

Excerpt from Oral History Interview with Bernard Arafat

Bernard Arafat was interviewed in 2020 by Keith Rice and Dr. Karin Stanford as part of the Black Power focus within the Bradley Center's African-American Life in Los Angeles oral history project. Arafat was born in Los Angeles, and joined the Black Panthers as a young adult in the 1970s. In this clip, he recalls his parents' murder/suicide when he was in junior high school.

Transcript:

BA: Okay, so we're in elementary school, but we're getting ready to go to junior high school that's where I started to notice the difference, or I guess the class distinction is that the white students went to a school called Airport and the black students went to Horace Mann, where I went. So, I graduated elementary school. Actually, that's the only school I graduated from. So, I graduated elementary school. I went to junior high school. I was progressing along pretty good with my studies. My parents were still alive. And in August. Yeah, August of '66. My parents passed away as a result of a murder/suicide, and what happened was is that my mother shot my father. And then she shot herself and I went into the bedroom. And I discovered what had happened. I'd seen what had happened. And I went to the telephone, called the police, and that started a whole new chapter of my life. How would I, how do I go on—. Oh, there's some other....