



# REVOLUTIONARY WORKER

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Revolutionary Communist Party, USA

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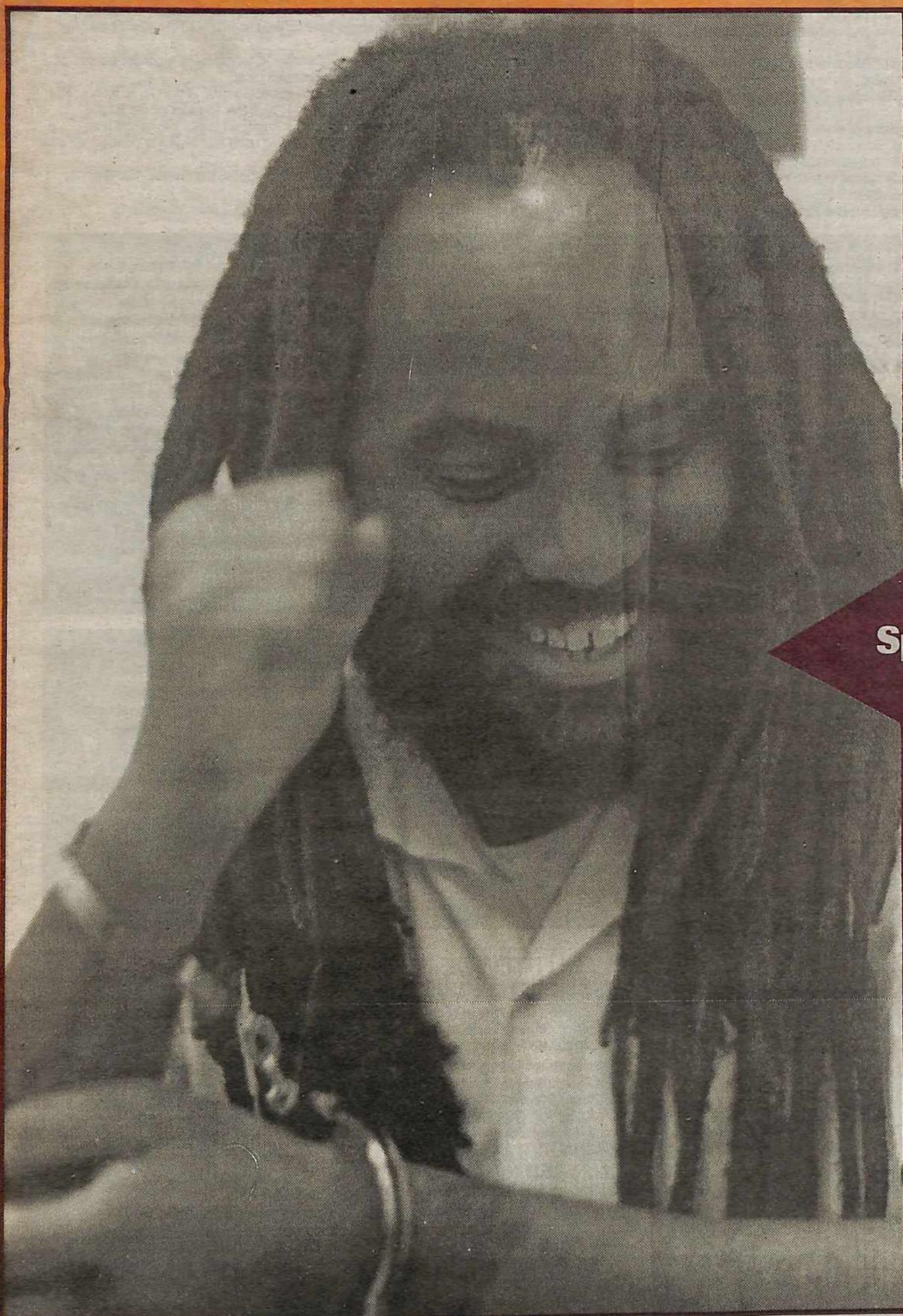
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**April 24**

## ***In the Streets for Mumia Abu-Jamal!***



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# NATO/U.S. Out of Yugoslavia!

by Mumia Abu-Jamal

As a deadly rain of high-tech bombs falls on Yugoslavia, a deadening rain of propaganda falls on Americans, media-manipulated lies designed to prime the populace into supporting harsher military measures against a sovereign nation, in the name of protecting human rights.

NATO is but a fig leaf for American "interests," and the bombing of Yugoslavia is but a global demonstration of the ruthlessness of the American empire. A demonstration? The monstrous atomic bombing of Japan, after it was virtually beaten in World War II, was not a military necessity, but a political one, designed to demonstrate to the Russians that the U.S. was, and would ever be, boss. It was a massive, deadly demonstration.

So too, the Yugoslavia bombing treats Serbs as the U.S. treated Japanese during the war—as props to demonstrate the power of the empire.

Let us consider the claims that the U.S. is concerned about "human rights" or about the "rights of ethnic minorities," as the corporate press projects hourly. What of America's largest national minority—African Americans? The world-respected Amnesty International group, speaking through its secretary general, Pierre Sané, announced just days before the bombing, "Human-rights violations in the United States of America are persistent, widespread and appear to disproportionately affect people of racial or ethnic minority backgrounds."

Sané was critical of police violence and executions in the U.S. Further, internationally, let's see how the U.S. responds to "liberation movements" of the oppressed. When fighters for Puerto Rican independence began to raise their voices, the U.S. didn't support this "ethnic minority," they sought (and continue) to crush, incarcerate and silence them.

Consider the case of the Palestinians, the Kurds, the East Timorese, the Colombian rebels—who has the U.S. consistently supported, the oppressed or the U.S.-armed governments?

This isn't about "human rights." It isn't about "ethnic minorities." And it also isn't about "genocide." It's about establishing who's "boss" in the next century. It's about keeping Russia in its place. It's about keeping the European Union under the thumb of Wall Street.

The bombing of Serbia is an echo of the bombing of three other countries in the past six months—of Iraq, Sudan and Afghanistan. And for precisely the same reason—to show that it can be done, no matter what so-called "international law" states. It is to instill terror throughout the world, in order for U.S. capital to institute what former president George Bush tried to do, but failed: to establish a New World Order.

Days before the bombing, NATO signed up Poland, Hungary and the former



Czechoslovakia (Czech Republic) as its newest members, thereby virtually isolating Russia. Only Serbia and the Yugoslav states have refused to join NATO—their bombing is their punishment.

Our brilliant, revered nationalist leader, Malcolm X, taught us to examine history. If we look at history, the bombing of Yugoslavia becomes clear.

Empires are maintained, not by reason, but by ruthless terror. It was so in Rome. It is so in the U.S. The brilliant revolutionary, Dr. Huey P. Newton, founder of the Black Panther Party, explained, "The United States was no longer a nation. We called it an empire. An empire is a nation-state that has transformed itself into a power controlling all the world's lands and people." (1973)

Huey was right then, and our response then was to oppose the empire. We must do that now.

Down with imperialism! Stop the bombing! NATO/U.S. out of Yugoslavia!



As of April 18, 1999 Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzmán) has been held in isolation for...

## 6 Years, 186 Days

In October 1992, Chairman Gonzalo—leader of the Maoist Communist Party of Peru—was sentenced to life imprisonment by hooded military judges of the U.S.-backed regime in Peru. The fascist regime in Peru is holding this revolutionary leader of the Peruvian people under very brutal conditions in an underground concrete dungeon at a naval base. He is being denied visits by lawyers, doctors and relatives and deprived of proper medical care and

reading materials. Peru's President Fujimori has publicly threatened to execute Chairman Gonzalo and boasted of applying psychological torture on him. Fujimori changed Peru's constitution to legalize the death penalty, which could be used against Chairman Gonzalo and other revolutionary prisoners. The Peruvian regime must be prevented from

killing Chairman Gonzalo through the death penalty or by other means.

Fujimori has repeatedly claimed that Chairman Gonzalo has made a call for negotiations from prison. In this situation, what possible excuse can Fujimori now offer for continuing to deny Comrade Gonzalo independent contact with lawyers, doctors and friendly and neutral visitors from outside the prison in a way that meets the basic international standards for treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war? It is vitally important for people in Peru and around the world to hear what Chairman Gonzalo's views are from Chairman Gonzalo himself—directly and unimpeded. This heightens the urgency of the fight to create an international political climate which compels the Peruvian government to grant access to Comrade Gonzalo by his legal representatives and other friends who can meet and talk directly with him.

**Support the People's War in Peru!  
Support the Communist Party of Peru!  
Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo,  
Fight to Break the Isolation!**

## Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian  
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we in the Revolutionary Communist Party want people to learn from all that is exposed and revealed in this newspaper? Mainly, three things:

1) The whole system we now live under is based on exploitation—here and all over the world. It is completely worthless and no basic change for the better can come about until this system is overthrown.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will put an end to exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle, a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The

Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution, those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world: Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning.

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# YUGOSLAVIA: THE AMERICAN WAY OF WAR

## “DESTROYING THE VILLAGE TO SAVE IT”

**Pristina, Kosovo, after midnight, April 6**—In the darkness of night, three NATO air attacks hit at the heart of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. The first wave lasted 30 minutes. At least 20 NATO bombs and missiles hit the downtown area, according to Agence France Presse—completely leveling many homes, over 30 stores, the central post office, and an office of social services. At least 10 people were killed, including a family of Turkish nationality Kosovars gathered in a basement.

NATO spokespeople insisted on CNN that the armed forces of Yugoslavia had themselves blown up Pristina. When this lie fell apart, NATO Air Commodore David Wilby, NATO's military spokesman, admitted only that one NATO bomb had hit homes in Pristina, saying it had been “seduced off the target.” The U.S. and NATO justify their war on Yugoslavia saying they are saving Kosovo's people—but it is clear that they, themselves, have targeted Kosovo's capital.

**Aleksinac, Serbia, 10 p.m., April 6**—Residents were close to bedtime in this small coal mining town of 20,000, a hundred miles south of the Yugoslav capital Belgrade when they heard the sound of planes, flying low, and then explosions. One laser-guided bomb hit an apartment complex. A western reporter said that the building became “smoking heaps of brick and tile, with body parts visible and pools of blood.” Local authorities said that at least 12 people were killed, and nearly 50 others were wounded.

In Brussels, NATO air commander David Wilby said, “It is possible that one of our weapons fell short of the target.” Clinton said that such “errors” should be considered inevitable. Stana Stojanovic, a retired woman whose neighbors lay dead in the rubble, said, “The people responsible for this should be tried.... We will not be slaves.”

**The Juzna-Morava River, Yugoslavia, April 12**—The train was heading south toward Greece, from Yugoslavia's capital, Belgrade. Its passengers, surrounded by their belongings, were already worrying about those they had left behind and about the uncertain future ahead of them.

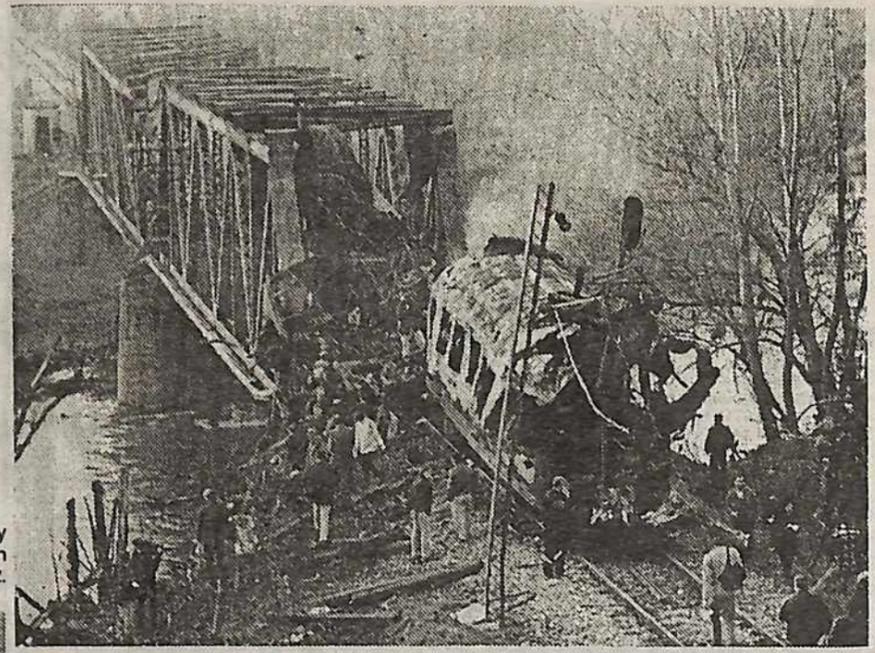
A U.S. F-15a swept in low, seeking its target. Its two-man crew released an AGM-130 bomb and then guided it by video image to a direct hit on the train, as it crossed the Juzna-Morava river. After seeing they had hit a passenger train, the plane's crew circled around—and hit it again. Yugoslav authorities said that at least 10 people died on the train and at least 16 were seriously injured.

NATO's General Wesley Clark said the pilot had targeted the bridge and then returned “to accomplish his mission.” Asked why the pilot hit the train twice, Clark said it was “an uncanny accident.” The Pentagon said they had destroyed 11 bridges in three weeks of attacks. They have isolated people throughout the Balkans from each other, and severely cut down the flow of food and goods in this poor mountainous region.

**The farming areas around Djakovica, southwest Kosovo, April 13**—The tiny village of Meja was hit hard by bombs, according to a Agence France Presse reporter on the scene. Twenty dead lay in the bomb craters, as the killer aircraft flew on. It was the second attack west of Djakovica that morning.

About 90 minutes later, an even more intense NATO attack hit a convoy of as many as 1,000 refugees on the rural dirt road leading south out of Djakovica. Some accounts suggest that a second convoy was also hit further south on the same road. It is not known where these Albanian Kosovars were heading—on foot, on their tractors and horse-drawn carts. It is not clear if they were leaving their homes or returning to

A passenger train destroyed by NATO warplanes at a bridge in Grdelica, Yugoslavia, April 12.



Bodies of Albanian refugees on the road near Djakovica, Kosovo after an attack by NATO planes, April 13.

them. *L.A. Times* reporter Paul Watson wrote, “The Kosovo Albanian survivors tell of jets dive-bombing, circling and then bombing again as tractors and horses pulling wagon loads of terrified refugees tried to escape.” Over 80 people died, and at least that many were seriously wounded.

NATO spokesmen claimed that the Serbian forces had hit these civilians—using their own planes or artillery. Spokesmen insisted that NATO warplanes fly too high for the victims on the ground to see them.

These stories were quickly challenged. The low-flying air attacks fit the profile and tactics of U.S. A-10 “Warthogs.” Reporters on the scene found extensive evidence of NATO shrapnel in the craters. Paul Watson remarked that the air of the region was thick with NATO war planes that day, “With such concentrated NATO air traffic, it's difficult to see how a Yugoslavian jet could sneak in and attack the refugee column just for Belgrade's propaganda purposes.”

NATO spokesman Jamie Shea then acknowledged that a U.S. pilot had attacked a single vehicle—a civilian tractor pulling two flatbeds—north of Djakovica. Shea refused to acknowledge any NATO attacks on civilians south of Djakovica (where the major civilian deaths occurred). Describing the actions of the U.S. bomber, Shea said, “He dropped his bomb in good faith, as you would expect a trained pilot from a democratic NATO country to do.” Paul Warner writes in the *L.A. Times*, “NATO's acknowledgment Thursday that one of its pilots had accidentally bombed a column of Kosovo Albanian refugees doesn't begin to explain how scores of people were killed in what survivors say was a series of air strikes.”

### Brutality with a Bodyguard of Lies

“We had to destroy the village in order to save it.”

U.S. officer justifying his attack on a Vietnamese village

“There is nothing about the current policy of bombing Serbian forces that will either

guarantee democracy for Serbia or protect the Albanians who are still being treated horribly by Milosevic's forces. ... The humanitarian concerns expressed are the merest hypocrisy since what really counts is the expression of U.S. power. What I find most distressing is that destruction is being wrought from the air along with a fastidiousness articulated about the loss of American life that is positively revolting. Clinton knows well that Americans will not tolerate the loss of life for Americans. Yet he can destroy Yugoslavian lives with impunity from the safety of the ultimate in modern technology and air power, with American pilots and bombers sanitizing their horror with the illusion of safety and distance. When will the smaller, lesser, weaker peoples realize that this America is to be resisted at all costs, not pandered or given in to naively?”

Professor Edward W. Said

It takes a willful blindness to history for some people to convince themselves that the U.S. attack on Yugoslavia “might somehow do some good.” War waged by the U.S. government has always come wrapped in words about “democracy,” “human rights,” “saving lives” and “stopping aggressors.” But from the days when General Sheridan burned the winter encampments of the Lakota people, to the mass murder of Filipinos during the U.S. conquest of the Philippines at the turn of the century, to the heartless nuking of two civilian Japanese cities in World War 2, to the “carpet bombings” of Indochina, to the bombings and embargo of Iraq—the U.S. ruling class has always pushed out the borders of its empire, and defended them, with the most ruthless warfare.

This “American way of war” has evolved into a high-tech swarm technique of “death from above”—where the victim is hidden from the killer by the high altitude of the “targeting pod” with its airborne video camera.

When the NATO warplanes hit a heating plant in New Belgrade on April 3, people there asked themselves, “How will General Clark explain this as a ‘military target?’” They underestimate the Pentagon's ability

at “double-speak.” Even the Pentagon talk about “unfortunate collateral damage” (supposedly accidental damage to civilians while pursuing military targets) is a lie. In the American Way of War, the “punishment” of civilians has always been a “military target.” The nighttime terrors and daytime hunger of Yugoslavian civilians is certainly part of U.S. war calculations now.

NATO has now conducted over 1,700 bombing runs in three weeks of war. Yugoslavia is being systematically “ground down.” Their industrial factories, bridges, communications, railroads, highways, fuel, even hospitals have been flattened—along with the key military installations. NATO war planners have requested an additional 300 U.S. warplanes, to bring the air battle force up to more than 1,000. The Pentagon is preparing to call up the air and army reserves of the U.S. What good will these new forces bring to the people of the Balkans?

NATO has launched this war claiming to defend the Albanian Kosovars—but it has intended all along to reach an accommodation with the Yugoslav government. And it will betray the Kosovars if that proves useful, as it betrayed the Bosnian Muslims in the Dayton Agreement.

The U.S. has entered the fighting of the Balkans to prevent its NATO allies, Greece and Turkey, from being drawn in—and fighting each other. The U.S. wants to impose “stability” in the Balkans, so that it can successfully pursue its “great game” for the control of Caspian oil—and so that Turkey can play its assigned role for the U.S. in that grab for power and resources. And the U.S. wants to make sure that NATO remains the framework in which the European imperialists, especially Germany, pursue their strategic goals under U.S. command—restructuring Eastern Europe to suit them and their interests. In short, the U.S. is waging war in the Balkans in order to better exploit and bully people and nations across broad stretches of the planet. Nothing good came from a U.S. victory in this war.

**U.S./NATO Hands off the Balkans!  
Stop the Bombing!**

From the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement

# May 1st: Set Your Eyes on the Goal of Communism!

*We received this statement from the Committee of the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement:*

This year the international proletariat is holding the last May Day of the century. As was the case at the turn of the last century, there is no part of the globe where our class has power. Yet our class has gained the experience of carrying out successful proletarian revolutions and building socialism in vast areas of the world. In the passing century, our class fought the most momentous battles of humanity's entire history, battles that changed the course of history completely. Our class carried out three earth-shaking revolutions to establish socialist countries and move the world to a new epoch of communism: the October revolution in Russia in 1917, the October revolution in China in 1949, and finally the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution in China, begun in 1966. It was in the process of these epic battles and in the midst of these momentous proletarian revolutions that the revolutionary science of Marxism was enriched and became Marxism-Leninism-Maoism (MLM).

Today, we have lost both our great socialist bastions where the proletariat held power. World imperialism and new capitalist classes within these socialist states fought tooth-and-nail to overthrow proletarian rule, first in Russia in 1956 and then in China in 1976 in the aftermath of Mao Tsetung's death. These defeats, as well as our victories in revolution and socialist construction, concentrate the two opposite poles, the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, of the present epoch—the era of imperialism and proletarian revolution. Standing at the threshold of the 21st century, the capitalist/imperialist system continues its restless and ruthless pursuit of profit—subjecting the majority of the world's people to vicious exploitation, squeezing their labor, stealing their very lives, promoting a dog-eat-dog mentality and carrying out extermination, mass murder and the enslavement of entire peoples to protect its profit machine. Our class worldwide is fighting to abolish bourgeois rule and to establish proletarian rule once again in as many parts of the world as possible, to establish socialist states as base areas in the larger fight for a whole world without classes—communism.

Imperialism has not and cannot do away with the material basis for proletarian revolution. Even today, when U.S. imperialism is boasting of its success, conditions for huge sections of people in large parts of the world are sharply deteriorating. Even in the most advanced imperialist countries, unemployment, homelessness, and state brutality are on the rise. Today's situation can only worsen for the masses, as new waves of crisis inevitably sweep through the imperialist system. The East Asia crisis is a taste of what is in store around the world.

But the masses are resisting imperialism's vicious exploitation and oppression. The reactionary client states of imperialism in the Third World are fortifying their police states, but still are facing new waves of struggle and resistance from the people, which have already led to the collapse of long-established reactionary regimes, such as in Indonesia and Zaire.

The imperialists develop their international "policing" apparatuses to hound and bully the revolutionaries, as when they kidnapped the Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan. But this repression only fuels the flames of anger and revolt and breeds new generations of revolutionaries around the world.

At the same time, too often and in too many countries the struggling masses are leaderless and fight blindly, without the liberating ideology of MLM. This only makes it easier for bourgeois and reformist forces to derail their struggle and betray their hopes, ultimately trading the sacrifices of the masses for a share of power in the reactionary system. In

contrast to that stands the People's Wars in Peru and Nepal and the advance of armed struggle under the leadership of Marxist-Leninist-Maoist parties more generally—this constitutes real progress towards our goal of winning state power for the proletariat. Yet these advances, however crucial, are still not commensurate with the international proletariat's goal of "winning the world." In most countries of the world there is still no vanguard proletarian party to lead the rebellion of the masses towards genuine revolution and the establishment of new socialist states. This great weakness is related to the restoration of capitalism in the ex-socialist states and the degeneration of communist parties into the swamp of revisionism and reformism in many parts of the world. To reverse this trend, 15 years ago Maoist forces from around the world formed the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement (RIM) as their embryonic center. The formation of RIM was a product of going against the tide of revisionism and opportunism that engulfed the international communist movement in the aftermath of Mao's death and the restoration of capitalism in China in 1976. Many communist parties followed the Chinese revisionists and ended up betraying the proletariat, and many others were caught up in confusion and centrism between revolution and reformism. But the parties and organizations who went against the tide and took the bold step of forming RIM as a step towards forming a new Communist International fought vigorously to overcome this crisis and re-build the international communist movement on the basis of MLM. This process has prepared and steeled the MLM forces to organize and lead the coming waves of world revolution. RIM must be further strengthened to be able to spread Marxism-Leninism-Maoism to every corner of the planet and to help form new MLM organizations and parties wherever they do not exist. Building and strengthening such vanguards is a burning task if the coming waves of revolution are to yield real advances on the road to communism.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the earth-shaking revolution in China in 1949, led by Mao Tsetung, which freed a quarter of humanity from the clutches of semi-feudalism and imperialism. The legacy of proletarian revolution is a nightmare for the capitalist/imperialist powers and their reactionary clients in the Third World. But it is a source of power and inspiration for the proletarians and oppressed. RIM calls upon the proletarians and oppressed peoples the world over, especially all MLM parties and organizations, to mark the end of the 20th century by celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Chinese revolution in a resounding way and by proudly reaffirming the "old" idea that the proletarians around the world must resort to (in the words of the *Communist Manifesto*) the "forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions." With power in its hands, the proletariat can embark upon building a new world in which no private property is used to exploit the labor power of the workers, in which no division of labor can be a source of privilege for some and misery for others, in which no difference of race or sex can be the cause of social superiority, and where, at last, humanity, unfettered by classes, can enter into voluntary association in order to create wealth and well-being for all.

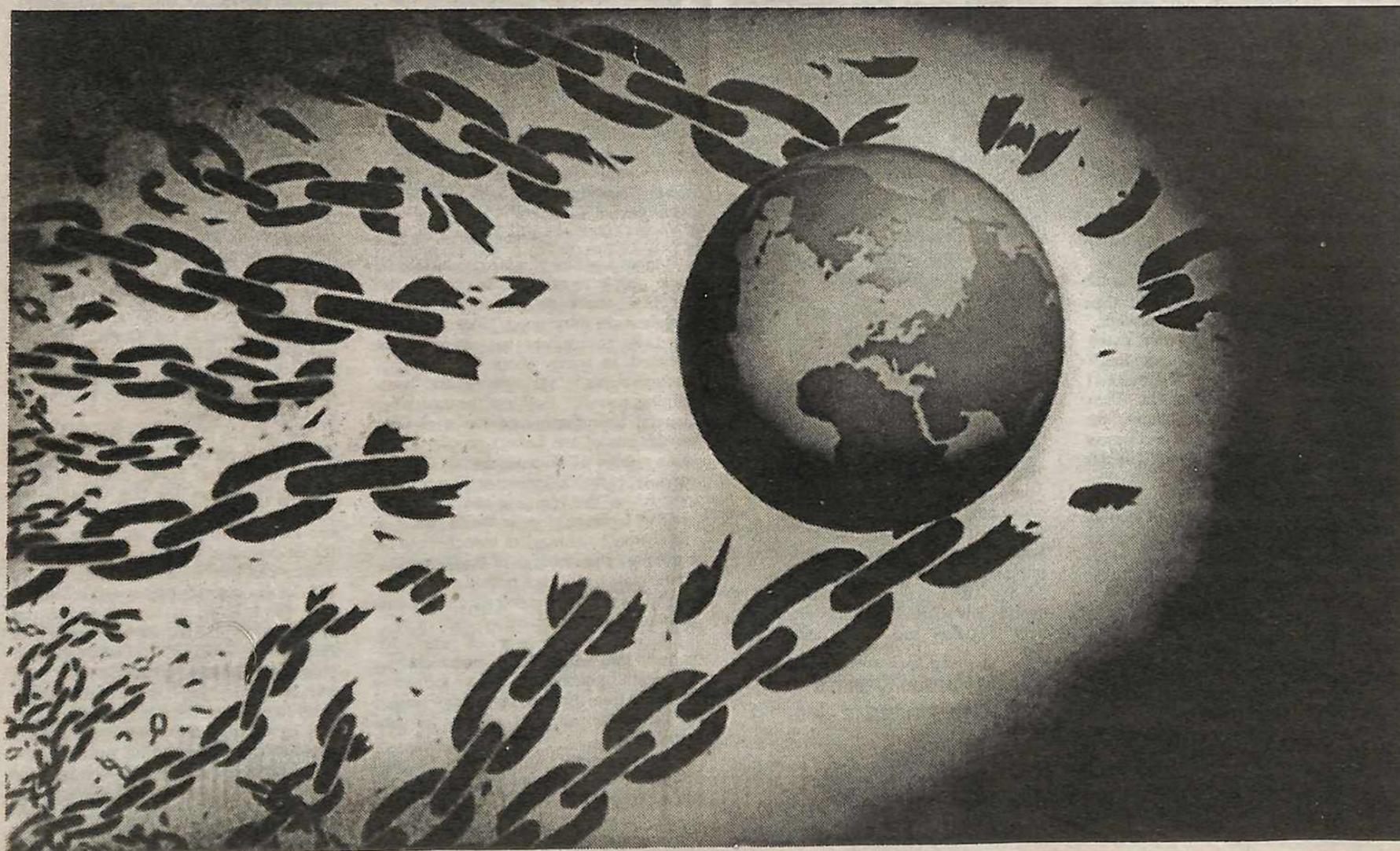
**Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Victory of Revolution in China!**

**Down with Imperialism and Reaction!**

**Form MLM parties wherever they do not exist!**

**Fight for power for the proletariat and people—  
Towards a new communist world!**

**Long live People's War in Peru, Nepal and around the world!**





**REVOLUTIONARY  
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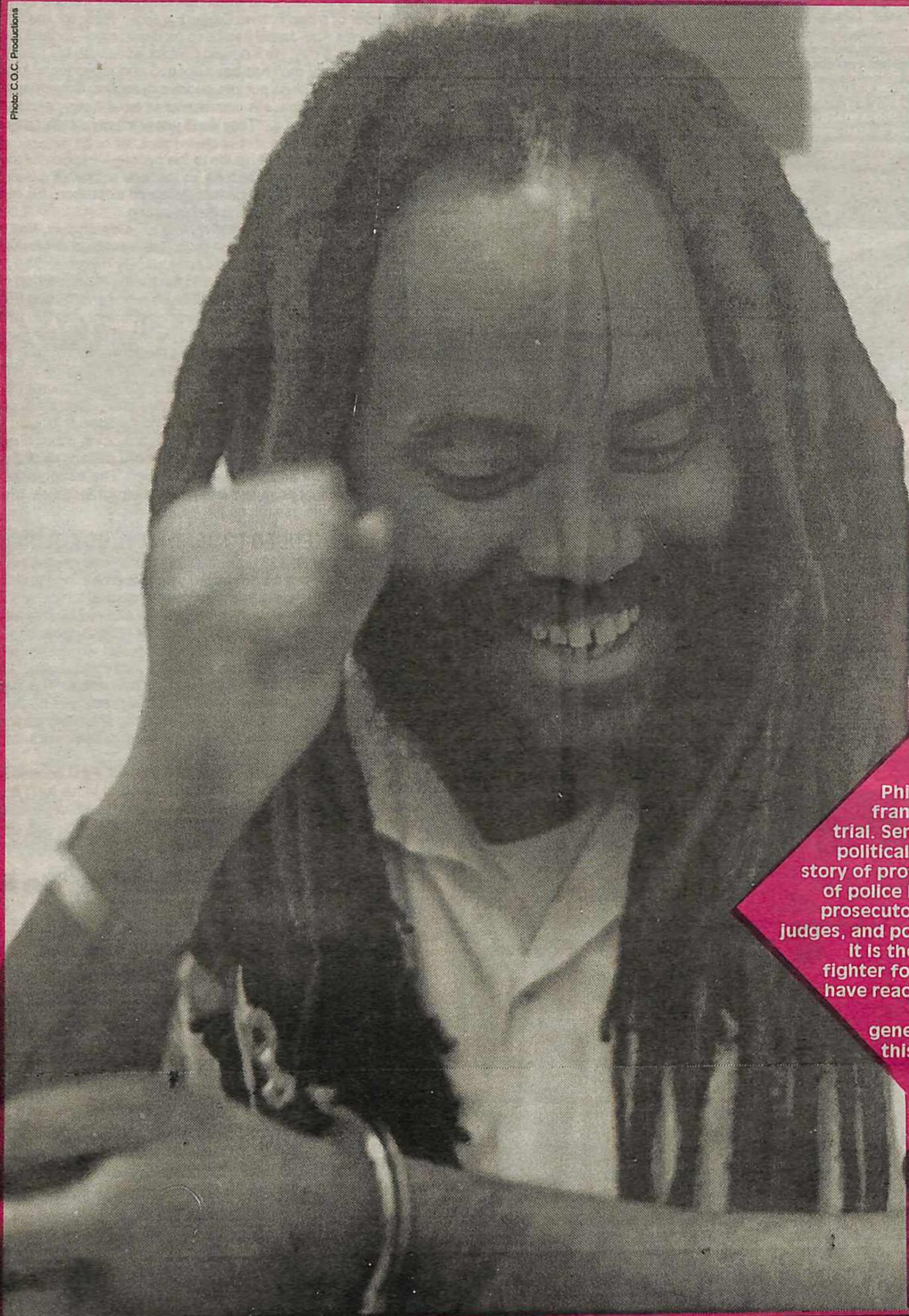
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# ***We Can't Let Them Kill Mumia Abu-Jamal!***

Photo: C.O.C. Productions



Mumia Abu-Jamal—journalist, revolutionary activist, and political prisoner has been on death row since 1982. Falsely convicted of killing a Philadelphia cop. Blatantly framed up. Never got a fair trial. Sentenced to death for his political beliefs. His story is the story of profound injustice—a web of police lies, coerced witnesses, prosecutorial misconduct, biased judges, and political persecution. And it is the story of a courageous fighter for justice—whose words have reached out through prison bars to inspire a new generation. The outcome of this story will have a deep effect on the lives of the people for decades to come. It is up to the people to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

# Revolutionary The Story of

Imagine a case in which a person isn't allowed to represent himself, one in which witnesses are threatened or even arrested on the stand. Imagine a case in which a man charged with killing a cop is tried by a judge who is a lifetime member of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). Imagine that this case's appeal is heard and denied by a court where five out of seven of the judges have either received campaign contributions or campaign endorsements from the FOP. Imagine a case in which a "confession" was manufactured. I don't have to imagine such a case. It's mine.

Mumia Abu-Jamal in *Source* magazine, February 1999

Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on death row since 1982. Falsely convicted of killing a white Philadelphia cop. Blatantly framed up. Never got a fair trial. Sentenced to death for his political beliefs.

Back in the days when he was a teenager in Philadelphia, Mumia was a member of the Black Panther Party and their Minister of Information. Later, as a radio journalist he was known as the "voice of the voiceless." He supported MOVE and exposed the murderous police attacks against these Black revolutionaries. He used his award-winning journalistic talent to speak out against racism and police brutality. And in 1980, at the age of 26, he was elected chair of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists.

For all this the Philadelphia authorities and police hated Mumia. They tried to kill him. And when that failed, they framed him up for the murder of a cop named Daniel Faulkner. Now, for the last 17 years Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on death row—locked alone in a cell 23 hours a day. He's denied contact visits with his family. His confidential legal mail has been opened and reproduced by prison authorities. He's been put into punitive detention for writing his book *Live from Death Row*. His commentaries have been censored on the radio. As Mumia put it, "They don't just want my death, they want my silence."

Mumia has dedicated his life to the people—especially those in the ghettos, barrios and prisons. In the face of brutality, isolation, slander and censorship—he has remained unbroken, his revolutionary consciousness and commitment strong.

It is a *profound injustice* that Mumia is on death row. And this is more than the story of just one man. The frame-up of Mumia concentrates the way Black people are routinely mistreated by the police, the courts, the prisons, and the media. The railroad of Mumia reveals how the U.S. government deals with political opponents—especially revolutionaries whose voices connect with the people at the bottom of society. This case is vivid proof of why this government and its legal system should not have the power to execute people. Today, the system is building prisons as fast and as furiously as they're criminalizing the youth. Police brutality and murder is an epidemic with cops acting like judge, jury and executioner on the streets. "Three strikes" laws are sending thousands of kids to spend their whole life behind bars. Executions are going down like clockwork. And politicians keep demanding more prisons, more cops, more punishment and speedier executions. The struggle for Mumia and other political prisoners is a key battlefield for those who want to defeat this whole assault on the people.

## SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR HIS POLITICS

On December 9, 1981, Mumia Abu-Jamal was driving his cab on a downtown Philadelphia street. He saw a cop beating his brother, William Cook, with a metal flashlight and he rushed to the scene. There was a confrontation and when the smoke cleared Mumia was lying in a pool of blood, shot in the chest. Nearby, Philadelphia cop Daniel Faulkner lay dying from bullet wounds. Mumia was charged for the murder of Faulkner—and has not spent a day free since.

Two months after he was arrested, Mumia wrote: "It is nightmarish that my brother and I should be in this foul predicament, particularly since my main accuser, the police, were my attackers as well. My true crime seems to have been my survival of their assaults, but we were the victims that night."

The police tried to kill Mumia several times. First he was shot. Then, as he lay half dead from a bullet wound in his lung and diaphragm, the arriving police backup units beat him viciously and rammed him headfirst into a pole.

Mumia woke up in the hospital after surgery with his belly ripped

## Revolutionaries Must Not Be Killed for Their Beliefs— The People Must Defend Them

Revolutionaries, who embody the highest interests of the people and inspire the masses in fighting for these interests, are very precious to the people. And, particularly where revolutionaries hold firm to their principles in the face of persecution at the hands of the oppressors—including long years in jail and the threat of execution—it is extremely important for the people to rally to the defense of such revolutionaries and to refuse to accept the "right" of the oppressor to carry out this persecution and "legalized murder." This is the case with people like Geronimo Pratt, who was held in prison for years and years as a result of a frame-up and a continuing cover-up from the highest levels of government; and, in a very sharp and urgent way, this is the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, whom the government is moving to execute in the near future, on the basis of another frame-up and cover-up.

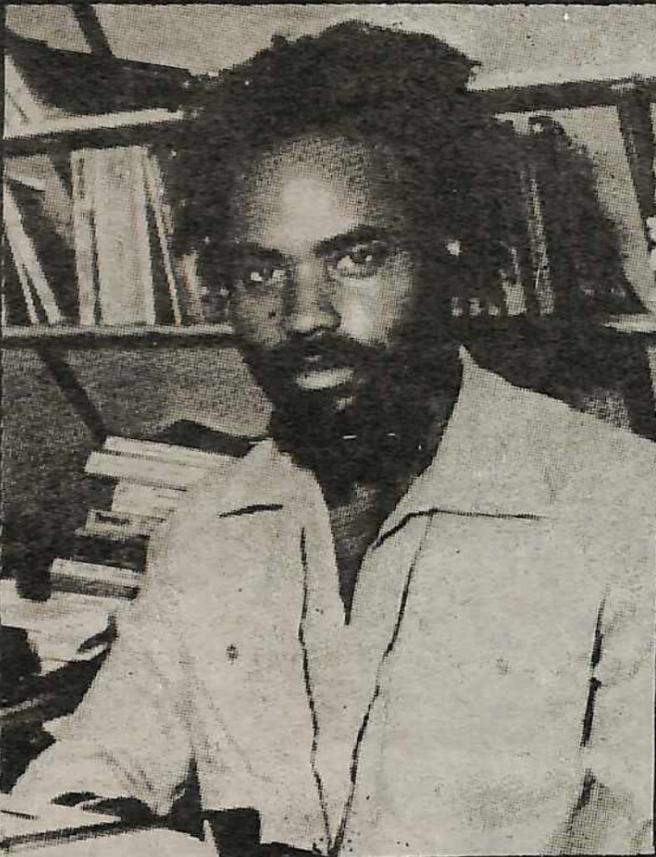
**Bob Avakian, Chairman, Revolutionary Communist Party**



Mumia when he was Minister of Information for the Black Party in Philadelphia.

"If you look today at the movement to save Mumia Abu-Jamal's life, what do you find? You find there are many people who believe that he is totally and completely innocent, that he is in prison because he is an ex-Black Panther, because he is a MOVE supporter, because of the racism of this country. There are plenty of people who believe just that. But there are others who know about what went on in Judge Sabo's courtroom. And they look at how unfair that trial was, and they know about how the police pressured the witnesses against Mumia and they know as time has gone on how almost all of those witnesses have recanted. And they look at a trial like that and they say, we don't know whether he is guilty or innocent but we know that was an unfair trial and a trial that is so unfair can't prove anything. You shouldn't even take someone's driver's license away in a trial like that, let alone put him on death row. And then there are those who simply say the death penalty is wrong and that this killing has got to stop."

Robert Meeropol, son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg



Mumia as a journalist, before he was framed.

"I just know that the trial stank."  
Ed Asner, actor, speaking about Mumia's original trial

"Amnesty's position is that the emergency now is to keep Mumia alive, to prevent an execution that can happen. Many people are under the impression that Mumia will never be executed because he is so famous and because he has a very strong network of supporters. I wouldn't be that confident after having been confronted with the callousness of the criminal justice system in this country... We have to make sure that he's not executed."

Pierre Sané, Secretary General of Amnesty International



1978—Philadelphia police beat MOVE member Delbert Africa.

"John Africa, MOVE's founder, had taught us that our enemy has plenty of differences among themselves but they never, ever let that interfere with them coming together to oppress us. Therefore, we can't allow them to build any dividers amongst us that would keep us from coming together to fight them. We got one mission, one fight. I don't care if you are Latino, black, Asian or whatever, we got one fight. We got one enemy. Mumia's case is in the spearhead of that fight because his case represents everything that is wrong with this system. And we understand that when we bring Mumia home, when we back this system off of Mumia, we have backed this system off of all us and taken a giant step forward to knocking this system down, getting it off of all of us."

Ramona Africa, MOVE

# on Death Row: Mumia Abu-Jamal

from top to bottom, large staples clamping the wound shut and tube in his nose. He felt intense pain from pressure on his bladder and kidneys. Looking up he saw a grinning cop standing on his urine receptacle.

Later, when doctors warned that pneumonia in his punctured lung could kill him, the police forced Mumia to spend night after night in a cold room.

On June 1, 1982 Mumia's trial began in Judge Albert Sabo's court. On July 3 it ended with a death sentence that revealed what this whole case has been about from the beginning.

The U.S. government says it doesn't persecute, imprison or execute people for their political beliefs and activities. But Mumia was clearly framed up, railroaded and now faces execution because he is a revolutionary who has broad political influence.

From his days in the Black Panther Party Mumia was targeted by the government for political persecution. Eight hundred pages of secret police files have become public that document how federal and city agents started putting him under surveillance when he was only 14 years old! At 15, Mumia was a founding member of the Black Panther Party. At 17, as the Philadelphia Panther's Minister of Information, Mumia wrote for the *Black Panther* newspaper. That experience, he recalls, "charged my pen with a distinctive anti-authoritarian, and anti-establishment character that survives to this day."

The authorities used phone taps and informants to monitor his activity; Mumia's friends, relatives, and school officials were interviewed and harassed. The Panthers were subjected to a brutal campaign of suppression by the Philadelphia police under Chief Frank Rizzo who later became mayor.

Throughout the 1970s, Mumia worked as a radio journalist, exposing the systematic brutality of Philadelphia's police—especially their campaign of persecution against the radical Black utopian MOVE organization. In 1978, after a 10-month siege, a MOVE house in Powelton village was assaulted by a 500-man army of Philadelphia police. Fifteen MOVE members were framed for the death of one cop. Mumia covered this trial and supported MOVE.

On the streets Mumia's listeners started calling him "The Voice of the Voiceless," but the Philadelphia authorities and police hated Mumia. Rizzo himself had threatened Mumia, saying that Mumia's reporting had "to stop... And one day, and I hope it's in my career... you're going to have to be held responsible and accountable for what you do."

The day Mumia was sentenced for the murder of Daniel Faulkner, Assistant District Attorney McGill brought up Mumia's political history to argue for the death penalty. In his plea that the court send Mumia to death row, the DA asked Mumia, "Did you ever say that political power grows out of the barrel of a gun?" Mumia answered, "That's a quote from Mao Tsetung. It's America that seized the land from the Indian race, and it was not done through preaching Christianity and civilization. I think America has proven that quote to be the truth."

Based on these arguments about Mumia's political views, Sabo handed down a death sentence. Mumia summed it up like this: "The truth is clear—for niggers, poor people, and Puerto Ricans, what remains of the Indian race, justice is a sham, a ruse, a joke.— I'm innocent of these charges that I have been tried for, despite the connivance of Sabo, McGill and Jackson to deny me my so-called 'rights' to represent myself, to assistance of my choice, to personally select a jury of my peers, to cross-examine witnesses, and to make both opening and closing arguments. I am innocent despite what you 12 people think, and the truth shall set me free!— On December 9, 1981, the police attempted to execute me in the street. This trial is a result of their failure to do so.— This system is finished! Babylon is falling!"

## THE WHOLE TRIAL WAS A RAILROAD

Judge Albert Sabo has sentenced more people to death than any other sitting judge in the United States. Six former Philadelphia prosecutors have sworn in court documents that no one could get a fair trial in the court of Judge Sabo.

During jury selection, Sabo stopped Mumia from questioning potential jurors. In a blatantly racist move, Sabo claimed Mumia's appearance—a Black man with a beard and dreadlocks—was "intimidating to jurors." Against Mumia's will, Tony Jackson was appointed Mumia's lawyer. When Jackson refused to question potential jurors under such conditions, Sabo threatened him with jail.

Continued on page 4

"I want to encourage supporters to intensify the struggle for Mumia's life. ... If we are able in unity to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, we are not only saving the life of a man who speaks for those who are not often heard and whose stories are rarely told, but you are saving all of us who remain unjustly behind bars from the depths of hopelessness."

Leonard Peltier



Veronica Jones (right), who came forward to expose how the police threatened her into helping with the frame-up of Mumia.



"Hanging Judge" Albert Sabo.

"Mumia's trial was a gross miscarriage of justice. Just unbelievable. 'Highlights' included prosecutorial misconduct, intimidation of witnesses by the police, suppression of evidence of Mumia's innocence, a jury illegally purged of African-Americans, a hostile racist judge and a prosecution who argued for the death penalty based on Abu-Jamal's political beliefs! Mumia is an outspoken revolutionary, a hero to millions around the world and we will not allow his voice to be silenced."

Tom Morello from the band Rage Against the Machine

"The power of his voice is rooted in his defiance of those determined to silence him. Magically, Mumia's words are clarified and purified by the toxic strata of resistance through which they must penetrate to reach us. Like the blues. Like jazz."

John Edgar Wideman, author



Rage Against the Machine benefit concert for Mumia, January 1999.



Marching for Mumia, Philadelphia, 1996.

"I am the father of the 13-year-old boy who was shot and killed by a housing police officer. He was playing with a toy gun. I am here today to support free Mumia. It's important that we organize and get ourselves together. I have been fighting and struggling for my son for the last four years. There is no justice in this system. ... The justice that is in this system is between us ourselves. We have to fight ourselves for justice for our children and for our families."

Nicholas Heyward, Parents Against Police Brutality and October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality, Repression and Criminalization of a Generation



Artist Bernie Ethiopia working on a mural of Mumia in North Philadelphia.

"A rare and courageous voice speaking from a place we fear to know: Mumia Abu-Jamal must be heard."

Alice Walker, author



People signing a banner in support of Mumia in Kreuzberg, Germany, 1996.

"For me, the Mumia Abu-Jamal case is about the person who is able to articulate the interests of minority people not only in terms of color, but in terms of ideology. Because we know what the real deal is also about. It is about the repression of left-wing, progressive, insightful cultural criticism and political and moral critique aimed at the dominant hegemonic processes of American capitalism and the American state as evidenced in its racist, imperialist and now we might add homophobic and certainly its patriarchal practices."

Michael Eric Dyson, author and professor of African-American Studies at Columbia University

"The jail cells in America have been a one-sided crime all the way back to slavery. Until everyone is truly represented in this land as one people, there's going to be a lot of fucking poison going on. Free Mumia Abu-Jamal. Free the mind. Use your independent thought and don't be a robot going into the 21st century!"

Chuck D. from Public Enemy



Marching to the U.S. Embassy in South Africa in support of Mumia, 1995.

"In my long history as a Black man in this country, I've seen many instances where the people, and the pressure of the people, provided the last resource for defendants. And sometimes when the people are themselves sufficiently concerned and aroused, they have had the deciding impact on what finally happened to the defendants. ... Mumia's case is attracting the attention of the American people. Our hope is to facilitate this, to make this a matter of concern at every breakfast table in the country so that the people will finally speak."

Ossie Davis, actor

## The Story of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Continued from page 3

Then Sabo took over selecting jurors himself! Anyone who opposed capital punishment was dismissed. And 11 qualified African-Americans were removed by peremptory challenges from the prosecution—a blatantly racist practice that we now know was taught to Philadelphia prosecutors in a special training videotape. The jury ended up with only one Black person.

True to his reputation, Sabo blatantly discriminated against Mumia throughout the whole trial. He claimed Mumia was being disruptive and had him forcibly removed from the courtroom during large parts of the trial. When Mumia asked to represent himself and requested John Africa (the founder of MOVE) as his co-counsel, Sabo refused to allow John Africa onto the case. The investigator who was supposed to work on Mumia's defense quit the case before the trial began because the court didn't provide enough funds and the defense didn't have enough money to hire a ballistics expert or pathologist.

### CONTINUING CAMPAIGN OF LIES

Judge Sabo is a lifetime member of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). And Mumia's appeal has been heard—and denied—by the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court where five out of seven judges have either received campaign contributions or campaign endorsements from the FOP. This national organization of cops has been a force against Mumia outside the courtroom. They've waged an ongoing campaign to call for Mumia's execution. They've picketed events by Mumia supporters. They've sent letters to intimidate celebrities who have taken a stand against Mumia's execution. They've paraded Maureen Faulkner, the widow of Daniel Faulkner, around to spread lies. And they've worked closely with the mainstream media to slander Mumia supporters and spread all kinds of disinformation about this case.

After Mumia's unjust trial, the FOP and the media have continued to argue the prosecution's frame-up case. They say eyewitnesses identified Mumia as the one who shot Faulkner. They say Mumia confessed to the killing at the hospital. They say Faulkner was shot with Mumia's gun.

But the real truth is that authorities manufactured false evidence to frame Mumia. Witnesses were threatened and coerced. A false "confession" was fabricated. And real evidence has been suppressed.

### THE COERCION OF WITNESSES

The prosecutors in Mumia's case interviewed over 100 witnesses. But they used only those witnesses willing to help in the frame-up. They deliberately withheld the names of other potential witnesses from Mumia's lawyers. And Mumia wasn't given any money for investigators to locate witnesses for his defense.

Before the trial, four witnesses said they saw a man run away from the scene. But the prosecution was not about to bring this testimony into the trial. Instead they forced witnesses into corroborating their version of what happened. Veronica Jones, Robert Chobert, and Cynthia White all gave testimony that helped the prosecution. All three of them were messed with by the prosecution.

In 1996 Veronica Jones came forward and exposed how the police threatened her into helping with their frame-up. Jones had initially told the police that she saw someone flee the scene. But then at the trial, she said she didn't see anyone run away and her testimony was very damaging to Mumia's case. Jones now admits, in a sworn statement, that she lied on the stand under police threats. She says two cops visited her in jail shortly before the 1982 trial and said if she helped Mumia's defense she would have her children taken away and would be given a long prison sentence. In 1996 when Veronica Jones came forward to support Mumia with this testimony, the court immediately retaliated against her and arrested her for an outstanding warrant.

Mumia's legal team, headed by Leonard Weinglass, submitted Jones' statement and a motion for a hearing with the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. But the state Supreme Court sent the case back to Sabo—the very judge who had presided over the frame-up of Mumia in 1982! The outcome here was no surprise. Sabo claimed this new evidence was not believable or important and denied Mumia a new trial.

Robert Chobert and Cynthia White, two other witnesses who testified for the prosecution, clearly received special treatment, including exemptions from criminal prosecution, in return for their assistance in the frame-up of Mumia.

Robert Chobert was a white cab driver who told police on the scene that the man who shot Faulkner was a heavy-set man, well over 200 pounds, who ran away from the scene. This testimony would have helped the defense—Mumia was a slim man and was sprawled on the sidewalk with severe wounds. But at the trial Chobert changed his story. And the jury was never told that this witness was on probation for a felony and therefore vulnerable to police blackmail.

Cynthia White, the other key witness for the prosecution, backed the whole police story. But several witnesses say Cynthia White was not at the scene when Faulkner was shot, that she arrived after the shooting. After Mumia was charged with murder, White was arrested repeatedly for prostitution and with each arrest her story about the shooting changed. An outstanding bench warrant against her was lifted and she was brought from jail to testify. Afterward, she was allowed to work as a prostitute under police protection.

In 1997 Mumia's lawyers revealed that Pamela Jenkins, a former prostitute, had signed a sworn statement stating that during Mumia's original trial the police had also pressured her to falsely accuse Mumia of being the shooter. Insisting that she was nowhere near the scene, Jenkins refused to lie. Jenkins also revealed in her sworn statement that her friend Cynthia White—the prosecution's chief witness at the trial—confided to her that she testified after having her life threatened by the police. In a June 1997 hearing on Jenkins' testimony, Sabo ruled that this new evidence was—once again—"not credible."

Another witness, Dessie Hightower, never backed off his story which would have pointed the finger away from Mumia as the

shooter. He passed a lie detector test but was never called to testify because the defense was never told about him. A fourth witness, William Singletary, first reported that Mumia was not the shooter. Later the police forced him to sign a statement that he didn't see anything. And then he was harassed so bad by the police that he left Philadelphia before the trial.

### THE SO-CALLED "CONFESSION"

After being shot by Faulkner and then beaten by other cops Mumia was taken to the hospital, and the prosecution claims that it was here that Mumia made a loud confession to the murder. But the jury never heard from police officer Gary Wakshul, who was guarding Jamal at the hospital and reported "the Negro male made no comments." When called as a defense witness, the prosecution contended he was on vacation and unavailable, and Sabo refused a continuance so he could be brought in. In fact, Wakshul was home and available to testify.

The most stunning thing about this is that Wakshul actually got on the stand in 1995 and said that he didn't "remember" Mumia had confessed because he was "upset." Then he admitted in court that he "remembered" the confession more than two months later after a "roundtable meeting" with DA McGill and other cops. This is clear, direct evidence of a police manufactured confession to frame up Mumia.

The attending physician at the hospital said Mumia didn't say anything about shooting Faulkner. And the security guard who was with Mumia only came up with a story about a "confession"—two months later.

### LACK OF EVIDENCE

The prosecution also claimed ballistics evidence proved Mumia was the shooter. But the police never tested Mumia's gun to see if it had been recently fired. They never tested Mumia's hands to see if he had fired a gun. They have never shown Mumia's gun to be the fatal weapon. And they lost a bullet fragment removed by the medical examiner. Also, the police claim that Mumia was shot while standing over Faulkner. But the pathologist said the bullet entered Mumia's body in a downward trajectory—which is consistent with Mumia's statement that he was shot by the cop as he approached the scene.

In short, Mumia was railroaded. The jury was packed; the testimony rigged, the evidence suppressed. Mumia's attempts to launch a serious defense were constantly disrupted; and he was given the death penalty on the basis of his revolutionary beliefs and activities.

### THE FIGHT TO STOP THE EXECUTION OF MUMIA

On June 2, 1995 Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge signed a death warrant setting Mumia's execution date for 10 p.m., August 17, 1995. Mumia's lawyer, Leonard Weinglass, quickly filed a Post-Conviction Relief Appeal, which demanded a stay of execution and a new trial. Three hundred pages of documentation accompanied this appeal which demonstrated, as Weinglass wrote, "unequivocally that Mumia, a man who has claimed his innocence since the very beginning, was the victim of a politically motivated, racially biased prosecution in which evidence of his innocence was suppressed." Mumia's legal team also filed a Motion for Recusal—demanding that Sabo not be allowed to rule on the appeal because he was clearly prejudiced against Mumia. But Sabo refused to recuse himself. He refused to grant a stay of execution and made outrageous rulings clearly aimed at rushing through the hearing and sabotaging Mumia's efforts to get a new trial. Despite this, Mumia's lawyers presented much evidence and showed very clearly that Mumia never got a fair trial. But three days after the PCRA hearing ended, Sabo denied Mumia's request for a new trial and the execution date remained in effect.

A very broad and determined movement rallied hard to stop the execution of Mumia, and all over the world Mumia's case became a living symbol of the injustice of the U.S. system. Demonstrations were held in cities throughout the U.S. and in many other countries. Artists, authors and other prominent people stepped out publicly to defend Mumia. And in the ghettos and barrios of the U.S. a movement grew, determined to bring the power of the oppressed people into this struggle. The power of the people forced the government to issue a stay of execution and back off its plans to murder Mumia. But today Mumia still faces a death sentence, and the government is still trying to execute him. As Mumia said: "I am now not under an active death warrant, although I remain under an active death sentence, thus I still sojourn in hell."

From the darkness of death row Mumia has continued to expose the system and inspire people with his eloquent writing. And his enemies have not stopped trying to stifle his voice. In 1994 National Public Radio (NPR) announced they were going to air commentaries by Mumia. Then they shamefully retreated under pressure from police and politicians. When Mumia's book *Live from Death Row* found a publisher, the police launched an unsuccessful campaign to stop the book from coming out.

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On October 29, 1998 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court unanimously let stand a lower court decision denying a new trial for Mumia. This ruling was a dramatic indication that the government has made a *political decision to press ahead* with its plans to execute Mumia. The government has delivered a message. They have made it clear what they intend to do and have pushed things to another level.

It is up to the people to save the life of Mumia. It is on the people to step up the struggle and make it clear to the government that **WE WON'T LET THEM KILL MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!**

Millions need to ask themselves: "Can I stand by and do nothing while the government carries out a political execution? We cannot afford to lose this battle. We cannot afford to let the powers-that-be take Mumia from us because he is precious to the oppressed and all those who hunger for justice.

### STOP THE EXECUTION OF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!

For more information on Mumia's case see RW website:

[www.mcs.net/~rwor](http://www.mcs.net/~rwor)

Refuse & Resist! website: [mojo.calyx.net/~refuse](http://mojo.calyx.net/~refuse)

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal:  
[www.mumia.org](http://www.mumia.org)



Los Angeles, October 22, 1997.

"We are aware that the legal proceedings against Mr. Abu-Jamal have been wrought with injustices and serious irregularities since his arrest for supposed involvement in the death of Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner on Dec. 9, 1981. ... Thus, as members of an organization dedicated to social justice, and motivated by our consciences and our commitment to international solidarity—with the knowledge that an injustice to one is an injustice to all—we add our voices to those demanding a new and fair trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal."

From a June 1997 declaration by the Zapatista Front for National Liberation



March to SCI Greene in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, where Mumia is on death row, August 1997.

"On the basis of racial profiling Amadou Diallo was seen as someone who was suspicious and dangerous, a threat to the system. Mumia Abu-Jamal was a victim of political profiling. He was seen as a threat because of his political beliefs, his political ideas and his staunch advocacy on the part of civil rights and human rights and on behalf of Black and poor people, oppressed people in this country and around the world. Mumia Abu-Jamal will be a victim of government sanctioned murder, unless we the people stop the execution."

Ron Daniels, Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights



5,000 protest in San Francisco, December 1997.

"I think we've got to think of new methods and broader coalitions and being a little more gutsy with regard to our tactics. I think we can't be business as usual because I think if it's business as usual, the man's gonna die, and it would be such an enormous tragedy that more of us have to put ourselves on the line to keep that from happening."

Frances Goldin, Mumia's literary agent



New York City,  
October 22, 1998

## What's at Stake for the People?

by C. Clark Kissinger

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court (PSC) has now turned down the appeal of Mumia Abu-Jamal for a new trial. Mumia is a lifelong political activist, a Black man, a writer, a father, and a revolutionary. Falsely convicted of the first degree murder of a police officer, he has continued for over 16 years to wield his pen in the interests of the people—from death row. His case has become a momentous legal, political, and moral struggle that concentrates some of the most burning issues of the day.

In recent years his legal team has compiled a court record that shows conclusively that Mumia's 1982 "trial" was a travesty of justice. Yet on October 30—"mischief night"—the PSC released its unanimous decision. By rejecting a new and fair trial for Mumia, the Pennsylvania high court has now sent this case hurtling onto a new, faster, and more dangerous course.

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There is a growing consensus in the halls of power on a political program of criminalizing Black youth, using prisons and death chambers to "solve" the problems of poverty and social breakdown, and the use of police powers to suppress radical or revolutionary opposition. Mumia has become a pole around which opposition to this program is gathering, precisely because of his uncompromising resistance to this whole agenda.

Earlier this year I wrote: "I want to stress that the legal aspect of our struggle... is a critical arena for this struggle, but it is also *their* arena, run by their rules. The people are going to fight in that arena, but we also have a broader arena where WE set some of the rules. It is very important that we not ignore the critical moment when the Pennsylvania Supreme Court rules, and think 'Oh, it doesn't mean much, there's going to be a stay and more appeals.' On the contrary, a negative decision would signal a political decision to go for Mumia's execution, and he will immediately be into the speeded-up federal execution mill.... [If that happens] we must be prepared to take the struggle to a whole new level."

That assessment holds even more true today. In the last year our movement HAS grown, with events like the People's Tribunal, major street demonstrations, Philly Freedom Summer, the full-page ad in the *New York Times*, concerts and the hundreds of local programs that have taken place. The battle to save Mumia increasingly rallies a new alliance of the Black com-

**Today, where you stand on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is the benchmark of where you stand on social justice.**

munity, the youth, prominent people and major organizations from religious, immigrant, anti-death penalty, civil liberties, and legal communities. And increasingly Mumia's voice is heard among the most oppressed, those with "nothing to lose." But at the same time we must soberly assess that we are still not at the level where the government feels that it would be simply too dangerous for it to proceed with its vicious plan to execute Mumia.

So we have to think about what it *really* means to "take the struggle to a whole new level." It means that Mumia's case must become the unavoidable topic of talk shows and radio call-ins, of debates and columns in newspapers, in the arts and major cultural events, of campus teach-ins, of union resolutions, and in religious gatherings. It means that Mumia's name has to be so well known that millions are following the debate and the struggle over his case. It means that elected public officials, major social and religious organizations, and prominent figures cannot avoid taking a stand. Because today, *where you stand on the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is the benchmark of where you stand on social justice.* People have to be compelled to speak to this.

There also has to be a rising storm of determined actions. Is there not something to be learned from the prominent politicians and artists who were arrested for sitting before the doors of the South African embassy, from the religious activists who sheltered refugees from Central America in defiance of the law, from the parents of those murdered by the police who take the battle right to the precinct doors, from the students who took over campus buildings, held teach-ins, and refused to let "business as usual" proceed during the Gulf War, and from the way the people of Los Angeles refused to accept the verdict freeing the cops who beat Rodney King?

All this is what it means to raise our movement to the breadth, diversity and determination that is required. It is up to the people to make justice happen. The time is now.

From "Justice Denied" November 5, 1998

## This Is About Justice

The system says: "This case is about a convicted cop-killer, who has appealed to all kinds of courts and has been unanimously turned down. Now after killing her husband, he and his famous supporters are tormenting the widow of the dead officer. The widow needs closure."

The people answer: NO. This case is about an activist and journalist, a former member of the Black Panther Party—a consistent critic of the Philadelphia Police Department—who was tried, convicted and sentenced to death on the basis of his political beliefs.

Before the incident which left Mumia seriously wounded and police officer William Faulkner dead, Mumia had been singled out and threatened by Philadelphia Mayor Frank Rizzo for his coverage of the police department's war on the MOVE organization. The Philadelphia police department—famous for its murderous brutality and corruption—was out to get Mumia. From the days when then-police chief Frank Rizzo forced the Black Panthers to strip at gunpoint to the 1985 bombing of the MOVE house that killed 11 people and destroyed a whole Black neighborhood—this police department has been known for racist brutality and for being liars and framers. More than 140 cases in Philadelphia have been dismissed in the past several years for prosecutorial and police fabrication of evidence.

In Mumia's case:

**THE JUDGE**, the most pro-police judge in Philadelphia who has sent more people to death row than any sitting judge in America—refused to let Mumia defend himself, removed Mumia from the courtroom and saddled him with a lawyer he didn't want.

**THE JURY** was empanelled only after 11 qualified African-Americans were removed by the prosecution—a racist practice that was taught to Philadelphia prosecutors using a special videotape.

**THE PROSECUTION** suppressed evidence, threatened witnesses, and used Mumia's history in the Black Panthers and his political beliefs as an argument for the death penalty—a practice later condemned as unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

What is at stake here is not closure, but justice. In the name of "victim's rights" and "closure," there is a move to rush through the executions of over 3,000 people now on death row with absolutely no regard for justice. Yet in case after case, once attention and resources are brought in, these people are found to be innocent. More than 75 people nationwide have had death row convictions overturned in the last few years. More than 386 homicide cases have been reversed in the past three decades for prosecutorial misconduct.

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal cannot be separated from the whole history of Black people in this country. It cannot be separated from their situation today. And it cannot be separated from their future.

This society has a tradition of threatening, silencing, exiling, imprisoning and assassinating its Black opponents. In this, the case of Mumia comes in a long line stretching from Nat Turner, DuBois, Garvey and Robeson, through Robert Williams and Malcolm X, down to Fred Hampton, George Jackson, the MOVE family, and countless others. But since the days of slavery, the U.S. government has not dared to legally execute a prominent Black revolutionary.

Mumia has been given a legal death sentence for his activities and beliefs. He has grown to international stature since his death penalty. He has been fearless and steadfast in the face of the death chamber and he has attracted support worldwide. We can't let this system kill Mumia Abu-Jamal.

# Carl Dix: Escalate the Struggle for Mumia Abu-Jamal

IT'S TIME TO ESCALATE our struggle and stop the state from executing our comrade brother Mumia. As it was in August 1995, the main thing standing between the state's murderous hand and Mumia's life is our struggle. The October 29 unanimous ruling by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to reject Mumia's appeal of an unjust conviction is a burning outrage, and a dangerous threat to Mumia's life. It signals that high levels of the government have decided to press ahead with their legal assassination of this revolutionary. We must meet this menacing move by the authorities with the most diverse and determined resistance, and **URGENTLY.**

We won't let the system commit the crime of stealing Mumia's life from us. They have already stolen 17 years of his youth. Mumia's railroad concentrates the **WHOLE HISTORY** and **PRESENT REALITY** of the way Black people have been fucked over by the capitalistic power structure in this country. His is the story of every Black man, woman and child who has suffered the foul treatment by racist courts, judges, cops and media that is called justice in Amerikkka.

Revolutionaries like Mumia must not be silenced or killed for their beliefs but

must be defended. Mumia's story is that of an unrepentant voice for justice and liberation for ALL those victimized by the Amerikkkan nightmare. His is the story of how the U.S. government deals with political opponents, especially revolutionaries who love and are loved by those on the bottom of this society. Just like the slaveowners who killed rebel slaves to stop them from infecting others with their message of freedom, the current rulers of this country want to murder Mumia to silence his voice.

Mumia has given his heart to the people, and we intend to answer in kind. From age 15 in the Black Panther Party, to lock down in Amerika's deepest hell hole dungeon—death row—Mumia has never turned his back on the people. Keeping it real, right now, means we gotta throw ourselves heart and soul into stopping his execution and continuing the fight to free our brother.

This is a special moment and message to young rebels: Mumia has given a lot of love and inspiration to you—the new generation that the system has criminalized. His heart beats especially for you. His strength has fired up many a young mind with new hopes and dreams of a better future. What happens to Mumia will have

a major effect on what kind of world you're gonna face. In the fight for Mumia's life, you got a glimpse of how these hopes and dreams can take shape when people of all races, from all walks of life, unite to fight the power. In 1995, you got a taste of the power of the people when our righteous struggle stopped the government's hand from killing Mumia—just 10 days before his execution date! Now is the time for your fierce rebel energy to rip and roar and take this battle higher. It's one of those historic moments where the new generation of fighters has to step up and decide the direction of things to come.

The deafening silence of the system's media about this latest turn in Mumia's case tells us just what time it is. It tells us they plan to carry out their cold-blooded murder of Mumia on the QT. We need to bust open this silence as part of our immediate goal in this battle so that Mumia's name and story becomes a household word to millions. Throughout society, the fight to stop the execution of Mumia has to become so powerful that the government feels they have to overturn the Pennsylvania court decision, or else face the anger and disillusionment of millions against their system. We need to turn our neighborhoods, schools and workplaces

into centers of struggle so that millions will come to know Mumia's story and the stakes in fighting for his life, and take an active stand in this battle for justice.

Just what kind of a system would brutalize and torment a courageous and caring brother like Mumia for so many years, and would refuse to deliver justice in the face of a mountain of evidence exposing the state's ragged railroad and proving his innocence? It's a power structure that don't give a damn about the truth or justice, or even abiding by their own rules. It's a dog-eat-dog system that has always used and abused millions and that doesn't deserve to exist. It's a hateful system that will never change and must be overthrown by mass armed revolution.

To get to the point when we can bring an end to this evil system means we can't let them crush our hope. It means we can't let the oppressor murder our revolutionary heroes and leaders. It means when the system throws down a challenge as they're doing with Mumia's life, we got to pick up the challenge and put their murdering plans on the run. This is the only way we can build up the people's strength and organization for the future showdown with the system and put ourselves in the best position to win. □



Special to the RWOR

Youth marching through Philadelphia, 1996

## Fighting for the Future

We've followed Mumia's case and can't comprehend why he's still on death row. The transparent intentions of the powers-that-be in the justice system that imprisons Mumia are a smack in the face to us. Who do they think they are to try and kill this man right in front of us?

A 24 year-old activist against the death penalty from Richmond, Virginia

There's a sense of urgency. If you don't get involved Mumia's going to die. I guess he's sort of a role model, too. He's so courageous and brave. Man, I can't imagine being on death row, being in prison and still writing all the time. I just have a deep amount of respect for him....

A 17 year-old woman in West Philadelphia

Mumia, to me, represents the past merging with the present, his involvement with the Black Panthers and the political activism that's going on now.

A 20 year-old student at Hofstra University whose parents are from the Caribbean

Mumia is the exception and the rule. He's an exceptional writer and revolutionary. But he's also the rule in the sense that he concentrates so much of what literally millions of Black people and other oppressed peoples go through under this system... he gives those people voice and dignity, something that goes right in the face of everything that this system is about. He's been bold about that and he's never backed down and that's why those in the power structure hate him. And whether or not we let them kill Mumia will help determine how soon we can get this system off our backs and put it in its grave so we don't have to live in a world where the pigs shoot us in the back, the courts lock us up and the ruling class exploit us day in and day out without even thinking twice about it.

A member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade

It's obviously going to take a huge, huge public outcry. It is going to have to sort of become a general topic of discussion in communities throughout the country, and when I say that I mean a broad array of communities, whether it be in the Asian community or the white community, whatever. But it also has to be taken up in the Black community.... I think that they in particular really need to rally behind this man who's been a pillar of strength and a pillar of freedom-fighting for them since the time he was 14 years old. I think that in general there is going to have to be massive public outcry with massive discussions about Mumia. That probably is the only way. The power of the people.

Youth and Student Coordinator of October 22nd Coalition to Stop Police Brutality

We're prepared to do whatever it takes to stop the execution. This is like our major priority because frankly there wouldn't be a youth network of Refuse & Resist! if it wasn't for Mumia Abu-Jamal at this point. He's the person who inspired most of us.

A member of Refuse & Resist Youth Network

The assassination of Malcolm X or the Panthers and other people who were taken down by COINTELPRO, it was done in the silence or in the dark. But they're trying to take Mumia away in front of us. Literally millions of us have the chance to get in front of the bullet this time and that's very significant. I think it's going to take millions and I think ultimately it's not a court's decision, but it's the people's decision and the people will decide what happens. It's going to depend on what we do in the end.

Student at Vassar College



## Special Mumia Web Page at RW Online

[www.mcs.net/~rwor](http://www.mcs.net/~rwor)

Check in for the latest analysis, news and reports on actions Available at RW Online in English and Spanish:

- The Folly of Calling the FBI, by Mumia Abu-Jamal, April 18, 1999
- The People Will Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, by C. Clark Kissinger, April 11, 1999
- Legalized Cop Violence, by Mumia Abu-Jamal, March 28, 1999
- Higher Learning II: Talking About Mumia in Oakland Schools, by Alan Goodman, March 21, 1999
- New York Town Hall: A Night for Mumia, March 14, 1999
- Taking the Stage for Mumia: The Rage Concert and the Controversy, by C.J., Feb. 7, 1999
- Reporter's Notebook: Freeing Mumia, Changing the World, by Debbie Lang, Jan. 31, 1999
- Rage Concert for Mumia Draws Enemy Fire, January 31, 1999
- Higher Learning: Mumia Shakes Up Oakland Schools, Jan. 24, 1999
- From the Ivory Tower to Death Row: On the Battlefield for Mumia, Jan. 10, 1999
- European Parliament Opposes Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Dec. 27, 1998
- Some Pointed Questions for Sam Donaldson, by C. Clark Kissinger, Dec. 20, 1998
- Escalate the Struggle for Mumia Abu-Jamal: A Message from Carl Dix, Nov. 15, 1998
- Analysis of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Decision on Mumia Abu-Jamal by C. Clark Kissinger, Nov. 15, 1998
- Mumia's Legal Team Files for a Rehearing in PA Supreme Court, Nov. 15, 1998
- Mumia has helped inspire and bring forward a new generation of fighters, by Carl Dix, Nov. 8, 1998
- A Statement from Death Row, SCI-Greene, Waynesburg, PA, by Mumia Abu-Jamal, October 31, 1998
- Philadelphia: Running with the Freedom Summer Youth, by Debbie Lang, July 26, 1998
- Media Lies Exposed in the Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal—KGO-TV Report: A Case Study in Irresponsible Journalism, by C. Clark Kissinger and Leonard Weinglass, June 28, 1998
- Amnesty International Visits Mumia Abu-Jamal, Dec. 7, 1997
- Thoughts on Mumia's *Death Blossoms*, by Li Onesto, April 20, 1997
- The Frame-Up of Mumia Abu-Jamal: New Witness Links Mumia Railroad to Police Corruption Scandal, March 23, 1997

RW Online also features important information for the struggle to free all political prisoners in the USA—including Leonard Peltier, Puerto Rican Independentistas, Sundiata Acoli and the MOVE 9.

All the articles in this special Mumia magazine are available online.

**INFORMATION AS WEAPONRY!**

### Upcoming events in the fight to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal:

July 4, 1999, Philadelphia—weekend of protest

Philly Freedom Summer

September 11, 1999: MUMIA 911: A National Day of Art to Stop the Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal

September 19-25: national week of Justice For Mumia

For more information contact:

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### Shine the Light of Revolution Behind the Prison Walls — Buy a RW Sub for a Prisoner!

The Prisoners Revolutionary Literature Fund (PRLF) gets a constant flow of requests from prisoners for subscriptions to the *Revolutionary Worker* and for other revolutionary literature. As much as the PRLF wants and tries to, it does not have the money to fill many of these requests from prisoners. One prisoner recently wrote to the PRLF:

*"I am incarcerated at \*\*\*\* in New York State. There are 21 men on my company and we have a study group among ourselves. We have some good materials like Selected Works of Lenin and Selected Works of Mao Tsetung and the Little Red Book. I am wondering if you could help us out with a subscription of the Revolutionary Worker. This would really be a great help for our study group. We've been wanting to receive the RW for a long time now but none of us can afford it. We just don't have the money."*

The \$40 you send to PRLF will supply a prisoner like this correspondent—and who knows how many others—with the paper for a year. Often, a single copy of the paper behind bars is shared by a study group or passed around hand-to-hand. Your contribution will put penetrating exposures of the system, a life-line to the revolutionary movement, and a vision of a different future in the hands of the brothers and sisters behind bars.

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# Chicago: On the Line at the Brigade House

A cold biting rain fell throughout Friday morning, April 16, as a crowd of people gathered on the steps of 1142 N. Orleans. Two days earlier a Chicago city official came by the building—known to many as the Brigade House—to deliver an ultimatum to the members of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade who live there. Get out by Friday 'cause the building's coming down. The Brigade's response was firm: We're not gonna be moved! From dawn to dusk, dozens came by to support the Brigade and take a stand. The mood grew tense when the gas company came to cut off the gas, and police and security arrived as backup. But by evening, the deadline had come and gone. The residents hadn't moved. The sheriffs hadn't come. 1142 still stood.

As RW readers are aware, there has been a growing fight against the attempts by the city of Chicago to tear down 1142 N. Orleans. The Brigade House—with a big sign in the front window defiantly stating "Stop Urban Cleansing"—is the sole standing structure in an empty lot filled with the rubble of recently demolished churches, residences and small businesses. It's located at the edge of Cabrini-Green, a public housing development on the near north side of Chicago. The City and the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) have targeted the people of Cabrini for demolition of their homes and dispersal of their community. The powers want to turn this whole area into a profitable "gentrified" neighborhood, while breaking up what they see as a dangerous concentration of poor people near the center of the city.

The City and CHA have openly targeted 12 Cabrini-Green highrise buildings for demolition. Last week three more buildings were added to the hit list. They have already emptied out nine Cabrini highrises and taken the wrecking ball to four of them, along with demolishing many other buildings in the nearby neighborhood. All this is part of a national government plan to eliminate public housing. 100,000 units have been targeted for demolition by the year 2000—and 18,000 of them are in Chicago. For Cabrini-Green, this people-removal plan will mean wiping a community of poor and working class Black families clean off the map—to be replaced by more of the high-priced homes that have been sprouting up all over the Near Northside area. "Ethnic cleansing," Chicago-style.

1142 N. Orleans has stood squarely in the way of these plans. The authorities insist that demolishing 1142 will allow them to expand nearby Seward Park and "serve the community." But many Cabrini residents ask, "whose community?" This neighborhood was neglected and left to deteriorate by the power structure—until they began to eye it as a source of profit.

Now, new stores are going up and the park is being expanded—while most nearby Cabrini highrises have already been boarded up or demolished. The City's justification for wanting to tear down the Brigade House is contradicted by the president of Seward Park's Advisory Council, who recently said that keeping the building as a landmark would be an "enhancement." Others say that 1142 should be preserved because of its historical significance; major civil rights leader Medgar Evers stayed there on his trips to the city. The President of the Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council offered to work with the residents of 1142 to make the house into an African American history museum.

And 1142 has been a base of operations for the Brigade activists—to join with Cabrini residents in fighting urban cleansing and police brutality and bring the message of revolution into the projects.

The struggle for 1142 has struck a chord with people facing and fighting "urban cleansing"—in Cabrini and throughout Chicago. Scenes from the daily support vigils tell a part of the story. A Black man in a wheelchair rolls by and throws up a fist. Father Michael Yasutake—survivor of the U.S. concentration camps for Japanese-Americans and advocate for political prisoners—speaks at a morning press conference. A group of Cabrini teens stand on the steps—one young sister promising to "open up a can of whup-ass on them sheriffs" if they showed up to evict the Brigade. After helping to keep an all-night watch, two young white women take their place early morning on the front steps of 1142. Gretchen says, "The last couple of years the city has been on this crusade against poor people and against public housing... just pushing everybody else out to god knows where. It's gotta be stopped." James, a resident of Cabrini for 28 years, stops by one day: "I live here. My family lives here. My great grandma lived here. Her sisters lived here. This is our homes. This is about us. We don't have nowhere to go... All they have to do is fix the place up, but they want to put us out onto the streets. We're fighting for our right to live."

Many who have come in support have brought their own battle stories. An older Black couple who stopped by one day were friends of the former owner of 1142. The woman spoke bitterly about being forced to leave her home in a nearby Cabrini highrise—put out so fast when the CHA closed her building that many of her possessions still remain boarded up inside. Community activists have brought news of the struggle in Chicago's West Town community—where armed city building inspectors went around "checking" units in two low-income housing developments and a housing activist had her car torched. A college professor spoke on the struggle to save



Vigil in front of the Brigade House, April 13.

Photo: Carmen Casas

what's left of historic Maxwell Street—once home to hundreds of street vendors and weekend blues jams, but now choice meat for developers and powerful private institutions. A representative from the League of Filipino Students drew a line from 1142 all the way to the housing struggles in the Philippines, where 80 percent of the people are extremely poor and shanty homes are built on garbage dumps.

The struggle over 1142 has broken through the usual media blackout—getting coverage in the local mainstream press and on TV news and radio shows. It's become a topic of debate on a local radio station website. The host of the website said he was drawn by the "idealism" of the activists.

At this point, the City faces no legal restrictions on evicting the Brigade from 1142 and demolishing the house. The lease on the house expired on March 31. A housing court judge ruled that the City could take possession of the building, but issued a few stays of eviction—the latest one expiring on April 13. On that day, an appeals court refused to extend the stay.

Police have kept the house under surveillance, at times harassing residents through the night. On April 16, the City sent the gas company out to turn off the gas to 1142. Work was halted after a Brigade member sat down next to the spot where the gas company was drilling. As we go to press, an eviction attempt could come down any time.

The Brigade members and supporters have made clear their determination to resist the powers and defend the building in the interest of the people. Grant from the RCYB said, "We are carrying out the will of the Cabrini-Green community and the larger community of Black and poor people in the near north side by staying here to keep this building from being torn down... Cabrini-Green represents public housing nationwide. And the plan to eliminate Cabrini-Green and the whole neighborhood must be stopped no matter what it takes. We are taking the firm stand of staying here and saying, 'We will not be moved'—in order to defend Cabrini-Green public housing and all low income housing."

The courage and strength of the Brigade members at 1142 have been a real example

and inspiration to many others. They have united with many people to draw a clear dividing line—between the cold-blooded officials and greedy capitalists on one side, and the oppressed people and their allies on the other. Their fearless stand—in the face of all that the other side has thrown at them—has shown that the people can fight against the injustices of this system. □

## Open Letter to Mayor Daley

*Sarah Klepner, a member of the Defense Committee for 1142 N. Orleans and a former Chicago Commons Americorps member, wrote an open letter to Mayor Daley. Sarah has a degree in philosophy from Rutgers University. Following is an excerpt from that letter:*

I approach you in this letter as one individual to another, while acknowledging our obvious differences. I am 25 years younger, and vastly less familiar with the workings of this City than you. I am, however, surely more familiar with the people in this city who are leading the least and less comfortable lives.

We all value our comfort—in fact, I'd say we place a premium on it. I, for one, am not comfortable being comfortable while others are not. My subsequent concern for the comfort of others has led to my involvement with the case of the building at 1142 N. Orleans.

I and the others who are defying the city's order to vacate the building do so out of concern for the dwindling supply of affordable and public housing in Chicago because it clearly threatens the minimum comfort of thousands of people. This threat does not seem to hit home with those who are working to gentrify the Near North side...

Gentrification does not happen like the wind blows. There are people making it happen among which are those who stand to profit from the process. I'm referring to the people in the upper management of the companies involved in the sale of high priced housing; folks who are already very comfortable.

The people pushing gentrification are displaying a severe lack of empathy for their fellow human beings. They are participants in a situation where those who are already comfortable are getting more comfortable, and those who are the least comfortable are losing some of what little comfort they have.

"Justice means right, fair and equitable." This situation as it is heading is unjust and we are dedicated to a stand for justice. Segregation was unjust, and people broke the law to stand for justice. In this case, eviction will be resisted to stand for justice... It seems hard to argue that this is anything other than a case of the "almighty dollar" driving people from their homes, an injustice which we urge anyone with an ounce of empathy to join us in preventing. □



Vigil in front of the Brigade House, April 16.

RWOR photo

# Berkeley: The Fight Over KPFA Radio

On Thursday, April 15, some 700 people jammed Martin Luther King Way in front of KPFA radio in Berkeley—closing off the entire block. It was the station's 50th anniversary, but people weren't there to celebrate. They were there to protest the recent firings of popular station manager Nicole Sawaya and long-time broadcaster Larry Bensky.

Many KPFA staffers spoke out, together with well-known community figures including poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti, musician Country Joe MacDonald, Berkeley City Council member Maudelle Shirek, and Barbara Lubin of the Middle East Children's Alliance. "I'm an objective journalist," declared Dennis Bernstein, host and producer of the popular KPFA news show Flashpoints. "And my objective is to bring back Nicole Sawaya!"

The firings have shocked thousands of listeners and sparked an open revolt by KPFA's staff. Throughout the day KPFA's airwaves resonated with protest. People are very worried that KPFA is being turned into a clone of National Public Radio—which has a veneer of independence and non-commercialism, but in reality stays safely within the framework of the system's spin on the news and doesn't include oppositional, radical or revolutionary perspectives.

## A Rainbow of Voices Over the Airwaves

KPFA was founded in 1949 by pacifists who refused to fight in World War 2. It has since grown into the Pacifica Radio Network, which includes KPFA-Berkeley, KPFA-Los Angeles, KPFA-Houston, WBAI-New York, and WPFW-Washington, DC. The Network's stated mission includes promotion of cultural diversity and understanding between nations and races, and being a forum for different viewpoints. It was the first U.S. radio network supported by listener contributions—not cor-

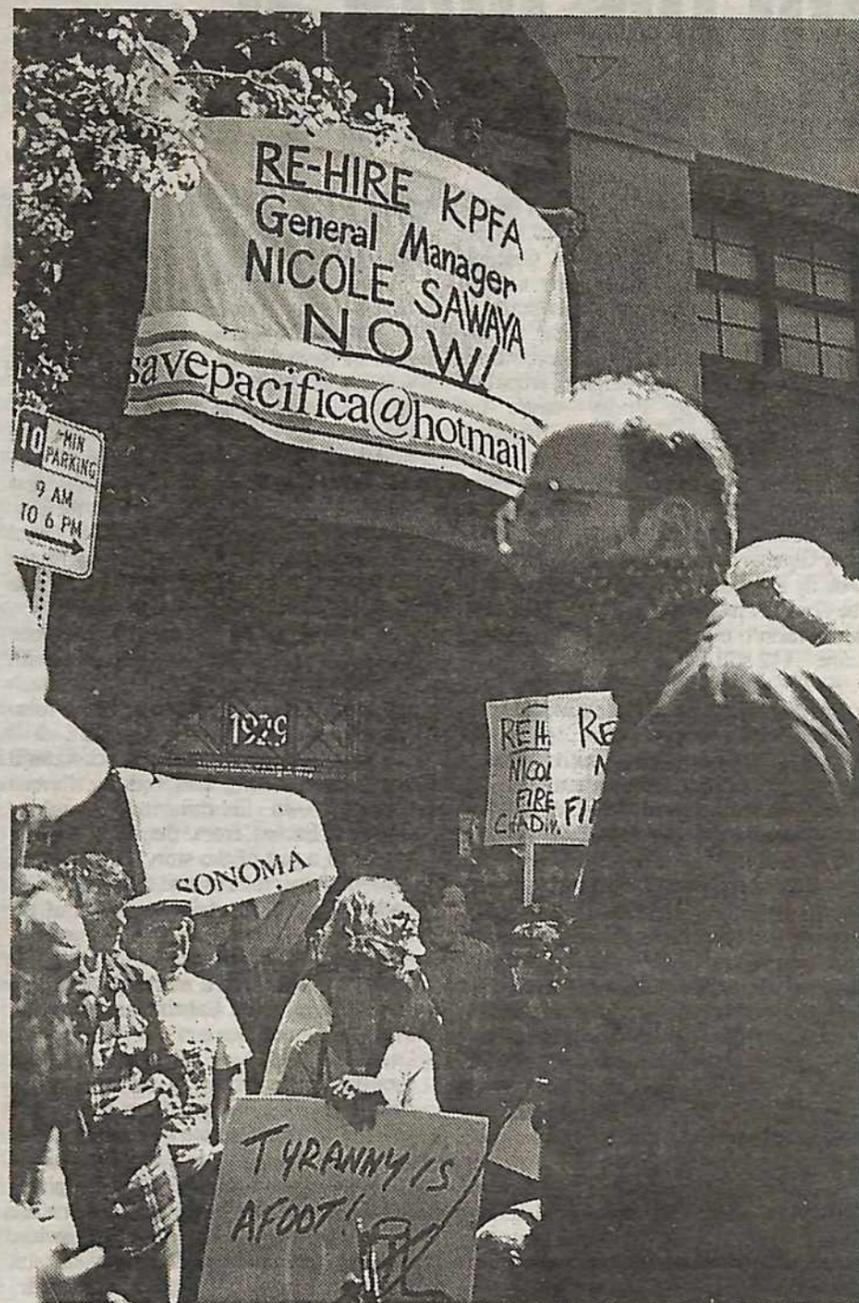
porate advertising or foundation money. Today, 80 percent of its funds come from its 70,000 members nationwide.

Over the years Pacifica stations have aired a variety of music, culture, lifestyle, news and discussion programs, including some that have been in the thick of the people's struggles. In 1967 KPFA sent the first U.S. journalist to North Vietnam and broadcast one of the first interviews with Huey Newton of the Black Panther Party. In recent years, Pacifica stations have given extensive coverage to the case of imprisoned revolutionary journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, as well as struggles against police brutality and U.S. wars in Iraq and now the Balkans. In times of crisis and war, many in the Bay Area turn to KPFA as an important source of opposition and truth in the desert of distortion and lies spewed out by the mainstream media.

Dennis Bernstein told the *RW*, "One of the extraordinary things about KPFA is the rainbow of voices of different angles and nuances and beliefs—from the *Revolutionary Worker* to whatever you think is the liberal wing—*The Nation* or the *Christian Science Monitor* or the *New York Times*. We even interview people from the *New York Times*—imagine that! But it's all about the open flow of information on free speech radio and keeping that going."

## A Fight for the Soul of Pacifica

Over the last decade there has been an increasingly sharp struggle over Pacifica's overall direction, as some top administrators have tried to pull Pacifica toward the political mainstream, greater central control, and more reliance on media "professionals" and government funding. This past February Pacifica's governing National Board voted to prohibit members of local station advisory boards from serving on the National Board—despite much protest. According to the group Take Back KPFA, the change means the Board will be "self-selecting," "self-perpetuating" and



Protest in front of KPFA, April 15.

"accountable to no one."

There are different analyses of what's behind these changes. There's certainly personal ambition and careerism within the National Board at work. But more important is the behind-the-scenes maneuvering by forces tied to the highest levels of government. Mary Frances Berry is the chairperson of both Pacifica's Executive Board and Clinton's Civil Rights Commission. The National Board has growing ties to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Its president, Robert Coonrod, was previously the deputy director of the Voice of America (VOA), an arm of U.S. imperialist foreign policy. And Pacifica Board member Roberta Brooks is an aide to Democratic Party Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

In this period of rapid change and potentially great upheaval here and around the world, these forces are intent on suffocating opposition to the U.S.'s many crimes and limiting debate to terms acceptable to the system. Today one in five people in the U.S. lives within broadcast range of a Pacifica station, and the powers-that-be don't want them to be able to spin the dial to radical, oppositional radio.

## Firings Spark Protest

Pacifica's Executive National Director Lynn Chadwick fired Sawaya on March 31 without warning or explanation. Chadwick even tried to prevent KPFA's news department from reporting on Sawaya's termination. "Internal Pacifica issues and management decisions are not news," Chadwick declared.

This triggered the first open and united revolt by KPFA's staff in recent memory. Programmers defied Pacifica's "gag rule," which forbids them from discussing Pacifica affairs on air. The statement by the staff said in part: "The staff at KPFA unanimously demands the return of Nicole and independent mediation of the dispute." A few days later, on April 2, 150 rallied outside KPFA in protest. Six programmers

were disciplined by Pacifica for speaking out.

Kris Welsh, long-time host of the Morning Show, told the *RW*, "What is at stake is accountability and representation. There isn't local control or local access or any say at all about these decisions." Jesse "Chuy" Varela, the host of *La Onda Bajita*, said, "Nicole had a very progressive vision. She was a friend who talked to you like a human being, not an employee. That's where we have to get back to—deal people to people, cause to cause, issue by issue. *La lucha continua!*"

On April 4, Larry Bensky devoted 17 minutes of his Sunday Salon program to criticizing the Sawaya firing and countering Chadwick's explanations. Two days later, Chadwick announced that Bensky had been fired—after 30 years at Pacifica—for violating the gag rule.

These repressive tactics have generated much outrage. Bensky told the *RW*, "The support has been overwhelming. We've had thousands of people writing e-mails and faxes and telephone calls to Pacifica's management." The Berkeley City Council passed a resolution supporting Sawaya and Bensky. KPFA's 50th Anniversary Committee disbanded in protest, and its local advisory board has also questioned the firings. Radical professors Noam Chomsky of MIT, Edward S. Herman of the University of Pennsylvania and Howard Zinn of Boston University and the group Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting (FAIR) have publicly criticized the firings.

The battle is continuing. On May 6 a program to support "free speech radio" will be held at the Berkeley Community Theater, featuring writer Salman Rushdie. People opposed to the firing and the direction of Pacifica are urging KPFA listeners and supporters to continue the protests. Save Pacifica has a website at [savepacifica.cjb.net](http://savepacifica.cjb.net), or they can be contacted through e-mail at: [savepacificahotmail.com](mailto:savepacificahotmail.com). □

Reporters' Notebook

# New York: Thousands March Against Police Brutality

The struggle of the people against police brutality has grown so strong since the murder of Amadou Diallo that a major crisis has developed in New York City. Tens of thousands of people have been involved in protests. Officials openly worry about the possibility of a major rebellion. Over 1,200 protesters were arrested at police headquarters—including nearly every Black and Latino elected official in the city and many on the state level. There is intense infighting among different sections of the ruling class which has created new openings for the people.

On April 15 the largest demonstration yet took place, organized by local and state Democratic Party leaders calling themselves "New Yorkers for Law, Order, Peace and Justice." This coalition put forward a program to "reform" the police department. Their "10 Point Diallo Action Plan" calls for independent prosecutors and investigators for police brutality and corruption; training cops in "racial and cultural sensitivity," more minority and women cops; pay raises and benefit increases for cops; an end to the infamous 48-hour rule that gives cops time to get their lie together after killing or beating someone; an end to the use of hollow point bullets; and Justice Department monitoring of police misconduct around the country.

As the *RW* has written: "Say it plain: the problem is police murder and brutality, repression, and the criminalization of an entire generation of Black, Latino and other oppressed youth...this is about mad dog cops who are trained to murder with impunity in every city and state in this country and who are backed up by almost all their fellow cops whenever they do, backed up by the mayors and the courts, and not only that, backed up by Clinton himself! There have been thousands of police murders just since 1990, most of which have been covered up. These are not isolated incidents of 'a few bad police officers,' and these are not 'unfortunate accidents'—these are STOLEN LIVES, and there must be no more."

Over 10,000 people marched from the Brooklyn courthouse, over the Brooklyn Bridge, to the federal building in Manhattan. The most striking thing about the April 15 demonstration was the many different kinds of people who took part. Actor Ossie Davis emceed. Speakers included entertainers Harry Belafonte and Dick Gregory and Hugh Price of the National Urban League. Black scholar and author Cornel West was there. Heading up the march were Saikou Diallo, Amadou Diallo's father, and many other parents whose children had been murdered by the police. There were thousands of union members and members of different religious groups from across the city. Many nationalities and all ages were represented. Community groups, taxi drivers, housing and animal rights activists, anarchists, Dominican and Haitian groups all took part. A lot of people at this demonstration were middle class or better-paid unionized workers. Some were activists, but others had never been to a protest before.

There were contingents from the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, the October 22nd Coalition To Stop Police Brutality, Repression and the Criminalization of a Generation, ACT-UP, National Action Center, Refuse & Resist!, Jews for Racial and Economic Justice, Brooklyn Green Party, National Action Network, South Asians Against Police Brutality, Audre Lord Project and the Black Radical Congress. A group from Hunter College Student Liberation Action Movement held up a stuffed pig and chanted: "Pigs, pigs, pigs can't fly. Shoot that swine right out of the sky!" The Irish Coalition Against Police Brutality carried signs comparing the NYPD to the cops in Ulster, Northern Ireland.

Many white people at the march said they felt a particular responsibility to take a stand against police brutality. A woman from Hunter College with the Social Workers Action Coalition said, "I don't have the same experience as men of color in New York City who I think are more the

targets of racial profiling in New York and other parts of the country." She came to the march because, "Giuliani is a tyrant and his really disruptive, oppressive and racist policies need to be challenged. And people need to come together like they are today to resist them and demonstrate that we're not going to put up with it anymore."

Activists linked the struggle against police brutality to other battles against the system. In particular, there were hundreds of signs opposing the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

People had a real sense of optimism, an understanding that their struggle has begun to change the whole atmosphere in the city. Grace Tubman, who works with the Free Mumia Coalition and Refuse & Resist!, said, "I've seen people who just usually don't come out for these kinds of demonstrations... It's extremely heartening because I think that people are beginning to see that so, so many people are concerned and that it's almost like you're out of it if you're not taking part in these demonstrations."

There were many Jewish people at the march, including a large contingent from Jews for Racial and Economic Justice. A young man marching with the contingent talked about his reaction to the murder of Amadou Diallo: "Shocked, horrified. I kept thinking how can you fire 41 times without noticing that the guy doesn't have a gun? How can you fire 41 times at all?" He had a message to people in the Black and Latino neighborhoods: "Don't give up hope. Not everyone is like that, and the rest of us are starting to notice what's going on. Sorry it took so long." A young woman with the contingent added, "We don't want this done in our name and we want to reach out and work against this abuse together."

A Black woman in her 40s said, "I'm glad to see a lot of people of different ages and ethnic backgrounds—Jewish, Koreans, all people. I'm very happy to see this because it gets to a point where you have to say enough is enough.... I'm here in support of everybody that is going through an injustice. I'm here in support of these families that have cried and grieved, those families that came to the forefront to try to tell us what was going on... Diallo is the last and ultimate sacrifice. It is the last and ultimate wakeup call that we will get."

The struggle continues. On Monday, April 19, the Stolen Lives Project will hold an event at the Washington Square Methodist Church to add the names of Amadou Diallo, Tyisha Miller, Brennan King and other recent victims to the list of those whose lives were stolen by the police. The new edition of the Stolen Lives book, due to be published in June, will have more than 2,000 cases and circumstances of lives stolen by law enforcement in this country. **No More Stolen Lives!**



The march crossing the Brooklyn Bridge into Manhattan.



New York City, April 15

**Revolutionary Worker salutes  
all the brave resisters of April 24!**

# MILLIONS FOR MUMIA

**Mumia Is All of Us**



Special to the RWOR

**Saturday, April 24, 1999  
Philadelphia  
San Francisco  
Throughout the World**

Revolutionary political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal is on death row. He was framed on charges of killing a Philadelphia cop, and sentenced to death for his political beliefs. Last October, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court denied Mumia's appeal for a new trial—a clear sign that the government has made a political decision to press ahead with plans to execute Mumia.

We cannot let the powers-that-be take Mumia from us—he is precious to the oppressed and all those who hunger for justice. It is up to the people to step up the struggle and make it clear to the government: WE WON'T LET THEM KILL MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!

On April 24, Mumia's birthday, in Philadelphia and other cities around the world, a massive outpouring of people will demand: Stop the Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal!

**Initiating organizations include:**

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal  
Academics for Mumia  
Bruderhof  
Campaign to End the Death Penalty  
Critical Resistance  
Jericho Movement  
Million Women March National & Universal Movement  
Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal  
National Afrikan Liberation Front  
National People's Campaign  
New York Free Mumia Coalition  
People's Video Network  
Refuse & Resist!

Individual and organizations are asked to add their names to the list of endorsers. Send endorsements to:

**International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal**

Box 19709, Philadelphia, PA 19143  
Tel: 215-476-8812; Fax: 215-476-7551

**Millions for Mumia Mobilization**  
39 W 14th St., #206, NY, NY 10011  
Tel: 212-633-6646

