



Free Mumia! An Appeal to Labor

“Jailhouse stool pigeons, jury tampering, jury fixing, paid criminals for perjured testimonies, the manufacturing of evidence by police departments, the lies in the seat of the government itself. That is what Mumia Abu-Jamal is in prison for. That's what I was in prison for.” — *Hurricane Rubin Carter*

On December 9, 1981 the Philadelphia police tried to murder prize-winning journalist, revolutionary, and father Mumia Abu-Jamal. The police shot and beat Mumia, almost killing him. For the last 19 years the police and courts have been trying to finish the job, but this time legally by claiming he killed officer Dan Faulkner.

Why should workers support and actively defend Mumia Abu-Jamal? Mumia earned the name voice of the voiceless for his tireless exposure of police violence and attacks on working people, especially in the African American community. The politicians and police hated Mumia because he never let them off the hook. The police, the D.A. and Judge Sabo worked to withhold witnesses and evidence helpful to Mumia; racially pack the jury; provide phony witnesses; force false testimony from witnesses; falsify evidence; and deny Mumia his right to choose his own representation.

Mumia supports workers struggles on the job. When 20/20 did a “special” on Mumia’s case in 1998 they asked Mumia if he wanted to appear to speak on his own behalf. This could have been his last opportunity to present his story and break 19 years of lies with his own voice. With NABET on strike against ABC, however, Mumia refused to cross the picket line. Mumia said, “I’d rather die than cross that picket line.” Sam Donaldson, who hosted the special, written under the advisement of the very Fraternal Order of Police seeking Mumia’s death, scabbed.

On April 24, 1999, the ILWU shut down all 30 Pacific Coast ports in support of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Based on rank and file initiative, this strike faced down hostile management and lasted the whole day shift. Long shore workers in England, Cyprus, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Japan sent solidarity messages. On April 23, in Rio, Brazil, 100,000 teachers stopped work for 2 hours to support Mumia.

In New York City, Workers for Mumia organized labor contingents. The Health and Hospital Workers Local 1199

turned out in large numbers. In San Francisco, 200-300 ILWU members headed a crowd of 20,000, chanting “An Injury To One Is An Injury To All. Free Mumia Abu-Jamal.” The San Francisco and Alameda County Labor Council, plus the California Federation of Labor endorsed the demonstration. In Chicago, the Chicago Teachers’ Union has passed a resolution demanding a new trial for Mumia.

As early as 1995, the Bay Area Typographical Union Local 21 passed a resolution demanding Mumia’s freedom. Since then, organized teachers, postal workers, writers, transit workers, carpenters, hotel and restaurant workers and boatmen have all demanded either a new trial and/or Mumia’s immediate freedom. Internationally, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, and its food and metal workers affiliates, the Transport and General Workers Union in London, a section of the French General Confederation of Workers, public employees in Canada and telecommunications workers in Australia represent just a few of the unions demanding justice for Mumia.

The powers-that-be, the politicians, the courts, the cops, and corporate America, do not want Mumia free. The workers of the world have spoken otherwise. Mumia speaks words of liberation and revolt against our poverty and oppression and against their privilege and power. Mumia speaks our language, he is one of our own. If we want to strike a blow against racism and legal lynching, against strike breaking and corporate greed, if we want to strike a blow in our own defense, we will have to organize to free Mumia and free ourselves. Only the organized power of thousands and millions of workers can do this.

An Injury To One Is An Injury To All, Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

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WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We need unions at all levels to pass resolutions supporting Mumia; donating funding to his case and to International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal for organizing, letters and petitions to Judge Yohn and to politicians; we need to build mass demonstrations; we need workers to mobilize themselves and we need to make it clear that killing Mumia will cost them profits and social peace. And the spirit we bring to fighting for Mumia can become a guide to a true New Direction in fighting for a better future for all working people.

RESOLUTION DEMANDING A NEW TRIAL FOR DEATH ROW PRISONER, MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

Whereas the noted African-American journalist and UAW Local 1981 (National Writers Union) member Mumia Abu-Jamal is facing execution in Pennsylvania and

Whereas serious questions have arisen as to whether Mumia received a fair trial, including eye-witnesses who admittedly lied under police pressure, the exclusion of most African-Americans from his jury, the suppression of evidence that favored the defense and the refusal by the court for Mumia to represent himself, among other issues and

Whereas Mumia's appeal for a new trial is now before a Federal judge and has won the support of the entire Congressional Black Caucus, the Detroit City Council, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, author Alice Walker and many other noted individuals and organizations and

Whereas many labor unions, committed to social, racial and economic justice, have called for a new trial;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Detroit Federation of Teachers goes on record supporting the call for a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal and urges Federal Judge Yohn to grant an evidentiary hearing in the case. Local union members are urged to help educate the public about this injustice and participate in the Martin Luther King Day rally in Detroit on January 17, 2000 and

Be It Further Resolved that this resolution be forwarded to the AFT's International President, Federal Judge Yohn and attorney Leonard Weinglass.

LABOR'S MILLIONS FOR MUMIA PARTIAL LIST OF LABOR ORGANIZATIONS CALLING FOR NEW TRIAL FOR MUMIA ABU-JAMAL (AS OF MAY, 2000)

Steelworkers Local 8751; Seattle Labor Council International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU); 1199 National Health and Human Services Union/ Service Employees International Union (SEIU); San Francisco Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Labor Party; California Nurses Association; Carpenters Local 713;

Alameda County Central Labor Council (Oakland), AFL-CIO; Oakland Education Association; ILWU Local 10; Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Local 2; Bay Area Typographical Union Local 21; Inlandboatmen's Union of the Pacific; SEIU Local 535; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 829; United Farm Workers; Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU); South San Francisco Teachers Association (California Teachers Association); International Dockworkers Conference; San Jose Plumbers and Fitters Local 393; Mailhandlers Local 300; AFSCME Local 375; AFSCME Local 1930; National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Golden Gate Branch 214; United Auto Workers National Writers Union Local 1981; Painters Local 867; King County Labor Council (Seattle), AFL-CIO; Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, San Francisco and South Bay Chapters, AFL-CIO; Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, San Francisco Chapter, AFL-CIO; SEIU Local 616; American Federation of Teachers Local 3882; South Bay Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 9410; American Postal Workers Union (APWU) San Francisco Local; AFSCME Local 444; California State Executive Board, A. Philip Randolph Institute, AFL-CIO; Pride at Work, AFL-CIO; South Central Federation of Labor, Madison, Wisconsin, AFL-CIO; California Federation of Teachers; Transport Workers Union Local 100; Teamsters Local 921, Newspaper and Periodical Drivers; CWA Local 9423; Office and Professional Employees International Union Local 3; AFSCME Local 328; Farm Labor Organizing Committee, AFL-CIO; San Mateo County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Santa Cruz County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; AFSCME Local 371; ATU Local 241; ATU Local 308; ATU Transit Union Local 732; NALC Branch 2200; Australian Telecommunications Employees Association/ Australian Telephone and Phonogram Officers Association; Canadian Union of Postal Workers (Vancouver); Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 391; Coalition of Black Trade Unionists Region VI; Coalition of Labor Union Women (Chicago); General Confederation of Workers (France); Congress of South African Trade Unions; National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa; South African Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union; Transport & General Workers Union (London, England); IG Medien (Berlin, Germany); National Union of Journalists (London, England and Dublin, Ireland); AFSCME District Council 1707; AFSCME Local 215; SEIU Local 715; SEIU Local 250; APWU Local 711; NALC Branch 3825; AFSCME Local 1072; Sailors Union of the Pacific; Graphic Communications International Union Web Press Workers #4N; Maritime Trades Department, AFL-CIO; Union of Education Workers, State of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil); National Confederation of Education Workers Congress (Brazil); C.G.T.P. Labor Union Federation (Portugal); U.G.T. Labor Union Federation (Portugal); Workers Party (France); CGIL (Italy); CUT (Brazil); UAW Local 417; Ontario Federation of Labor; Canadian Auto Workers; United Teachers of Los Angeles, Canadian Union of Postal Workers; Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation; Detroit Federation of Teachers; California Federation Of Teachers; Plumbers and Fitters Local 393; SEIU International Union; California Public Employees Local 1000; Chicago Teachers Union; SEIU Local