

Umi:

No, I said Clifford Glover was a kid that got shot by the police back in '73, and it sparked riots. He was traveling with his father. His father – he was going to work with his father. His father had some kind of job, like electrician or plumbing or something. And they were going under the trestle, under the train tracks, by the Baisley projects. And I don't know what happened, but apparently, just like they reacted to that boy in the Pink Houses and shot him, they shot Clifford Glover and killed him. He was eight years old.

Su'ad:

But you think that they thought he was a man?

Umi:

They said they thought he was a man.

Su'ad:

So what did y'all do?

Umi:

Rioted. You know they tore up South Jamaica. Of course it was, it was the [housing] Projects [that] really rioted. And then...they have a Clifford Glover...community center. There's a few things I didn't realize they named after him.

Su'ad:

But you said you went..there was some protest on Jamaica Avenue or the Chamber [of commerce]?

Umi:

Well what happened...some of us was so mad with all the police brutality that was happening at that time that we had...I joined the African liberation support committee and we had decided to boycott Gertz, which was just where they had the Gertz mall now, it was Gertz department store. And because we boycotted Gertz, to put pressure on Gertz to put – 'cause Gertz was a big contributor to the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce. And the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce dictated a lot of the behaviors of the police in the 103rd precinct, which is right up to 168 street off of Jamaica [avenue]. So we had a whole thing about: "Boycott Gertz! Boycott Gertz!" And...we were giving out literature, talking to people all day long, why we wanted Gertz boycotted, and how it related to the taking of Clifford, young Clifford Glover's life, and the lives of so many other African American males.

Su'ad:

How many people you think that was?

Umi:

You know, there was a core group of us. It was about maybe 30 or 40 people in the organization, you know, and we could always mobilize like hundreds of people too. So I don't know, it was a lot of people that were out there. And we really told people and people didn't want to mess with us. They left Gertz alone – for the day anyway [laughter]. But I also said we used to protest about apartheid and about the colonialist policies in Portugal, and Southern Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe – well, no, Mozambique and Angola! And what happened we had...we would have a celebration of African Liberation Day, every day – every year in May. I think it coincided with the birthday of Malcolm X El Hajj Malik Shabazz. And usually that weekend, we would have a big demonstration, either locally, and we had a national ALD day that took place in '73 or '72, 1972 or '73.

Umi:

In which case, busloads of people, *busloads*, came from all over the country into Washington! We picketed the South African embassy. We picketed the Portuguese embassy. We picketed the State Department. You know, it was like..I know they did not want to see all them angry, you know, young Black people popping up there. I remember, I was near the front of the demonstration, not quite the front, but maybe the first 500. And somebody told me to look back. They said, "Audrey, look back!" And I looked back. I saw nothing but a sea of people of color. Sea of people of angry Black folks that were talking about: "Power to the People. Black, Black power to the African people! Who shall survive America? Very few niggers and no crackers at all!" We chanted that alllllll daaaaay long as we were going pass these embassies. A lot of people on the street – 'cause DC, you know, always had a very large Black population – people were giving us the power signs that even weren't taking part of it, you know. White folks that were there as tourists, they look horrified like, you know, Black folks gonna take over the world. You know, it was...it was, you know, that was one day that I will never forget, God willing.