

## Satilla River Reflections #6

*(For Breonna Taylor)*

some people have been killed  
while walking Black  
like Trayvon Martin

some people have been killed  
while jogging Black  
like Ahmaud Arbery

some people have been killed  
while driving Black  
like Philando Castile

some people have been killed  
while sleeping Black  
like Fred Hampton  
and you

early in the morning  
they kicked in your door  
like they did Fred Hampton,  
Mark Clark, and Deborah Johnson

early in the morning  
they killed Fred Hampton  
by putting two bullets in his head  
with a sound like the thunder  
you hear near the Satilla River  
under a gray sky

early in the morning  
they shot Fred Hampton  
three times too many in a bed  
and the bed became filled  
with his red blood

early in the morning  
they killed Fred Hampton  
while sleeping Black

early in the morning  
they killed you  
while sleeping Black

sister woman they shot you  
eight times too many in a bed  
and the bed became filled  
with your red blood

they did you so wrong  
they did not do you right  
it is a sad truth  
in the light of day  
and the dark of night

sister woman it was unjust  
the way they did you  
the bed ran red with your blood  
the floor ran red with your blood  
the door ran red with your blood

there are those  
who will cry crocodile tears  
in your belated honor  
but not bother to change things  
that can be changed  
in the light of day  
and the dark of night

sister woman  
you are gone  
but not forgotten  
in the light of day  
and the dark of night

let your spirit  
be like a Bennu bird  
in Kemet  
in the light of day  
and the dark of night

let your body and soul  
rest in peace  
in the light of day  
and the dark of night.

--J. Vern Cromartie  
© 2020