

# NEW YORK Amsterdam News

Vol. 85 No. 3 Saturday, January 15, 1994  
© 1994 The Amsterdam News

The new Black view

60¢ Manhattan, Brooklyn, Bronx  
Staten Island, Queens  
75¢ Outside N.Y.C.

## LESSON #1

# MUSLIMS DO NOT PLAY

## Michael's woes:

### New lawsuits, kid speaks out

By ABIOLA SINCLAIR  
Special to the AmNews

If even a portion of the lawsuits being leveled against Michael Jackson win their cases, the singer could be broke. Legal fees alone in defense against the suits are eating into his admittedly vast fortune, which includes royalties every quarter on the Beatles song portfolio, as well as his own video and record sales, and related promotional items. But the singer and businessman has lost the Pepsi contract which brought in millions annually for the past several years, and has cancelled his concert tours. The concert cancellation is the subject of the latest in several new suits.

Mamas Productions, the promoter and arranger of the "Dangerous" tour, has sued Michael Jackson for upwards of \$20 million, claiming the cancellation of the tour has caused it financial ruin and that the firm is itself being sued by vendors who brought stock items to sell based on anticipation of the tour.

Mamas claims Jackson was contracted to play 42 concert engagements worldwide. To date he has only played 24. Jackson cancelled his tour after he could no longer go on due to the effects on his health brought on by the stress of the charges against him. But Mamas claims that Jackson knew of the case against him before he agreed to the tour and did not inform Mamas, giving them the chance not to sign the singer until the case was resolved, or at least making arrangements with vendors.

(Continued on Page 44)



**VOICE OF PROTEST** — Min. Khalid Muhammad, at the mike, speaks out loudly and clearly at City Hall Monday against the invasion of New York City police who forced their way into the Nation of Islam's mosque Sunday evening during a prayer service. Rev. Al Sharpton, C. Vernon Mason and Dr. Lenore Fulani appear in the photo of protest against the police action.

(Karl Crutchfield photo)



**COPPING A PLEA** — These New York City policemen claim that members of the Mosque "roughed them up" and "threw them down the stairs" when they entered the building allegedly to pursue a man with a gun seeking refuge from the police. In the photo are police officers Wilfredo Quinones, who remained at the scene during negotiations; Frank Ortiz, Paul Palumbo.

(James Gilbert photo)

## Protecting their mosque, Muslims injure four cops

By YUSEF SALAAM  
Special to the AmNews

There were angry statements spat at White policemen Sunday evening during a face-to-face confrontation between police officers and about 70 community residents who were angry at White officers from the 25th Precinct, three males and a female, who allegedly tried to force their way into Muhammad's Mosque #7-A in Harlem, where members of the Nation of Islam (NOI) worship and where guns are not allowed. The officers claim they were responding to a robbery-in-progress call.

A few weeks ago, the Chicago-based Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the NOI, gave a "Stop the Killings" rally at Jacob Javits Center in Manhattan which attracted over 35,000 people.

Sources report that security men at the entrance of the mosque, located on Fifth Avenue between 125th and 126th streets, informed the officers that there was no robbery in the mosque, but if they wanted to check for themselves they could, but they could not take their weapons inside.

The officers insisted on going in with their weapons. A verbal confrontation ensued and escalated into a fight between the security men and the cops.

One of the cops was disarmed and another separated from his radio. The four cops were taken to area hospital. Three of them were released. They returned to the mosque to identify their alleged assailants. The female cop remained in the hospital.

None of the Muslims were injured badly enough to go to the

(Continued on Page 44)

hospital, or if they were, they did not go immediately.

When I arrived at the scene, about 25 Black men, non-Muslims, were shouting in the cops' faces. The Muslim men and community relations cops were trying to — and succeeded in — defusing a potentially volatile situation.

The majority of the 45 to 50 cops were White, with three or four Black ones. They had blocked the area from 125th to 126th streets, between Malcolm X Boulevard/Lenox Avenue and Madison Avenue, with squad cars.

Emergency Medical Service ambulances dotted the area. Uniform cops were stationed on a roof of a building across the street from the mosque. I asked cigar-chomping Captain John Stoker, of the 25th Precinct, why would his officers respond to a call to a religious house in the manner that they reportedly did.

He said, "First of all, there's no sign at the entrance designating the place as a mosque so my officers may not have known it was a mosque." He pointed to a very visible sign up near the second floor that announced "Muhammad's Mosque #7-A" and noted, "They have a sign up there but, evidently, the officers didn't see it."

I queried further about the mosque's classification as a sensitive area by the police department; the official policy is that when a precinct gets a call about trouble at the address of the mosque — and mosques in general — a sergeant, a lieutenant or some other higher-up is supposed to personally intervene and handle the matter.

Stoker conceded that there was such a policy, but claimed that the four officers involved in this incident were young and "not the most experienced in the precinct."

I wondered out loud: How could the officers not know that a mosque was upstairs if they worked in the area? That's how they are able to survive Harlem's mean streets, by knowing where the crack houses are, who the drug dealers are, etc.

Hours passed while NOI officials, led by Minister Conrad Muhammad, and police officials negotiated. The three male officers involved in the incident — Quinones, Ortiz and Palambo — were placed in front of the entrance so that they could identify particular worshippers as their

assailants, as they filed out of the building.

Chief David Scott, an African-American who is chief of the New York City Police Department and soon-to-be first deputy commissioner of the department, was one of the negotiators. I questioned him about the official policy of the department designating the mosque a sensitive area and the procedure that was supposed to be followed, yet, it was not implemented in the present situation.

I reminded him of the incident that happened on April 14, 1972, when the police received a bogus call that a cop was in trouble at the then-Muhammad's Temple #7-A on 116th Street and Lenox Avenue. The prohibition against guns was in existence there, too. An officer lost his life. Scott said that there needed to be more education in the precincts about the policy.

The police did not establish that a robbery had happened. There were absolutely no arrests. Sources related that Minister Farrakhan will send NOI officials to New York to investigate the situation and to meet with police officials.

Community residents expressed unequivocal support for the Muslims.

Actress and theater director Barbara Ann Teer, who rents the mosque space to the NOI and visited the scene, declared, "I'm honored to have the Muslims as tenants. They have brought dignity to the block."

Robert Moore said, "They are peaceful people. They tend to their business and don't bother nobody."

Tawanda Johnson, a high school student who lives in the area, emphasized, "They keep to themselves."

State Senator David Paterson was also on the scene. There was a general agreement among the people about New Rochelle policeman Askaree Al-Fattah's opinion. Seeming unperturbed by the 13 degrees below weather, he stated, "They would have never invaded and disrespected the sanctity of a White Roman Catholic church; these racist cops are feeling bold enough to do the things that they've been wanting to do for the last four years. Now that Giuliani is in office, they see that as a signal to move on the Black community."