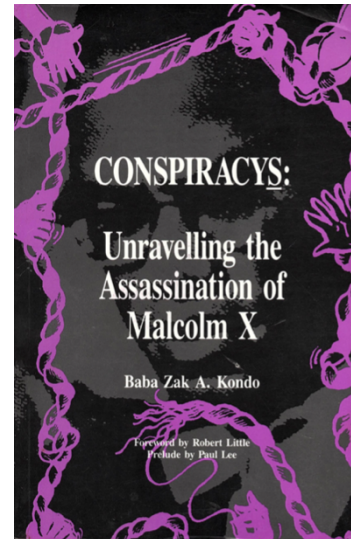


# *Compromised Credibility*

## **Zak Kondo on the Assassination of Malcolm X**

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*As an organization, upon the orders of Elijah Muhammad the Nation of Islam were the killers of Malcolm X. – Zak Kondo on Riot Starters TV February 24, 2022*



Zak Kondo has been described as the author of “a definitive account of the assassination.”<sup>1</sup> However, his account, *Conspiracys: Unravelling the Assassination of Malcolm X*,<sup>2</sup> is anything but definitive. In fact, many of Kondo’s conclusions are demonstrably wrong. Amiri Baraka offers this just criticism of Manning Marable’s book, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention*<sup>3</sup>: “Marable spends most of his time trying to make the NOI Malcolm’s murders.”<sup>4</sup> This criticism applies with equal force to Zak Kondo. And, in order to *make* the Nation of Islam the murders of Malcolm X, Kondo has engaged in some very suspect scholarly practices, not unlike Karl Evanzz.<sup>5</sup> Kondo, like Evanzz, often totally misrepresents his sources. This misrepresentation always leads to the same conclusion: Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam’s guilt. But the point here is important: Kondo **has to misrepresent his sources in order to make Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam guilty**. I cite three examples here.

### **I. Misrepresenting Yusuf Shah**

Kondo is prone to embellish people’s words in order to make them say what Kondo wants them to say, specifically: Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam murdered Malcolm X. See

<sup>1</sup> Richard Prince, “Netflix’s ‘New Evidence’ in Malcolm X Killing Challenged,” *journal-isms* February 27, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Zak Kondo, *Conspiracys: Unravelling the Assassination of Malcolm X* (Washington D.C.: Nubia Press, 1993).

<sup>3</sup> Manning Marable, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* (New York: Viking, 2011).

<sup>4</sup> Amiri Baraka, “Manning Marable’s Malcolm X Book,” in *A Lie of Reinvention: Correcting Manning Marable’s Malcolm X* ed. Jared A. Ball and Todd Steven Burroughs (Baltimore: Black Classic Press, 2012) 237-247 (245).

<sup>5</sup> See Wesley Muhammad, “Mischievous Scholarship: Karl Evanzz and the Malcolm X False Narrative,” (2021) @ [https://www.academia.edu/70223462/Mischievous\\_Scholarship\\_Karl\\_Evanzz\\_and\\_The\\_Malcolm\\_X\\_False\\_Narrative](https://www.academia.edu/70223462/Mischievous_Scholarship_Karl_Evanzz_and_The_Malcolm_X_False_Narrative)

for example his egregious misquoting of Yusuf Shah, formerly Captain Joseph of New York's Temple No. 7. This is what Kondo says, referring to Shah's 1992 discussion with Spike Lee:

We know for example that Captain Joseph knew in advance, and that he sent, umm, he sent one of the lieutenants, umm, Linwood Cathcart (*sic*). Sent him to be his eyes and ears. Immediately after the assassination we know that, umm, Cathcart will make a phone call to Joseph. And how do we know that? Because Joseph was interviewed by Spike when they were working on the Malcolm X movie and that's what said in the interview, that you know, he was asked, "When did you know about [Malcolm's assassination]? He said: "I knew immediately after it happened." How do you know? "Because I had people there and they called me and they gave me a blow by blow."<sup>6</sup>

None of what Kondo attributes to Shah can be found in Shah's actual interview with Spike Lee, as recorded in Spike's book, ***By Any Means Necessary*** (1992). Kondo totally misrepresents what Yusuf Shah revealed to Spike Lee. This is what Shah actually said, with Spike's commentary:

Spike: "Did you know any of those guys [the five assassins from New Jersey]?"  
Shah: "I knew all of them."  
Spike: "Did you know what was going to happen that day?"  
Shah: "Huh? You're something, Mr. Lee."  
Spike: "What about Norman Butler and Thomas Johnson?"  
Shah: "They were logical . . . After they went to prison, Mr. Muhammad tried to get them out..."

[Spike's commentary]: I named the names connected with the assassination. William Bradley, known as William X. Very good with guns. Leon Davis, Wilbert McKinney. Robert Benjamin Thomas, the Secretary of the Newark mosque. And Thomas Hayer, who had done time with the two unjustly jailed men, Norman Butler and Thomas Johnson.

"That's about all of them," said Yusuf Shah, kind of laughing to himself. "You're something, Mr. Lee."

"If you've ever talked to any of these brothers, did they have any remorse...or none whatsoever?"

Shah: "They say Hayer did. Tell me what Minister Farrakhan said."  
Spike: "He said it was zealots."  
Shah: "That's what it was."<sup>7</sup>

Where is Shah's confession that he knew about the assassination in advance? Where is his admission that he sent a lieutenant to the Audubon as his eyes and ears? That this lieutenant (Linwood Catchcart) called Joseph immediately afterwards and gave Shah a blow by blow? Where is *any* of these claims recorded, because they certainly *are not* recorded in the source which Kondo is claiming for them. Even as late as February 2022 Kondo was adding new embellishments – new confessions – to Yusuf Shah's words to Spike Lee. To Kalonji Changa he said: "I think (Captain Joseph) admitted this in the interview he did with Spike too, that, uh, members of his squad bombed [Malcolm's] house a week before he was killed."<sup>8</sup> Shah said no such thing to Spike Lee. The only thing he said about the bombers of Malcolm X's home is that they were "some mysterious people" and "zealots."<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Zak Kondo with Dr. Oba T'Shaka, "56<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conversation on the Assassination of Malcolm X," February 19, 2021 @ 2:37:12-2:37:58 @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaJS3npu-IU>

<sup>7</sup> Yusuf Shah to Spike Lee in Spike Lee and Ralph Wiley, ***By Any Means Necessary: Trials And Tribulations of the Making of Malcolm X*** (New York: Hyperion, 1992) 64.

<sup>8</sup> Riot Starters TV, "Baba Zak Kondo: Death of Detroit Red and the Resurrection of Malcolm X" Feb 24, 2022 @ 1:34:14 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOfrtvhyExE>

<sup>9</sup> Lee and Wiley, ***By Any Means Necessary***, 63.

## II. *Captain Clarence: The Sixth Assassin?*



Zak Kondo seems to be the originator of the unsupported myth that Clarence 2X Gill, the FOI Captain of Boston Temple No. 11, was one of the shooters of Malcolm X on February 21, 1965. In a Newark, New Jersey lecture on June 22, 1993 Kondo reads from a redacted version of an October 21, 1965 Justice Department (DoJ) memo concerning an anonymous letter sent to the Boston Police Department in June 1965 identifying a Boston Black Muslim who allegedly participated in the assassination of Malcolm X, got shot, and was hiding out with his wounds in Florida. In the redacted version of this document relied upon by Kondo, the name of this Boston man is blacked out. Kondo inserts the name Clarence Gill in the document.<sup>10</sup> He says:

A letter was sent June 1964 to the Suffolk County Superior Court, the probation office. And you know, Suffolk County that's the county Boston...is a member of...And this is what the letter said. It was apparently written by someone who knew some type of inside information about the assassination...And the crux of the letter is that they are identifying – they give the person's name – one Boston member as being part of the assassin team. By the way, if you count the number of spaces of the person's name, the name Clarence Gill, the captain, can fit.

**“[DELETED], Black Moslem, said to be hiding in another state with gunshot wounds due to the fact that he was involved in the killing of Malcolm X. Try questioning his wife. Florida is a likely place. He was on probation.”**

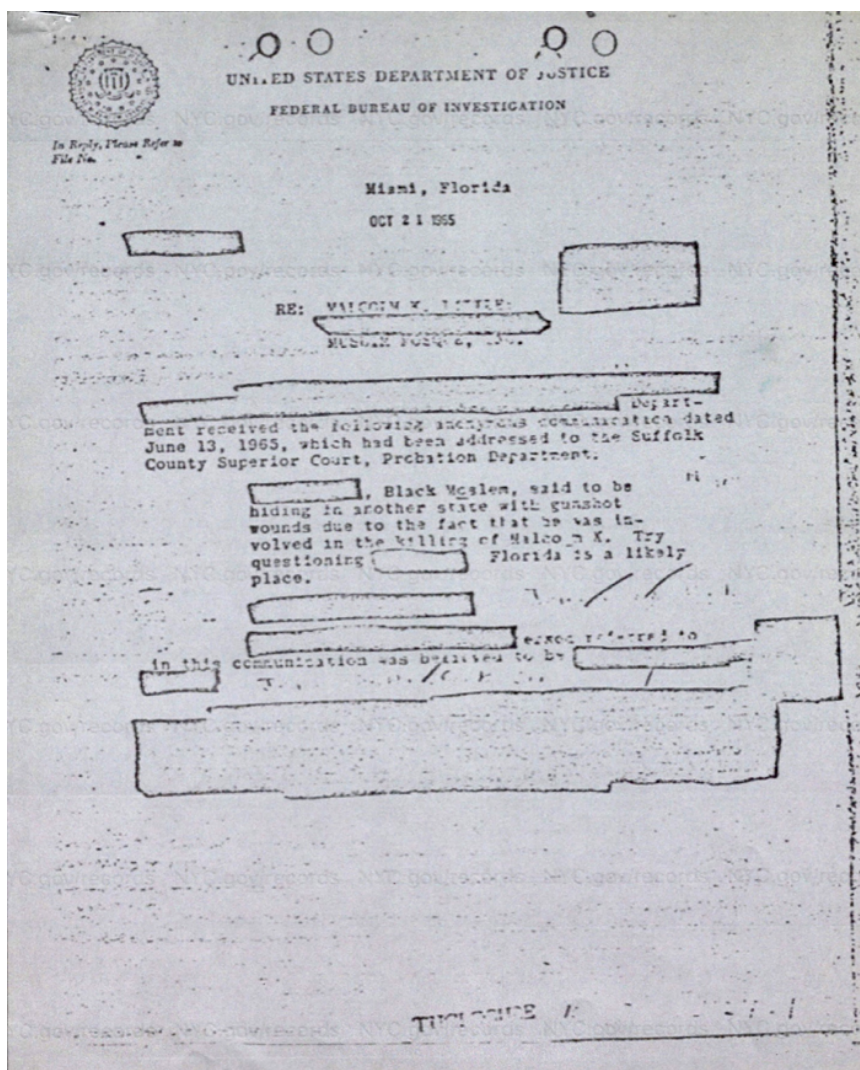
Clarence, by the way, and several other members of Boston mosque were also on probation, mostly for beating up defectors. So, again, circumstantial at best...<sup>11</sup>

Kondo thus originated the myth, popularized by film maker Omar Shabazz,<sup>12</sup> that the Boston FOI Captain Clarence 2X Gill was one of the shooters at the Audubon. However, Kondo's academic method is faulty. For starters, Kondo's insertion of the name “Clarence Gill” is totally speculative. In the redacted memo there is nothing at all to suggest the Boston Captain, as opposed to any other Boston FOI who might have been on probation. This is why Kondo had to concede that support for his claim is “circumstantial at best.” But his case is *worse* than circumstantial, in fact.

<sup>10</sup> “Zak Kondo Delivers HISTORIC Lecture On Malcolm X Assassination (Newark, New Jersey June 22, 1993)” @ 1:51:00 @ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_Qg6-R-3uI&t=6653s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_Qg6-R-3uI&t=6653s); Kondo, *Conspiracys*, 183

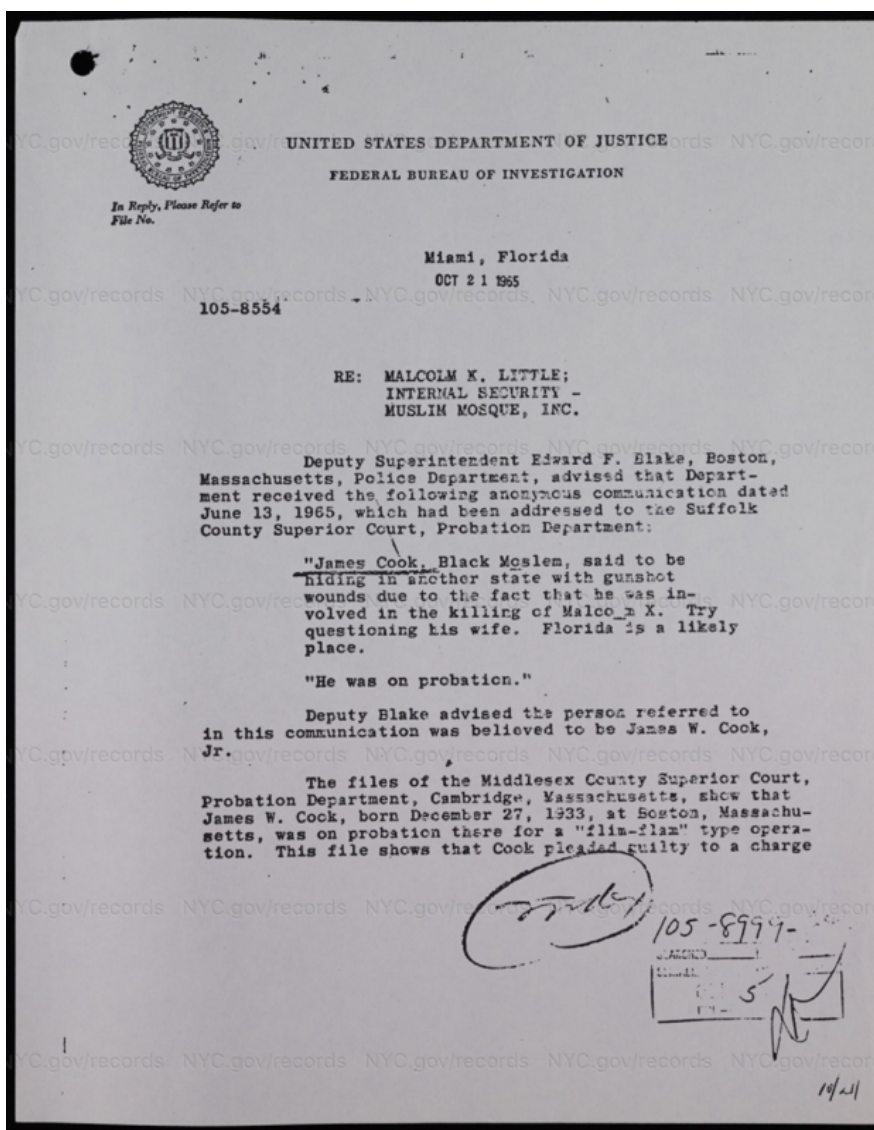
<sup>11</sup> “Zak Kondo Delivers HISTORIC Lecture On Malcolm X Assassination (Newark, New Jersey June 22, 1993)” @ 1:51:00 @ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L\\_Qg6-R-3uI&t=6653s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L_Qg6-R-3uI&t=6653s)

<sup>12</sup> “THE MALCOLM X FOLDERS: EXPANDED EDITION,” @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7YZoCrSMIc&t=3974s>. See also “Where Was Captain Clarence 2X Gill On The Day Malcolm X Was Killed?” @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6ih5h6bPAY&t=1s>; Paul Bitakaramire, “THE MALCOLM X KILLERS: Captain Clarence 2X Gill,” *Neromaximus* December 7, 2014.



In the memo the source of the information is an *anonymous* communication to the Suffolk County Superior Court, Probation Department. This raises several questions: Who is this person who sent the letter? How trustworthy are they? What is *their source* for the claims they offer? What is their motivation for sending the letter? Why send it anonymously? Kondo just assumes that this person had inside information about the assassination, but the memo reports the information only as hearsay. There is nothing in the wording of the memo that suggests that privileged information is being communicated. Below, we shall see why. In addition, this *anonymous* source is not offering firsthand knowledge but is itself quoting hearsay from *other anonymous sources*: “[DELETED], Black Moslem, **said to be...**” Who said? The chain of transmission for this alleged “inside knowledge” is thus totally anonymous. This information *would not be permissible in court*.

Not only is Kondo’s reading of this memo totally speculative and unsupported – it is demonstrably *wrong*. We know this because the *unredacted version* of that October 21, 1965 memo is available and the alleged Boston shooter was *not* Clarence 2X Gill but a man named **James Willie Cook, Jr**, born December 27, 1933. Kondo’s claim that “if you count the number of spaces of the person’s name, the name Clarence Gill, the captain, can fit,” makes little sense, as there are no countable spaces – just a single extended blackout. In any case, Kondo’s forced insertion of “Clarence Gill” into that space and his attempt, and from him Omar Shabazz’s attempt, to make the Boston FOI Captain a Malcolm X assassin vanishes like a puff of smoke.



Of course, the \$64,000 Question is: Who is James Cook? Paul Bitakaramire asks that question, with no answer to offer.<sup>13</sup> What Boston soldier is here accused of being the “Sixth Assassin” in the Malcolm X Hit? It must be stated that the same sourcing problems that we pointed out above with the redacted memo applies just as strongly to the unredacted version: It is anonymous sources and hearsay that is alleging that this James Cook was a shooter at the Audubon and was hiding out in Florida with wounds he suffered on that day. And the *full* unredacted memo – which Kondo apparently didn’t have access to – **proves that the hearsay claim was false.**

The eight-page DoJ document gives detailed information about James Cook, who was in the Boston Temple No. 11 as James 9X Cook but was expelled from the Temple for reasons not specified in this memo. While Captain Clarence was very light complected and stocky, Cook was thin (5’10” and 160 pounds) and medium brown. The FBI tracked Cook down in Florida, where he had been arrested a number of times. Cook was arrested for example in May 1965 by the Miami Police Department on charges of possession of narcotics and using a motor vehicle without the owner’s consent. He had originally worked for Muhammad Ali but was fired because Ali discovered Cook was “no good.” The FBI reviewed multiple files on Cook and spoke to a

<sup>13</sup> Paul Bitakaramire, “Who Was James X Cook?” *Neromaximus* October 27, 2020.

number of persons who came in contact with him and concluded “**No information was found in any of the files reviewed...indicating COOK was recuperating from gunshot wounds.**” A witness who spent some time in jail with Cook when he was supposed to have been recovering from Assassination-related wounds said: “Cook did not appear to have any physical ailments; made no mention of any gunshot wounds; never discussed the Nation of Islam with him; and, never mentioned the name of Malcolm X.”

Kondo’s conclusion is thus demonstrably wrong and the “Captain Clarence Assassin #6” Myth that it generated is without support. It is important to note that the myth was generated by Kondo’s *very faulty scholarly methods*. He had no warrant to read “Captain Clarence 2X Gill” into that DoJ document. His *only* authority for doing so was his bigoted desire to *make* the Nation of Islam guilty of Malcolm X’s murder. To achieve that end Kondo proves willing to abandon any number of academic standards.

### III. *Misrepresenting Imam Warithuddin Muhammad*

In his *Conspiracys*, Kondo writes:

Elijah’s culpability in Malcolm’s death has been confirmed by his son Wallace. In a December, 1992 taping for Gil Noble’s outstanding talk-show “Like It Is”, Wallace made some remarkable revelations. First, he stated that his father viewed Malcolm as a “powerful enemy” because Malcom’s exposure of Elijah’s sexual activities could have potentially damaged both the NOI leader and the NOI. Second, he stated that Elijah wanted “to silence” Malcolm and was willing to use any means to achieve this goal, including murder. Third, he stated that Elijah could have stopped NOI’s violence against Malcolm, but saw death as the best means to silence Malcolm. Fourth, he stated that Elijah later regretted authorizing Malcolm’s death. Wallace recalled sitting at the dining table with his father eating a meal a few months after the assassination. He sensed that something was weighing heavily on Elijah’s mind. Finally, the patriarch looked up and said: “I wish the boy hadn’t been killed.” There was no discussion, but Wallace knew his father well enough to identify Malcolm as the boy and to realize the significance of the statement.<sup>14</sup>

Kondo here claims that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad is culpable in Malcolm X’s assassination and that Muhammad’s son Imam Warithuddin Muhammad *confirmed* this. Kondo claims that in Imam Warithuddin’s 1992 interview with Gil Noble on *Like It is*, the Imam “made some remarkable revelations,” including:

- i. He knew that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad wanted Malcolm “silenced” and was willing to murder Malcolm to achieve his silence.
- ii. That the Honorable Elijah Muhammad saw Malcolm’s death as the *best* means to silence him.
- iii. That the Honorable Elijah Muhammad authorized Malcolm’s death and later regretted doing so, expressing this regret some months after the assassination at his dinner table in the presence of the Imam.

Each one of these claims by Kondo are *false attributions* to the Honorable Elijah Muhammad’s son Wallace (later Warithuddin) Muhammad. The Imam’s actual words are:

[The Honorable Elijah Muhammad] wanted Malcolm silenced. Now, **I don’t have any knowledge that he supported any order to silence Malcolm.** But I’m sure he wanted Malcolm to shut up his mouth...The Honorable Elijah Muhammad had no motivation to stop Malcolm from being harmed, because he wanted to see this problem out of his hair. It was a real problem...I’m sure he wanted to see Malcolm silenced. **I’m sure he DIDN’T want him to be killed.** If it could have been done by some

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<sup>14</sup> Kondo, *Conspiracys*, 172-173.

other way, I'm sure he would have done it by some other way. But I'm certain that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad was being quiet and watching things. And knowing that Malcolm was being attacked at home, fire-bombed, and that people were out to kill him. I do *think* he was just waiting to hear that Malcolm is dead, "so I don't have to worry about this man anymore."<sup>15</sup>

We see clearly that Kondo's claim that Warithuddin Muhammad "confirmed" his father's culpability in Malcolm's murder; that Warithuddin "revealed" that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad wanted Malcolm silenced and saw *death* as the best means to silence him; that Warithuddin "revealed" that his father did authorize the murder and later confessed regretting doing so - *all* of these "revelations" are *nowhere* in Imam Warithuddin Muhammad's interview with Gil Noble! What Imam Warithuddin confessed to was *having no knowledge of any order by the Honorable Elijah Muhammad to silence Malcolm*; that the "silencing" of Malcolm that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad desired was simply that Malcolm would "shut up his mouth"; and Warithuddin *did reveal* that he is *sure* the Honorable Elijah Muhammad **Did NOT want Malcolm to be killed**. *Nowhere* does the Imam implicate his father in authorizing the murder of Malcolm X. The Imam says leaders in the Nation of Islam were creating an atmosphere for violence against Malcolm and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad watched it quietly, refusing to intervene to stop it. While Warithuddin merely speculates ("I think") that his father "was just waiting to hear that Malcolm is dead," he does not claim to have ever actually heard this sentiment expressed by his father. Rather, Imam Warithuddin is clear that **his father would not and did not order Malcolm killed**. He told Peter Goldman that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad "was content to await Allah's vengeance on his enemies. Because," the Imam said, "I heard him speak of his problem with Malcolm and I saw him very upset. Very upset. And even at his most upset moments, *he always said Allah would take care of it*."<sup>16</sup>

Imam Warithuddin claimed on Gil Noble's *Like It is* that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad felt guilt, but *not* because he had ordered Malcolm's murder. He claimed the Honorable Elijah Muhammad didn't stop the verbal assaults on Malcolm and the "atmosphere" that they created. Imam Warithuddin recounts being at the dinner table with his father some months after the assassination and the Honorable Elijah Muhammad at one point rested his head on his fist as if he had something very heavy in his head and said: "I wish the boy hadn't been killed."<sup>17</sup> The Honorable Elijah Muhammad said no more and did not explain what he meant, but Warithuddin knew he was talking about Malcolm. This was no confession of authorizing Malcolm's murder; this is a lament over the death of a prodigal son before he could make it back to his father's house.<sup>18</sup>

Warithuddin in fact had a theory about the assassination. He told Gil Noble that the U.S. intelligence Agencies carried out the assassination through their infiltrators and instigators within the Nation of Islam as part of these Agencies' "Saviour's Day Operation" (my term). Warithuddin described the government's routine targeting of the Nation of Islam in the days leading up to the annual Saviour's Day convention with activity designed to give the NOI a "black eye." The Intelligence Agencies planned and executed Malcolm's assassination and timed it just days before the convention to "deal a death blow" to the spirit of the members of the NOI who gathered. The hope was to provoke violence between the two factions (Malcolm's groups and the NOI) and to "finish off" the Nation of Islam. *This* was Warithuddin's theory which he shared with Gil Noble. *Contra* Kondo, the Imam offered here *no* "confirmation" or revelations about his

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<sup>15</sup> "Imam Warith Deen Mohammed interview about Malcolm X by Gil Noble 1992," @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZDS8okS6aM> around 10:00.

<sup>16</sup> Goldman, *Death and Life*, 179; "The Assassin: Exclusive Interview With the Confessed Killer of Malcolm X," *Tony Brown's Journal* @ <https://www.tonybrownjournal.com/the-assassin>

<sup>17</sup> "Imam Warith Deen Mohammed interview about Malcolm X by Gil Noble 1992," @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZDS8okS6aM> around 12:00.

<sup>18</sup> On Malcolm X as Prodigal Son see Demetric Muhammad, *But, Didn't Y'all Kill Malcolm: Myth-Busting the Propaganda Against the Nation of Islam* (Memphis, Tennessee: ResearchMinister, 2020) 201ff.

father ordering Malcolm's death. Zak Kondo blatantly misrepresented Imam Warithuddin Muhammad's interview in order to support his otherwise unsupportable claim.

Muhammad's posture towards Malcolm X from June 1964 until January 1965 and beyond is documented and known. It was non-aggressive, despite Malcolm's hurtful scandalizing of him. What is important to note is that, by February 1965, Benjamin Read of the White House, J. Edgar Hoover of the FBI and Richard Helms of the CIA were all *much more* perturbed by Malcolm than was the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. While his followers were deeply hurt and angered by a number of Malcolm's moves, Muhammad himself was (eventually) not "bothered," and he thus instructed his followers "not to spend too much time on it or to pay any attention to Malcolm."

In June the FBI recorded the Honorable Elijah Muhammad saying Malcolm X "was just making a fool of himself and that it did not bother ELIJAH."<sup>19</sup> This is because, as Muhammad noted, his followers have been strong for 33 years and "Malcolm cannot do anything to destroy it."<sup>20</sup> Muhammad said "he cared nothing about a dog barking, especially when he had the leash in his hand."<sup>21</sup> At this time the Honorable Elijah Muhammad was aware that "he (Malcolm) is trying to get back" into the Nation of Islam.<sup>22</sup> Thus, Muhammad is heard saying in FBI-recorded conversations that "they [the Muslims] were not after [Malcolm]" but "it is Allah who is after him."<sup>23</sup>

The claim is that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad tagged Malcolm as a hypocrite and in so doing triggered Malcolm's murder according to religious obligation.<sup>24</sup> This claim is wrong. The opposite is true. A June 24, 1964 FBI memo documented that the Honorable Elijah Muhammad's posture towards defectors – Wallace and Malcolm – was: "leave this to Allah as he, Allah, will take care of them altogether."<sup>25</sup> Just as Wallace (Warithuddin) returned like the Prodigal Son to his Father's house, the Messenger hoped Malcolm, his other Prodigal Son, would return as well. Muhammad said in *Muhammad Speaks*: "They (hypocrites) *are not to be killed*, for Allah desires to make them examples for others, by chastising them like a parent does a child. He chastises one with the strap to warn the others not to disobey."<sup>26</sup> Thus, Khalilah Ali, former wife of Muhammad Ali, states emphatically that "[the Honorable Elijah Muhammad said]: 'Do not raise a hand against Malcolm X'. He said that in the Temple. I was there."<sup>27</sup>

On December 7, 1964 the Supreme Captain Raymond Sharrieff dispatched an open telegram to Malcolm X, which was published in *The Crusader* declaring: "Mr. Malcolm: We hereby officially warn you that the Nation of Islam shall no longer tolerate your scandalizing the name of our leader and teacher the Honorable Elijah Muhammad regardless of where such scandalizing has been."<sup>28</sup> The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan (then Louis X) penned in *Muhammad Speaks* his strong words, often maliciously amputated and misrepresented by the media: "Such a man as Malcolm is worthy of death and *would have met with death if it had not been for Muhammad's confidence in Allah for victory over the enemies.*"<sup>29</sup> The reason Malcolm *did not* meet death at the hands of Muslims – though he was deemed

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<sup>19</sup> FBI File Nation of Islam SAC, Phoenix to SAC, Chicago June 29, 1964.

<sup>20</sup> FBI File Nation of Islam IS – NOI From SAC, Phoenix to SAC, Chicago June 25, 1964.

<sup>21</sup> FBI File Nation of Islam IS – NOI From SAC, Phoenix to SAC, Boston June 24, 1964, p. 2.

<sup>22</sup> FBI File Nation of Islam IS – NOI June 24, 1964 From SA [REDACTED] to SAC, Phoenix.

<sup>23</sup> FBI File Nation of Islam IS – NOI From SAC, Phoenix to SAC, New York June 24, 1964.

<sup>24</sup> Karl Evazz, *The Messenger: The Rise and Fall of Elijah Muhammad* (New York: Vintage, 2001) 289: "When the Messenger called him a 'hypocrite,' it was a signal that hunting season was about to open for all mammals named Malcolm X." Benjamin Karim, *Remembering Malcolm* (New York: Ballantine, 1996) 157: "The Koran teaches Muslims to kill hypocrites wherever they may find them." Kondo, *Conspiracys*, 170: "Bureau telephone transcripts revealed no explicit order for Malcolm's death, but revealed that Elijah at times used language that if taken literally could have invited officials and FOI members to employ violent action against Malcolm."

<sup>25</sup> FBI File Nation of Islam IS – NOI June 30, 1964, p. 3.

<sup>26</sup> *Muhammad Speaks* Vol. 3 No. 23 July 31, 1964; Goldman, *Death and Life*, 202.

<sup>27</sup> *Who Killed Malcolm X?* Netflix, Episode 4 @ 22:40.

<sup>28</sup> *The Crusader* December 12, 1964; FBI Memo of SA John C. Sullivan, New York File September 8, 1965 File No. 100-399321, p. 23.

<sup>29</sup> *Muhammad Speaks* December 4, 1964.



worthy of death for his scandalizing of the Messenger – is because the Honorable Elijah Muhammad forbade it. The Honorable Minister Farrakhan therefore later gave us the proper *context* of his December 4, 1964 ***Muhammad Speaks*** remarks:

[Malcolm] dogged the Messenger. The man who took him from a pimp, from a hustler, from a stick-up man. And send him before the world. Now he's dogging his teacher. What do you think we felt? Elijah Muhammad wasn't just a leader. That's our spiritual guide and father, Brother. You don't have to order me to kill you. If you attack my father, my orders come from my love. I want you to hear me good because every Muslim that loved Elijah Muhammad would've killed Malcolm if we had gotten a chance...We didn't incite that. Malcolm incited that in us. He would have never lasted a year. [But] Elijah Muhammad told us, 'Leave him alone...' [He] told me to my face, 'Leave him alone.' And I'm an obedient servant.<sup>30</sup>

The Messenger himself was less perturbed by Malcolm's scandalizing than most of his followers were. The FBI recorded a December 30, 1965 conversation that he had with another person [identity deleted], who told the Honorable Elijah Muhammad he was preparing to write an answer to "the garbage from Malcolm." The Messenger responded that he had seen Malcolm on TV and Malcolm "was like a man coming down off the fence." The FBI memo continues:

MUHAMMAD told [Deleted] not to spend too much time on it or to pay any attention to MALCOLM as he would come to nothing. MUHAMMAD stated that believers should just forget about MALCOLM as he was dying a natural death anyway.<sup>31</sup>

Muhammad's posture towards Malcolm was thus non-aggressive. He publicly and privately instructed his followers that *Allah* would take care of Malcolm, so the Muslims were not to touch him. Allah Himself was going to resolve the Malcolm matter. And the Messenger was clear in turns of how he desired Allah to resolve the matter: with a repentant, *living* Malcolm X – ***not*** a dead Malcolm X: "I had hoped Malcolm would have repented and come back on his knees."<sup>32</sup> So the Honorable Elijah Muhammad *did not* seek Malcolm's death. "But Allah, the Holy Qur'an says, will not permit anyone to kill (the hypocrites), because death would take them out of their chastisement and grief."<sup>33</sup>

After the U.S. Government carried out the public execution of Malcolm X, the Honorable Elijah Muhammad told the press: "We are innocent of Malcolm's death."<sup>34</sup> Five days later at Saviour's Day February 26, 1965 he proclaimed his innocence. Muhammad said:



For a long time, Malcolm stood here where I stand. In those days, Malcolm was safe, Malcolm was loved. God Himself protected Malcolm...For more than a year, Malcolm was given his freedom. He went everywhere - Asia, Europe, Africa, even to Mecca - trying to make enemies for me. He came back preaching that we should not hate the enemy...He came here a few weeks ago to blast away his hate and mudslinging; everything he could think of to disgrace me...We didn't want to kill Malcolm and didn't try to kill him. They know I didn't harm Malcolm. They know I loved him. His foolish teaching brought him to his own end...We did not try to interfere with Malcolm, especially when he came right in my door. I didn't

<sup>30</sup> "Farrakhan speaks on Malcolm X's separation from the Honorable Elijah Muhammad" February 28, 1993 at Mosque Maryam @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAtu18Hyvaw> time mark 2:04:00

<sup>31</sup> FBI memo "Nation of Islam" from SAC, Los Angeles to SAC, Chicago February 4, 1965.

<sup>32</sup> Austin C. Wehrwein, "Muhammad Says Muslims Played No Part in Slaying," ***New York Times*** February 23, 1965.

<sup>33</sup> ***Muhammad Speaks*** January 15, 1965.

<sup>34</sup> Austin C. Wehrwein, "Muhammad Says Muslims Played No Part in Slaying," ***New York Times*** February 23, 1965.

tell my followers, “Go out there and kill Malcolm.” I wanted him to be brought to a naught by that which he preached. Let God take care of him.<sup>35</sup>

Civil Rights attorney William Kunstler secured the affidavits of Talmadge Hayer admitting his role in Malcolm’s assassination and naming his accomplices. Kunstler reinvestigated the case and filed a motion in 1977 to appeal the convictions of the now-exonerated Muhammad Aziz (formerly Norman 3X Butler) and Khalil Islam (formerly Thomas 15X Johnson). Based on his extensive investigation involving examination of previously classified government documents as well as conversations with both Hayer *and* some of the named assassins, Attorney Kunstler concluded: “The FBI, no question about it, [was responsible for the assassination of Malcolm X]...**I don’t think Elijah [Muhammad] had anything to do with it whatsoever.**”<sup>36</sup> The learned attorney is right – more right than Zak Kondo.

#### IV. *Conclusion*

In my article, “Mischievous Scholarship: Karl Evanzz and the Malcolm X False Narrative (2022),” I write:

Our current project, *The Real Judas Factor: Unraveling The Mystery of the Murder of Malcolm X* (2022), demonstrates that Malcolm X Scholarship in general has come to lack the rigor that is standard in other disciplines. The pillars of this field, specifically Karl Evanzz, Zak Kondo, Manning Marable, Les Payne, Bruce Perry, and Peter Goldman, have taken scholarly liberties with the material that would be frowned upon in other disciplines. And it is upon this foundation that the current and popular Malcolm X Narrative is built.

If “taking scholarly liberties with the Malcolm X material” was a person, it would be Zak Kondo (and Karl Evanzz). Kondo frequently misrepresents his sources, often by putting words in their mouth which they never uttered. Kondo’s aim is to cement his charge: “As an organization, upon the orders of Elijah Muhammad the Nation of Islam were the killers of Malcolm X.” But the fact that Kondo must engage in so much academic mischief making in order to cement this charge is all the proof one needs of the charge’s bogusness. Zak Kondo’s conclusions regarding the assassination of Malcolm X are much more bigoted ideology than rigorous scholarship. This is unacceptable for one claimed as “the foremost authority in the assassination of Malcolm X.”

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<sup>35</sup> “Rare Elijah Muhammad Saviour's Day 1965 footage,” @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yohuckag5JA>

<sup>36</sup> “Malcolm X: William Kunstler,” @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93EdxyopF2E>