**In new book, historian alleges Newark man killed Malcolm X**

[Print](http://cloud.siteencore.com/v1/loading.html#rotftwetu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lmdvb2dsZS5jb20vdXJsJTNGc2ElM0RpJTI2cmN0JTNEaiUyNnElM0QlMjZlc3JjJTNEcyUyNnNvdXJjZSUzRGltYWdlcyUyNmNkJTNEJTI2dmVkJTNEMGFoVUtFd2kxMmF6UGo0YkxBaFdLQ0JvS0hTU2dDclVRalJ3SUJ3JTI2dXJsJTNEaHR0cCUyNTNBJTI1MkYlMjUyRnd3dy5uai5jb20lMjUyRm5ld3MlMjUyRmluZGV4LnNzZiUyNTJGMjAxMSUyNTJGMDQlMjUyRmluX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWwlMjZidm0lM0Ridi4xMTQ3MzM5MTclMkNkLmQycyUyNnBzaWclM0RBRlFqQ05HUEJOWVpSdDduUjZZR214dWMya0JtU3VMM0l3JTI2dXN0JTNEMTQ1NjA1MDEyNTI1NjczMA%3D%3D&ibothsahtrtd=aHR0cCUzQS8vYmxvZy5uai5jb20vbGVkZ2VydXBkYXRlc19pbXBhY3QvcHJpbnQuaHRtbCUzRmVudHJ5JTNELzIwMTEvMDQvaW5fbmV3X2Jvb2tfaGlzdG9yaWFuX2FsbGVnZXMuaHRtbA%3D%3D&shtlp=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lm5qLmNvbS9uZXdzL2luZGV4LnNzZi8yMDExLzA0L2luX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWw%3D&otisu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3LnNpdGVlbmNvcmUuY29tL0FkdmFuY2VOZXQvTkovTkpTdXJ2ZXkyL2luZGV4Lmh0bWw%3D&x=0&y=106&w=1696&h=1036&t=14559637945321&tokenID=ELRUPOJTJVVM6K3X3K0DS9ETS2TK2S6W&s=c2l0ZWVuY29yZS5jb20%3D) Email

By [Star-Ledger Staff](http://cloud.siteencore.com/v1/loading.html#rotftwetu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lmdvb2dsZS5jb20vdXJsJTNGc2ElM0RpJTI2cmN0JTNEaiUyNnElM0QlMjZlc3JjJTNEcyUyNnNvdXJjZSUzRGltYWdlcyUyNmNkJTNEJTI2dmVkJTNEMGFoVUtFd2kxMmF6UGo0YkxBaFdLQ0JvS0hTU2dDclVRalJ3SUJ3JTI2dXJsJTNEaHR0cCUyNTNBJTI1MkYlMjUyRnd3dy5uai5jb20lMjUyRm5ld3MlMjUyRmluZGV4LnNzZiUyNTJGMjAxMSUyNTJGMDQlMjUyRmluX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWwlMjZidm0lM0Ridi4xMTQ3MzM5MTclMkNkLmQycyUyNnBzaWclM0RBRlFqQ05HUEJOWVpSdDduUjZZR214dWMya0JtU3VMM0l3JTI2dXN0JTNEMTQ1NjA1MDEyNTI1NjczMA%3D%3D&ibothsahtrtd=aHR0cCUzQS8vY29ubmVjdC5uai5jb20vc3RhZmYvbmpvc2xzdGFmZi9wb3N0cy5odG1s&shtlp=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lm5qLmNvbS9uZXdzL2luZGV4LnNzZi8yMDExLzA0L2luX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWw%3D&otisu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3LnNpdGVlbmNvcmUuY29tL0FkdmFuY2VOZXQvTkovTkpTdXJ2ZXkyL2luZGV4Lmh0bWw%3D&x=0&y=106&w=1696&h=1036&t=14559637945341&tokenID=ELRUPOJTJVVM6K3X3K0DS9ETS2TK2S6W&s=c2l0ZWVuY29yZS5jb20%3D) The Star-Ledger
[Follow on Twitter](http://cloud.siteencore.com/v1/loading.html#rotftwetu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lmdvb2dsZS5jb20vdXJsJTNGc2ElM0RpJTI2cmN0JTNEaiUyNnElM0QlMjZlc3JjJTNEcyUyNnNvdXJjZSUzRGltYWdlcyUyNmNkJTNEJTI2dmVkJTNEMGFoVUtFd2kxMmF6UGo0YkxBaFdLQ0JvS0hTU2dDclVRalJ3SUJ3JTI2dXJsJTNEaHR0cCUyNTNBJTI1MkYlMjUyRnd3dy5uai5jb20lMjUyRm5ld3MlMjUyRmluZGV4LnNzZiUyNTJGMjAxMSUyNTJGMDQlMjUyRmluX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWwlMjZidm0lM0Ridi4xMTQ3MzM5MTclMkNkLmQycyUyNnBzaWclM0RBRlFqQ05HUEJOWVpSdDduUjZZR214dWMya0JtU3VMM0l3JTI2dXN0JTNEMTQ1NjA1MDEyNTI1NjczMA%3D%3D&ibothsahtrtd=aHR0cHMlM0EvL3R3aXR0ZXIuY29tL3N0YXJsZWRnZXI%3D&shtlp=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lm5qLmNvbS9uZXdzL2luZGV4LnNzZi8yMDExLzA0L2luX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWw%3D&otisu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3LnNpdGVlbmNvcmUuY29tL0FkdmFuY2VOZXQvTkovTkpTdXJ2ZXkyL2luZGV4Lmh0bWw%3D&x=0&y=106&w=1696&h=1036&t=14559637945341&tokenID=ELRUPOJTJVVM6K3X3K0DS9ETS2TK2S6W&s=c2l0ZWVuY29yZS5jb20%3D)
on April 03, 2011 at 8:30 AM, updated April 03, 2011 at 12:34 PM

|  |
| --- |
| http://www.nj.com/static/common/img/blank.gif |
| http://www.nj.com/static/common/img/blank.gif |
| http://www.nj.com/static/common/img/blank.gif |



703 shares

*Star-Ledger file photo*Al-Mustafa Shabazz, above in this 2004 file photo, is named as the chief assassin of Malcolm X in the book "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention" by Columbia University professor Manning Marable.

[NEWARK](http://cloud.siteencore.com/v1/loading.html#rotftwetu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lmdvb2dsZS5jb20vdXJsJTNGc2ElM0RpJTI2cmN0JTNEaiUyNnElM0QlMjZlc3JjJTNEcyUyNnNvdXJjZSUzRGltYWdlcyUyNmNkJTNEJTI2dmVkJTNEMGFoVUtFd2kxMmF6UGo0YkxBaFdLQ0JvS0hTU2dDclVRalJ3SUJ3JTI2dXJsJTNEaHR0cCUyNTNBJTI1MkYlMjUyRnd3dy5uai5jb20lMjUyRm5ld3MlMjUyRmluZGV4LnNzZiUyNTJGMjAxMSUyNTJGMDQlMjUyRmluX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWwlMjZidm0lM0Ridi4xMTQ3MzM5MTclMkNkLmQycyUyNnBzaWclM0RBRlFqQ05HUEJOWVpSdDduUjZZR214dWMya0JtU3VMM0l3JTI2dXN0JTNEMTQ1NjA1MDEyNTI1NjczMA%3D%3D&ibothsahtrtd=aHR0cCUzQS8vbmouY29tL25ld2Fyaw%3D%3D&shtlp=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lm5qLmNvbS9uZXdzL2luZGV4LnNzZi8yMDExLzA0L2luX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWw%3D&otisu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3LnNpdGVlbmNvcmUuY29tL0FkdmFuY2VOZXQvTkovTkpTdXJ2ZXkyL2luZGV4Lmh0bWw%3D&x=0&y=106&w=1696&h=1036&t=14559637945371&tokenID=ELRUPOJTJVVM6K3X3K0DS9ETS2TK2S6W&s=c2l0ZWVuY29yZS5jb20%3D) — For 45 years, the chief assassin of Malcolm X has been hiding in plain sight in Newark, according to a major new biography of the African-American leader set for release tomorrow.

Al-Mustafa Shabazz is a 72-year-old, white-haired Muslim who briefly appeared in a 2010 re-election video ad for Mayor Cory Booker and is married to a community leader who owns a boxing gym in Newark.

On Monday, however, with the publication of "Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention," by historian and Columbia University professor Manning Marable, Shabazz will become the central player in a reignited debate about the assassination of one of the 20th century’s most iconic — and controversial — civil rights leaders.

In his book, Marable claims to have evidence that Shabazz was once known as William Bradley, who many people over the years have placed at the Malcolm X shooting. Marable writes that he confirmed that the two men are one and the same through multiple sources inside the black Muslim community.

**RELATED COVERAGE:**

• [Historian dies just days before heralded Malcolm X biography is released](http://cloud.siteencore.com/v1/loading.html#rotftwetu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lmdvb2dsZS5jb20vdXJsJTNGc2ElM0RpJTI2cmN0JTNEaiUyNnElM0QlMjZlc3JjJTNEcyUyNnNvdXJjZSUzRGltYWdlcyUyNmNkJTNEJTI2dmVkJTNEMGFoVUtFd2kxMmF6UGo0YkxBaFdLQ0JvS0hTU2dDclVRalJ3SUJ3JTI2dXJsJTNEaHR0cCUyNTNBJTI1MkYlMjUyRnd3dy5uai5jb20lMjUyRm5ld3MlMjUyRmluZGV4LnNzZiUyNTJGMjAxMSUyNTJGMDQlMjUyRmluX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWwlMjZidm0lM0Ridi4xMTQ3MzM5MTclMkNkLmQycyUyNnBzaWclM0RBRlFqQ05HUEJOWVpSdDduUjZZR214dWMya0JtU3VMM0l3JTI2dXN0JTNEMTQ1NjA1MDEyNTI1NjczMA%3D%3D&ibothsahtrtd=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lm5qLmNvbS9uZXdzL2luZGV4LnNzZi8yMDExLzA0L2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9kaWVzX2p1c3RfZGF5c19iZWZvci5odG1s&shtlp=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3Lm5qLmNvbS9uZXdzL2luZGV4LnNzZi8yMDExLzA0L2luX25ld19ib29rX2hpc3Rvcmlhbl9hbGxlZ2VzLmh0bWw%3D&otisu=aHR0cCUzQS8vd3d3LnNpdGVlbmNvcmUuY29tL0FkdmFuY2VOZXQvTkovTkpTdXJ2ZXkyL2luZGV4Lmh0bWw%3D&x=0&y=106&w=1696&h=1036&t=14559637945371&tokenID=ELRUPOJTJVVM6K3X3K0DS9ETS2TK2S6W&s=c2l0ZWVuY29yZS5jb20%3D)

New Jersey Department of Corrections records reviewed Saturday by *The Star-Ledger* list Bradley’s alias as Al-Mustafa Shabazz. On Saturday, East Orange Sgt. Andrew Di Elmo also confirmed the mug shot accompanying the record belonged to Bradley, aka Shabazz.

William Bradley was accused of being one of the killers more than 30 years ago in a sworn affidavit by Talmadge Hayer, one of the three men convicted of Malcolm X’s assassination. In his book Marable also credits Abdur-Rahman Muhammad, a historian who writes for the Association of African American Life and History, with linking Bradley’s name to that of Shabazz.

Shabazz’s wife, Carolyn Kelley Shabazz, who spoke last night to a *Star-Ledger* reporter, said she and her husband were taken by surprise by Muhammad’s allegations as well as those of Marable, who had been ill recently and died on Friday, three days before the publication of his 594-page book.

"As God, Allah, is my witness, there’s no way my husband could have had a negative thought in his head about Malcolm X," said Carolyn Shabazz. "My husband is no more guilty about what happened with Malcolm than you or I."

*Courtesy of Abdur-Rahman Muhammad*East Orange police mug shot of William Bradley, a.k.a. Al-Mustafa Shabazz

Al-Mustafa Shabazz and his wife live in a brick house on quiet Vassar Avenue in Newark’s South Ward. The elderly man was not at home Saturday. But when his wife was asked if his name was formerly William Bradley, she said, "Legally, his name is Al-Mustafa Shabazz."

In the book, Marable claims that "Willie Bradley" was just 15 feet away from Malcolm X in the auditorium in New York City where he was about to speak, on the afternoon of Feb. 21, 1965, when "he elevated his sawed-off shotgun from under his coat, took careful aim, and fired … This was the kill shot, the blow that executed Malcolm X …"

Clement Price, a history professor at Rutgers University-Newark, said Saturday that he and Marable come from the same generation of professionally trained African-American historians and while he had not yet read the new biography and therefore couldn’t comment about the specific assertions, the historian’s scholarship is impeccable.

"Manning Marable was a very conscientious historian, a masterful researcher, and an interpreter of complicated truths," Price said. "It would be out of character for him to not be duly diligent in this very important matter of Malcolm’s assassination."

Since Abdur-Rahman Muhammad accused Bradley last year of being "the man who fired the first and deadliest shot" at Malcolm X, not only Marable, but others, including investigative journalist Karl Evanzz and documentary filmmaker Omar Shabazz, have named Bradley.

"There’s never been a question that William Bradley pulled the trigger. This information is well-established. The only question has been, who is Bradley and where does he live?" said Muhammad.

According to state Department of Correction records, "William Bradley, aka Al-Mustafa Shabazz," served time in prison for charges including threatening to kill three people. He was released in February 1998.

Marable and Muhammad claim some of the plotters accused of killing Malcolm X came from Newark’s Mosque No. 25, where Bradley was a member.

West Ward Councilman Ron Rice said speculation about the Newark mosque’s role in Malcolm X’s assassination had been circulating for as long as he could remember.

"There has been a long belief in the underbrush, argued by some, disputed by others, that a number of Malcolm X’s alleged murderers came out of Number 25 — the Newark mosque," Rice said. "But I’ve never heard the rumor of Carolyn’s husband being associated."

Rice said the group had once fostered a reputation for militancy and had called for the death of Malcolm X.

*Tony Kurdzuk/The Star-Ledger*The First Class Championship Gym on Bergen Street allegedly owned by the wife of Al Mustafa Shabazz, who has been named in an upcoming book as the primary assassin of Malcolm X.

"The Newark mosque was seen as a radical mosque or extremist mosque. That’s always been alleged," he said.

John Sharpe James, son of former Mayor Sharpe James, also said the rumors surrounding Al-Mustafa Shabazz’s alleged involvement have been well-known for years, but he knew Carolyn Shabazz as a strong community advocate.

"Her First Class boxing gym has trained a lot of Newark youth," James said. "I know she was a supporter of my father. Every Thanksgiving she manages to secure hundreds of turkeys and give them out."

Shabazz’s wife said Saturday, "We are not going to take this lying down. They are looking for a scapegoat. Nobody has to take this character assassination."