



of 2012, which was very successful. I was skeptical about the conference because I feel like we didn't really know that many people in Memphis. I didn't think anybody would come.

You know, I'll be honest about it. I was very, very sceptical about doing it. But you put the word out about it. And people came to it. We had over a two day weekend, we had over 150 people come to the conference.

At that time, Memphis was the poorest big city in the United States. That's where we started it. However, shortly after we started, what we realised was also happening in Memphis was all these black people who were being shot and killed by the Memphis police department.

We were almost at a situation where it was one a month. No one was speaking out against this so we quickly developed a campaign. We called it the "Memphis Black Autonomy Federation's Body Count"

And, that led us to where we are now.

L: What made you an anarchist?

J: Well, I was always very critical of anarchism. My first experience with them when I was living in Oakland, California, when I was in the Black Panther Party. And I would go to different events, and the only anarchists I would see at these events were white people. Now, I'm not saying that there were no anarchists of colour in the San Francisco Bay Area back then. I'm just telling you what I saw and they were mostly white people.

And my impression was that they were not really dealing with issues that affected poor people. And my impression was that they were not really dealing with issues that affected poor people. The Black Panther party was always concerned about poor people. I did not see this coming from anarchists. I also saw them as, like I said, they were white people, so I did not feel they had any relationship whatsoever to what I was concerned about.

Then of course later, they got off into lifestyle issues, which I thought were totally irrelevant. You know, it's important for people to have their lifestyle. But a lot of things that they were doing, lifestyles they wanted to have, were lifestyles that poor people, Black people couldn't have.

