

News Release



Cable-Satellite Public Affairs Network

400 North Capitol Street N.W., Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 737-3220

Contact:
Kristin Wennberg
(202) 626-7975

C-SPAN AIRS LIVE VIEWER CALL-IN WITH MINISTER LOUIS FARRAKHAN

Washington, D.C., June 18 -- Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan will take viewer calls during a live C-SPAN Call-in program on **Monday, June 25, at 6:30pm ET.**

Minister Farrakhan will discuss race relations in the '90s and his solutions to the problems of drug abuse, crime, and poverty.

Viewers in the Eastern and Central time zones who wish to speak to Louis Farrakhan may call **202-628-2525**. Viewers in the Mountain and Western time zones may call **202-783-2727**.

C-SPAN is now available in 50.3 million households through 3,825 cable system affiliates nationwide and around the world via satellite. The network is privately funded and is a public service of the cable television industry.



MARTY KATZ

Mixed reviews: On patrol at Mayfair Mansions, the minister

Farrakhan's Mission

Fighting the drug war—his way

He is soft-spoken, patient and polite—the very antithesis, or so it seems, of the fire-breathing apostle of black racism that many Americans believe him to be. But Minister Louis Farrakhan, leader of the little-understood Black Muslim sect known as the Nation of Islam, has much on his mind these days, and for better or worse he is making himself heard. In recent weeks Farrakhan has stepped up what seems to be a new campaign to reach out to mainstream audiences, white as well as black, by granting lengthy interviews to news organizations such as The Washington Post and ABC's "PrimeTime Live" program. And while much of what he has to say is still offensive, particularly to Jews, Farrakhan's underlying message is hard to ignore. In a nutshell, Farrakhan is saying that drugs and the war on drugs are destroying the very fabric of black America—and he may be right.

To listen to Farrakhan is to walk on the wilder shores of racial paranoia. He believes, apparently sincerely, that George Bush wants to have him killed, and that the late Elijah Muhammad, former leader of the Nation of Islam, spoke to him in a vision aboard a gigantic UFO. And while Farrakhan insists he is no anti-Semite, he still maintains that Jews exercise disproportionate influence in American culture and politics and that the State of Israel "practices deceit, murder, lying and uses the cover of Bible and religion and prophecy as the shield for that dirty, unclean prac-

tice." He says whites have "practiced a form of genocide" toward dark-skinned peoples in America and all over the world. And crucially, he now argues that "there is a war being planned against black youth by the government of the United States under the guise of a war against drugs and gangs and violence." Look at America today, he says, "and tell me if there's not a plot. Twenty-five percent of our black youth in prison, black males destroyed in the cities... the black man crushed."

Incendiary ideology: Farrakhan's tendency toward apocalyptic ranting makes it all too easy for white Americans to ignore the power of his message to the economically distressed, drug-ravaged neighborhoods of the inner city. His defenders—and there are many, particularly among black community leaders who find themselves increasingly desperate for some solution to the community's problems—say Farrakhan has always emphasized empowerment and self-determination, and that he has recently tempered the more incendiary elements of his ideology. In Washington, the Nation of Islam has earned high marks from politicians and police for its success at Mayfair Mansions, a housing project that only two years ago was notorious for drug-related crime. Despite some friction with police and reporters during the program's first days, unarmed Nation of Islam patrols have virtually eliminated drug dealing and drug violence from Mayfair Mansions and Paradise Manor, another housing project.

In Los Angeles, however, the Nation of Islam's community crusade has led some of Farrakhan's followers into a bitter—and fatal—confrontation with police. It began in January, with what both sides say was a violent altercation between 13 young Muslims and 24 Los Angeles police officers. Although accounts differ, Nation of Islam spokesmen say the Muslims objected to being ordered to assume a prone position on the ground. "Why do you want us to bow down to you—bow in the streets, face down, as though you were God?" a Farrakhan aide, Khalid Muhammad, said later. "You

don't make the white folks of Beverly Hills bow down... We bow down to God and God alone." All 13 of the Muslims were charged in the episode, and the controversy fueled mounting tensions in predominantly black south-central Los Angeles over what many residents see as harassment and the overuse of force by city police and sheriff's deputies.

Instant martyrs: The worst was yet to come. On Jan. 23, just hours after police and the Muslims met to hammer out their differences, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies stopped a



STEVE FENN—CAPITAL CITIES/ABC INC.

young Nation of Islam member named David Hartley for speeding. A group of eight or 10 Muslims surrounded the car and one of them, Oliver Beasley, 27, was shot dead by the officers. Hartley was wounded in the upper back by police gunfire, and he was later charged with three felony counts arising from the incident. His lawyer says Hartley, who pleaded not guilty, was charged only to justify the shooting, and he implies that the confrontation was in some sense a vendetta by the cops. A sheriff's department spokesman denies that the officers were looking for trouble with the Muslims and maintains that the officers followed "acceptable procedure" in the incident.

Beasley and Hartley have become instant martyrs in south-central L.A., which is nearly unanimous in its support for the Nation of Islam. Minister Farrakhan and his disciples are a force for good with the community's young men, many neighborhood leaders say, and the police must somehow learn to coexist with the zealous young men in their suits and bow ties. It may well be that suspicion on both sides, fueled in part by Farrakhan's separatist ideology, has made it difficult for the police and the Muslims to find common ground. But the truly sad fact is that both sides essentially want the same thing—to put an end to the drug anarchy that has laid waste to so many lives.

LYNDA WRIGHT in Los Angeles with
DANIEL GLICK in Washington



April 2, 1990

Minister Louis Farrakhan
4855 Woodlawn Street
Chicago, IL 60615

Dear Minister Farrakhan:

One month ago you met with a group of Washington Post reporters and editors. They published an article about the meeting with the headline "Farrakhan Seeks Larger Role in U.S. Politics."

The following week, I saw your interview with Sam Donaldson on ABC's Prime Time Live. I admire your candor and ability to gracefully handle pointed questions. In the ABC program, your responses were limited by the format of their program.

We have aired your speeches in the past and I would like to invite you to appear uncensored and unedited for 45-90 minutes on C-SPAN's Viewer call-in program. Our call-in programs are produced here in Washington so we would have to wait until your next visit here. We would also be happy to have Dr. Alim join you on the program to talk about his successful efforts in Mayfair Mansions.

C-SPAN now reaches nearly 50 million homes nationwide and has an international audience through USIA's Worldnet. Our Viewer Call-in program is one of our most highly rated programs and has a loyal, informed viewing audience anxious to hear your message. The programs air live every weekday at 8 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Please contact me directly at (202) 626-7977 so that we can make arrangements at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Geoffrey Baum
Producer



May 31, 1990

Minister Louis Farrakhan
4855 Woodlawn Street
Chicago, IL 60615

Dear Minister Farrakhan:

This morning I spoke with Sister Claudette Marie and we tentatively scheduled your appearance on C-SPAN's Viewer Call-in program for Monday, June 25, 1990 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Eastern time. If your schedule will not permit you to be with us for the entire ninety minutes, we can set aside an hour from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. or 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. for your appearance.

With this letter, I am including a confirmation notice that covers many of the details for your appearance. I will wait to hear from Sister Claudette Marie to make final arrangements and confirmation for your visit. My office telephone number is (202) 626-7977 or please don't hesitate to call me at home at (703) 823-5638 if you need more information.

I am also enclosing a copy of the letter I sent you in April. C-SPAN now reaches more than 50 million homes nationwide. We will air our program featuring you at least three times for maximum exposure; once live, again around 11 p.m. Eastern time to reach a prime time West Coast audience at 8 p.m. Pacific time, and then again over the following weekend.

We have covered you on C-SPAN several times in the past including your speech before the convention of Black Elected Officials and most recently on Cliff Kelly's radio talk show yesterday. Our Call-In program is very similar in format to a radio talk show, except that you will never be interrupted or cut short by commercials or station breaks. You will be able to communicate directly to the audience, without editing and interruptions.

I look forward to seeing you next month here in Washington.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Baum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoffrey Baum
Producer



CONFIRMATION NOTICE (Tentative)

Guest: Minister Louis Farrakhan

Date: Monday, June 25, 1990

Air Time: 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
(Please arrive at studio fifteen minutes before
scheduled air time)

Location: C-SPAN Studio. Suite 155, 400 N. Capitol St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Format: Live viewer call-in. (15 minutes interview with
host followed by viewer questions)

Host: Susan Swain

Topic: Urban renewal. Political and social solutions to
urban problems including crime, drug abuse,
poverty, and hunger in our cities.

Misc.: Please call Geoffrey Baum at (202) 626-7977 or
626-7998 for any last minute questions or
emergencies.

My home telephone number is (703) 823-5638.

C-SPAN
400 N. Capitol St., N.W.
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Calvin Rolark - The Informer

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

RE: Urgent News Release - Farrakhan Call-in Show

DATE: 6/18/90

NUMBER OF PAGES: 2
(Including Cover)

If you do not receive all pages, please call Kristin Wennberg at 202-626-7975.

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TO: Alice Marshall - Central News Wave Group

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Lela Ward - *Firestone Park News*
The Herald Dispatch
Watts Star Review

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TO: Toni D. O'Neal - Atlanta Tribune

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TO: Brenda Garth - Chicago Citizen

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Ayesha K. Mustataa - Muslim Journal INC

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TO: Dorothy R. Leavelle - New Crusader

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TO: Ibn Sharrieff - Tri-City Journal

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TO: Danton Wilson - Michigan Chronicle

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TO: Willie Egyir - New York Amsterdam News

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Philadelphia Tribune
Paul Bennett - Philadelphia metro

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TO: Donald Anthony - Cincinnati Herald

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TO: J.H. Warren III - The Philadelphia New Observer

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TO: Althea Simmons - NAACP

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Lauren Newton Johnson - The Washington New
Observer

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TO: National News Desk - Washington Post

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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212-~~327-5110~~
465-1862

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Hope Offord - The Black American

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Samuel J. Simmons - Nat'l Caucus and
Center on Black Aged, INC

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TELECOPIER TRANSMISSION

TO: Leslye Cheek - Nat'l Urban League

FROM: Kristin Wennberg

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TO: Dorothy I. Height - Nat'l Council of Negro women

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