ELAINE BROWN
Former Head of the Black Panther Party

Ask Sadaam Hussein

A lot of volume. She stands from the table. Nonstop but rhythmic, easy, rapid, like a poet. A very talented speaker, trained by the oral tradition of the sixties and specifically the oral, verbal life of the Black Panther Party. A member of the Poetry Salon, spoken word movement of the late 1990's, early twenty-first century. Confident, easy, charismatic speech. Recordings are available of her when she was in the Black Panther Party.

Did you know Jonathan Jackson?
Because I did.
And Jonathan Jackson was seventeen years old.
He was probably one of the most brilliant young men, that you could meet.
He happened to be a science genius.
He was not a gang member by the way.
But Jonathan Jackson went to a courtroom by himself, and took over for that one glorious minute in the name of, revolution and the freedom of his brother and other people who were in prison, and died that day.
My question to you young brother with a gun in your hand tough and strong and beautiful as you are, Do you think it would be better, if Jonathan Jackson were alive today or that he died,

that day in Marin County?
Me personally?
I'd rather know Jonathan Jackson.
That's what I'd rather do.
And I'd rather him be alive today to be among the leadership that we do not have, than to be dead and in his grave at seventeen years old.
So the question is, how are you going to push the revolutionary struggle from your grave?
I'm talking merely about strategy not swashbuckling.
I think that this idea of picking up the gun and going into the street without a plan and without any more rhyme or reason than rage is bizarre (Pronounced Bee-zarr.) and so uh (Takes out a Gitanes and smokes.) and it's foolish because it will uh I think that all one has to do is ask to ask the Vietnamese, or Sadaam Hussein about the power and weaponry, and arsenal of the United States government and its willingness to use it, to get to understanding what this is about. You are not facing a you know, some little Nicaraguan clique here. You are not in Havana in nineteen-fifty something. This is the United States of America. There isn't another country, there isn't another community, that is more organized and armed. It is not only naive uh

end