Former Black Panther Robert Seth Hayes dies at 72 in New York

New York, December 25 (RHC)-- In the U.S., former Black Panther Robert Seth Hayes has died at the age of 72. Hayes was born in Harlem in October 1947, the grandson of sharecroppers. He was drafted into the Vietnam War and was awarded a Purple Heart.

Hayes joined the Black Panther Party after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968. He worked in the party's free medical clinics and free breakfast programs.

In 1973, he was convicted of the killing of a New York City transit officer, which he had always denied. Hayes was released from prison on parole last year, after 45 years behind bars, making him one of the longest-held political prisoners in the United States.

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