

**INTRODUCTION TO NOLA RESISTANCE**

**Grades 6–12**

**LESSON 1: Stories of Resistance**

## **Malik Rahim Oral History Transcript 1**

*February 27, 2018, for the NOLA Resistance oral history project. Below is an excerpt from their 95-minute interview.*

**CAVE:** How did you get involved in activism?

**RAHIM:** I got involved—I was working on a job at, on Peters Road doing pipeline construction and I was hired as the welder’s helper. And I asked about, how could I become a welder? And he told me they didn’t hire niggers as welders. We got into some words. The foreman came, and I was immediately fired, you know. Wasn’t no questions of what happened. It’s just that, you know, you talk back to this white guy, you fired. And I was let go. Mind you, I was a veteran. He never served in the service. And I wasn’t even asked. So, with that, I knew I wasn’t going to work anymore. I knew then I couldn’t work on no job and tolerate this. So, I then get into activism. I got into selling weed in the projects and Fisher homes and I once told Geronimo, up in LA, before I left to move back to New Orleans, that if the party was started in New Orleans, that I would get involved. And one day one of the guys came in the breezeway that I used to hang out in and—with a Panther paper. And when I seen the paper, I said, “Man, where you get the pa—?” He said, “Man, they got some brothers on Canal Street selling Panther papers.” So, I went out there and a brother from Plaquemines Parish named Alton Edwards sold me the paper. We talked a while. And I told him that if he ever come across the river, that I would show him around. And the next day, he came. And that evening, I went to their meeting, at that time it was in

a residence, a public housing home, up in St. Thomas housing project. I went to the meetings there. I started going on a regular, just every day. And soon as we was able to get enough money saved to rent an apartment, my wife and I, and at that time I had two children, we all joined the party. We was the first family to join the NCCF in New Orleans. The NCCF was the National Committee to Combat Fascism. That was the first step in becoming a party—a chapter of the Black Panther Party.