year later. In fact, during a January 2010 interview with *Black Power Radio*, then NBPP National Chairman Malik Zulu Shabazz emphasized Samir Shabazz’s role as one of the NBPP’s key local leaders.

Samir Shabazz's behavior on Election Day 2008 reflects his long history of confrontational behavior towards white people and law enforcement. Shabazz views the U.S. as having an “inherent racism” problem and his statements frequently advocate for violence against white people in order to achieve racial and social justice for Blacks. “You want freedom?” Shabazz shouted through a microphone on a Philadelphia street in 2008, “You're gonna have to kill some crackers. You're gonna have to kill some of they [sic] babies.”



Samir Shabazz in Philadelphia

Less than a week before the 2008 Election Day incident, Samir Shabazz made a series of incendiary statements about white people during an interview with a local newspaper, including “I'm about the total destruction of white people. I'm about the total liberation of Black people. I hate white people. I hate my enemy.” He vowed not to vote for then-presidential candidate Barack Obama, calling him “a puppet on a string” and “the next slave master.”

His comments echoed equally militant remarks he made during a 2003 interview with *Philadelphia Weekly*. “I can't wait for the day that they're all dead. I won't be completely happy until I see our people free and Whitey dead,” he said. He added, “We're going to keep putting our foot up the white man's ass until they understand completely. We want freedom, justice and mutha[expletive]' equality. Period. If you ain't gonna give it to us, mutha[expletive], we're gonna take it, in the name of freedom.”

During media interviews, NBPP events, and protests in Philadelphia, Samir Shabazz has advocated violence against police. During the group's “National & International Day of Action & Unity” event in April 2011, which was held outside the Philadelphia Police Department headquarters, Shabazz called for retaliation for the murders of Black youth by police. “Off the pigs who kill our kids!” he shouted. In advance of the event, he had indicated a willingness to engage in violent confrontation with the police, warning that “we gonna get us some pigs and make bacon” and that “we are trained and ready here in Killadelphia.” Shabazz made similar comments while speaking at the NBPP's National Convention in May 2010, asserting that “the quickest way to get rid of police brutality is to get rid of police.”

Samir Shabazz's disruptive tactics got him arrested on disorderly conduct charges in September 2008, after he and others interrupted an Atlantic City rally held to address Black community issues. Shabazz shouted, “If you're not willing to stand up, Black men and Black women, then get the hell in the river and drown with the jelly fish.” His speech reportedly included racial epithets as well.

Always ready to confront his perceived adversaries head on, Samir Shabazz showed up with nine other NBPP members to protest a white supremacist rally at Pennsylvania's Valley Forge National Park in September 2004. The Panthers came armed with a baseball bat and long flashlight, which the Park Police confiscated. “We came to let the KKK and those neo-Nazi crackers know we will not tolerate them...we believe in the race purity of Black people,” he told reporters.

Samir has cited former NBPP leader Khalid Muhammad, a racist and anti-Semite, as “my light, my reflection of what it means to be a Black man in America... my teacher, my guide, my elder, my father, my brother. He woke me up.”

Chawn Kweli

[Chawn Kweli](#) is the anti-Semitic and racist host of the NBPP's online radio program *Black Power Radio*. Kweli was promoted in October 2013 from Spokesperson to Nzinga's former role of National Chief of Staff.

Kweli, born Chawn Elliott Smock, frequently uses *Black Power Radio* as an outlet for himself, other NBPP leaders, members, and outside supporters to spew anti-Semitism and racism.

In recent broadcasts, Kweli referred to Jews as the "Synagogue of Satan," employing [a phrase commonly used by the Nation of Islam \(NOI\)](#). In July 2014 Kweli similarly demonized Israelis, calling them "so-called Jews in Israel in what's really Palestine...some player haters, some Zionists, some so-called Jews who the Book of Revelations...calls the Synagogue of Satan."

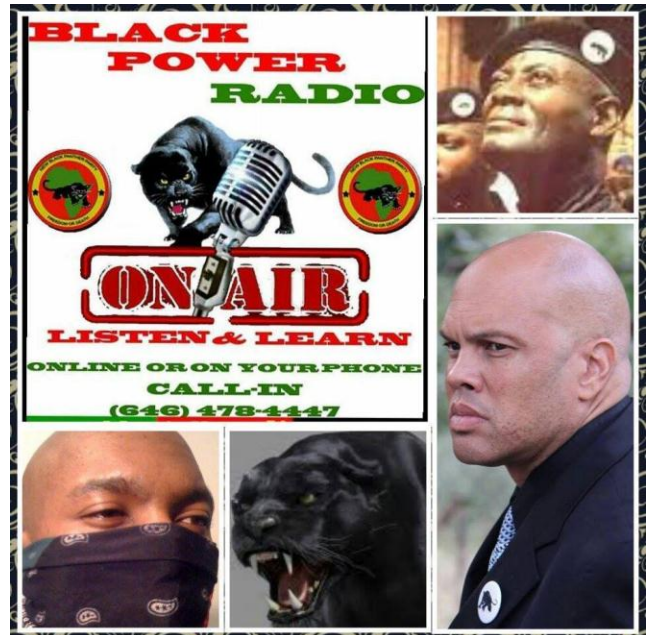
In a March 2014 radio broadcast, Kweli alluded to the NOI's [Secret Relationship Between Blacks and Jews](#) stating "the so-called Jews...don't want their hands to be exposed in terms of their role in the trans-Atlantic slave trade." He continued, "They don't want you to talk about your enslavement...and how the blood-sucking capitalist jewelers and others have benefited from our mishaps."

In an April 2013 episode, Kweli invoked anti-Semitic conspiracy theories about Jewish control, referring to the NYPD as the "Jew York Police Department" and to the "Zionist-Jewish controlled media outlets."

Kweli was also on the ground in Ferguson in the aftermath of the shooting of Michael Brown, where Kweli condoned violence against law enforcement. Kweli posted on Facebook on August 10, 2014 that "If need be put as many aggressors in the coffins they picked out for you in self-defense...If you die, die like a warrior."

Divine Allah

Divine Allah, the NBPP's Trenton, New Jersey-based National Youth Minister and Northeast Regional Representative, has been active in the Trenton community for more than a decade, including running for political office. Asked about his motivation and political influences, Allah has cited Malik Shabazz, as well as New York City Councilman [Charles Barron](#) and former Congresswoman [Cynthia McKinney](#).



Allah has a history of vilifying law enforcement in media interviews and during rallies against police brutality. In response to the fatal police shooting of an 18-year-old in Brooklyn, New York, in 2007, Allah cautioned that that Blacks “should never, never forget that there is an enemy amongst us, a predator who is relentless and ruthless.”

Allah views Black separatism as the best solution to the problems facing the Black community, which he blames on whites and Jews. During a speech at the NBPP's national summit in Philadelphia in August 2006, Allah responded to accusations leveled against the NBPP—specifically, that it is a hate group—by comparing the NBPP to God, and whites and Jews to the devil. “The devil is not supposed to love God,” he remarked. “Anti-Defamation League, and all the other so-called Jews just like them, and other white folks, the devil is not supposed to like God. The devil never liked the work of God... to hell with them.”



These themes are also found in the music produced by Allah's hip-hop group, the Maroon Society (Allah performs under the pseudonym God MC). One Maroon Society song combines accusations of Zionist “land grabbing” with a photograph of an orthodox Jew and an image seemingly depicting Jewish world control. Another, titled “Bangout,” advocates for violence against whites: “if you're gonna bang, bang for the Black race, cut a white boy, put the bang into a cracker's face... if you're gonna to bang, bang on the white devil, bury him by the river bank with the right shovel.”

ORIGINS

The New Black Panther Party for Self Defense (NBPP) takes its name from the original Black Panther Party, formed by Huey Newton and Bobby Seale in Oakland, California, in 1966. The original Panthers combined militant Black Nationalism with Marxism and advocated Black empowerment and self-defense, often through confrontation. By 1969, the group had an estimated 5,000 members spread throughout 20 chapters around the country. In the early 1970s, however, the group lost momentum and most of its support due to internal disputes, violent clashes with police, and infiltration by law enforcement agencies. Despite the collapse, the group's mystique continued to influence radicals, and by the early 1990s a new generation of militant activists began to model themselves after the original Panthers.



Original Black Panthers

Michael McGee

The roots of the New Black Panthers can be traced to Michael McGee, a former member of the original Panthers, who was elected to the Milwaukee City Council in Wisconsin in 1984. In 1987, in response to what he viewed as a crisis in the city's Black community, McGee threatened to disrupt “Summerfest” events “and other

white people's fun" throughout the city unless more jobs were created for Black people. He eventually backed off, instead leading demonstrations to call attention to Black unemployment.

In 1990, at a "state of the inner city" press conference at city hall, McGee—then a Milwaukee alderman—announced his intention to create the Black Panther Militia unless the problems of the inner city improved. He sought to enlist street gangs in the militia and provide them with weapons training. "They can fight and they already know how to shoot," he said. "I'm going to give them a cause to die for." By 1995, McGee threatened, the militia would carry out violent attacks in the city against "the government, the big private interests, the multi-millionaires."

Two months later, McGee organized a public meeting to recruit members to the Black Panther Militia at a local public school. Although dressed in black fatigues reminiscent of the original Panthers, McGee told the crowd of 300 that he was "not advocating what the Black Panthers were advocating. Our militia will be about violence. I'm talking actual fighting, bloodshed and urban guerilla warfare."

In 1992 he again threatened to launch violent attacks on the city, this time if he was not re-elected as alderman. But as the election neared, he recanted, saying that he "proved [his] point" and that he was "getting back into the system." He eventually lost his seat to a police sergeant.

By that time, McGee had already helped organize a chapter of the Black Panther Militia in Indianapolis. McGee also inspired the establishment of a similar group in Dallas, which, under the leadership of Aaron Michaels, would become the founding chapter of the NBPP.

Aaron Michaels

Aaron Michaels, born Aaron McCarthy in Dallas, had worked at various Christian radio stations in the city before he started producing Dallas County Commissioner John Wiley Price's nightly radio show "Talkback" in 1990. He credits Price, who made a name for himself organizing a series of confrontational protests in the Dallas area, with introducing him to Black Nationalist ideology. When Michael McGee appeared on "Talkback" in 1990, Price urged his listeners to give money to the Black Panther Militia.



Aaron Michaels

Inspired by McGee's appearance, in 1990 Michaels organized a group of like-minded followers, which he named after the original Panthers; he registered the New Black Panther Party name in 1991. Like McGee's Black Panther Militia, Michaels' NBPP borrowed the militant style and confrontational tactics from the original Panthers while ignoring some of their core principles and community service programs. "Survival programs are good, but they don't make us free," Michaels said.

The group apparently established a nationwide base during the next few years. On May 29, 1993, the Dallas chapter hosted a "National Black Power Summit and Youth Rally," which drew about 200 people. Speaking at the rally, McGee claimed that chapters had formed in 20 cities. In an effort to make common cause in favor of racial

separatism, white supremacist Tom Metzger of White Aryan Resistance was also invited to speak. He told the audience that he believed in achieving goals "by whatever means necessary."

McGee's involvement with the NBPP eventually faded, but under Michaels' leadership the New Black Panthers expanded their activity and membership, and more fully embraced racist leaders, most notably Khalid Abdul Muhammad.

Khalid Abdul Muhammad

Khalid Muhammad joined the NBPP in 1996 during its battles with the Dallas school board. For several years, the group had disrupted board meetings demanding greater Black representation; with Muhammad on board, Michaels went further, insisting on the resignation of the school board president, whom he described as "Nazi Germany all over. He is a dictator." When three members of the NBPP, including Michaels, were arrested on misdemeanor charges for preventing the board from meeting, Michaels and Muhammad issued a joint news release calling for "Black men with GUNS" to protect them at the next meeting. In response, school board officials canceled the meeting.

A few days later, Michaels again called on Muhammad, enlisting his help in leading a group of armed NBPP members to Greenville, Texas, after two Black churches were burned down in the area. The NBPP leaders vowed to patrol local Black churches and threatened whites, whom they believed were responsible for the fires, with death. (A Black teenager was later indicted in connection with both fires.)



By the summer of 1998, Muhammad had eclipsed Michaels and became de facto leader of the party. He took on high-profile, racially charged causes and sought to recruit young men attracted to his racist message and militant tone. Michaels, while still active in Dallas, accepted the less significant role of "minister of defense."

Muhammad's interest in the NBPP coincided with his growing alienation from the [Nation of Islam \(NOI\)](#), which he had joined after hearing Louis Farrakhan—then the NOI's National Representative—at New Orleans' Dillard University in 1967. After NOI leader Elijah Muhammad died in 1975, and his son Warith Deen Mohammed began to steer the group toward a non-racist, more traditional form of Islam, Farrakhan elected to perpetuate the father's separatist teachings by forming his own organization (in 1978). Many members followed him, including Khalid Muhammad, who was appointed West Coast regional minister and minister of NOI Mosque No. 27 in Los Angeles.

Muhammad was transferred to Atlanta in the mid-1980s and became minister of the city's NOI mosque. In February 1988, he was sentenced to three years in prison for trying to obtain a home mortgage by using a false social security number; he was released after serving nine months. Despite these difficulties, he had become one of Farrakhan's most trusted advisors and in 1990 was appointed minister of Mosque No. 7 in New York, one of the most prestigious appointments in the NOI. A year later, Muhammad was named Farrakhan's national spokesman.

Muhammad's rise through the group's hierarchy was abruptly halted in November 1993, after he delivered a notoriously anti-Semitic, anti-Catholic, homophobic and racist speech at New Jersey's Kean College. In his remarks, Muhammad referred to Jews as "bloodsuckers," called for genocide against whites, vulgarly ridiculed Pope John Paul II and demeaned homosexuals. The speech attracted significant media attention, and Muhammad was condemned by a wide range of religious and political leaders - including the U.S. Congress, which issued a condemnation in 1994 that decried the speech as "outrageous hatemongering of the most vicious and vile kind." Farrakhan responded to the controversy by removing Muhammad from the group's leadership, although the NOI leader noted that he faulted only the form, not "the truth," of Muhammad's remarks.



Even without NOI backing, Muhammad remained a divisive, yet popular and publicity-generating speaker at colleges and universities and at public events across the country. In long unscripted addresses, Muhammad typically, often wildly, [attacked Jews and whites](#).

On May 29, 1994, after Muhammad finished a speech at the University of California, Riverside, a former NOI member attempted to assassinate him, shooting him in the leg and wounding four bodyguards and a bystander before being subdued and beaten by the crowd, which chanted, "He works for the Jews." The gunman, James Bess, who was sentenced to life in prison plus 22 years, said he shot Muhammad because of his extreme views and influence on young people. Muhammad speculated that Jewish groups and the U.S. government had worked with Bess to assassinate him.

A year later, Farrakhan announced that he was reassigning Muhammad to the Chicago mosque. The reassignment was largely symbolic, however, and Muhammad never truly regained a place in the NOI leadership. He would later say that although he still considered himself a member of NOI, he was essentially banned from all NOI mosques.

With his connection to NOI waning, Muhammad focused on raising the visibility of the NBPP and consolidating his leadership over it.

EARLY EXPANSION

In June 1998, Muhammad led a group of fifty NBPP followers to Jasper, Texas—including a dozen carrying shotguns and rifles—to "protect" the streets in the wake of the racial murder of James Byrd Jr. Byrd, a 49-year-old African-American, was beaten and fatally dragged behind a pickup truck down a rural road by three white supremacists. In response to a rally organized by Klansmen in the small town two weeks later, Muhammad and his followers, many wearing black berets like the original Panthers, showed up to counter-demonstrate. When members of the NBPP tried and failed to get past police separating them from the Klan, several minor scuffles between supporters on both sides broke out, resulting in two arrests.

After the Jasper protest, Muhammad concentrated on organizing his most ambitious event to date, which he called the "Million Youth March" (MYM). The purpose of the march in Harlem was to promote unity among

young African-Americans, but it would also provide a forum to showcase the emergent NBPP as an alternative to other groups interested in guiding Black youth, namely the NOI.

With the help of the December 12 Movement, a Brooklyn-based anti-racism advocacy group, Muhammad toured the country promoting the march. He received the endorsement of several local Black leaders, including Reverend Al Sharpton, who also spoke at the event.

Prior to the march, Rudolph Giuliani, then Mayor of New York City, labeled the event a "hate march" and the police department initially denied the NBPP a permit to hold the event in Harlem, citing safety concerns. Muhammad responded by threatening to march in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, noting the longstanding tension between the Jewish and Black communities there. A federal judge eventually overruled the city's decision to deny the permit and Muhammad convened the rally in Harlem on September 5, 1998.

Instead of hearing a message of unity, young and old in attendance listened to several speeches threaded with the inflammatory racism, anti-Jewish prejudice and support for Black separatism, for which Muhammad and the NBPP had come to be known.

The day ended with a melee between New York City police officers and demonstrators when police attempted to shut down the rally at the 4 p.m. deadline. Twenty-eight people suffered minor injuries, including 16 police officers, who were struck by chairs and bottles. Police Commissioner Howard Safir blamed Muhammad for inciting the confrontation by exhorting the crowd to beat the police with rails and to shoot them with their own guns in "self-defense."

Despite the melee, or perhaps because of it, Muhammad's influence as leader of the NBPP had reached its highest point. Approximately 6000 people attended the rally - easily the largest gathering ever organized by the group - and Muhammad was elected NBPP national chairman shortly afterward. The Panthers would organize four more Million Youth Marches in 1999, 2000, and 2013 in Harlem and in [Brooklyn in 2003](#), but none came close to attracting the number of the participants at the first march.

In addition to organizing high-profile demonstrations, Muhammad's accomplishments with the NBPP include instituting an organizational hierarchy, much of which is filled with figures from the NOI and other Black Muslim groups. Malik Zulu Shabazz, an attorney from Washington, D.C., and Muhammad's long-time right hand man, was named national spokesman. Shabazz's role was to take the group's—and Muhammad's—militant message to the mainstream media. While it is unclear how many people joined the party under Muhammad's leadership, Shabazz claimed without verification in 2002 that NBPP supporters numbered "in the low thousands."

In 2000, Shabazz, then both the Panthers' national spokesman and national minister of justice, opened a chapter in Washington, D.C., that would become the group's headquarters. Soon after, he introduced his chapter to the D.C. community by organizing a boycott of a local Korean-American owned store after a dispute between the store owner and a Black teenage girl led to a fight, which was caught on video tape. The NBPP organized a week



of protests on the sidewalk in front of the store, and protestors, borrowing the language of anti-Semitic slander, chanted "death to the Bloodsucker." In November 2000, a pipe bomb was thrown into the store, causing severe damage. Painted across the outside wall were racial epithets and the words, "Burn them down, Shut them down, Black Power." Shabazz said his group had nothing to do with the attack.

On February 17, 2001, at the age of 53, Muhammad died suddenly in Atlanta from the effects of a brain aneurysm. Control of the NBPP, which under Muhammad became the largest and most vocal anti-Semitic Black organization in the U.S., was left to Shabazz, his closest advisor.