



# MUMIA CHICAGO NEWS

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## U.S. Congressional Black Caucus' Statement on Mumia

*Representatives from the Chicago area who signed this statement include: Congressmen Danny Davis, Jesse Jackson, Jr., and Bobby Rush..*

*Excerpts from the statement:*

**"We are concerned that Mumia Abu-Jamal may have been the victim of a serious miscarriage of justice, there were numerous questionable rulings during his trial that raise the issue of whether there were violations of due process."**

**"It is clear that the treatment of evidence and application of justice in this instance has been at best arbitrary and inconsistent... Justice demands that the federal court system take a fresh look at the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal."**

## Mumia Abu-Jamal Through the Eyes of the Hurricane...

**"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 is what I was in prison for," "Mumia Abu-Jamal is factually innocent. And he's still sitting on death row."**

*—Rubin "Hurricane" Carter*

## Amnesty International Declares Mumia Abu-Jamal's Trial and Death Sentence "Clearly Failed to Meet Minimum International Standards Safeguarding Fairness"

Introducing the 15 part report, Amnesty International-USA's Death Penalty Project Director Sam Jordan said: "Simply put, the task before us is to win a new trial and/or release for Mumia Abu-Jamal."

Speaking of the appeal presently before Philadelphia Federal District Court Judge William H. Yohn, Jordan added "We have to make sure that we know that our target is very specific in the short-term. Len [Weinglass] mentioned about 90 days. This is the most critical 90 days in the last 19 years of Mumias life. ...This is a time for the most direct assertive discussion of the issues involved... We've got the facts and the facts are on our side."

Piers Bannister, Amnesty International's London-based investigator and author of its report said Mumia Abu-Jamal "has become a lightning rod, a symbol for all that is wrong with the death penalty in the United States today."

Bannister believes the report will heighten support for a new trial because of AI's visibility and credibility.

### Among the principal violations of Mumia Abu-Jamal's rights, Amnesty International found:

1. That the Prosecutions claim, central to its case, that Mumia confessed "strains credibility."
2. That Judge Sabo suppressed evidence favorable to Mumia including evidence that witnesses were coerced into falsely testifying against Mumia, and that Sabo "was openly hostile to the defense."
3. That Pennsylvania Supreme Court "may have been unable to impartially adjudicate this controversial case" on account of "strong links between [its members] and the local law enforcement community."
4. That the prosecution successfully maneuvered to keep a representative proportion of African-Americans off the jury.
5. That prosecution prejudicially invoked what it alleged were Mumia's political beliefs in an effort to justify the application of the death penalty.

**The full text of the new Amnesty International report can be found at:**  
<http://www.amnestyusa.org/abolish/reports/mumia/>

**MUMIA ABU-JAMAL** is a prominent and award-winning journalist, past president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, a former Black Panther, and an advocate for MOVE. His fearless reporting of police brutality and eloquent exposure of injustice in the United States are why he has come to be known as the "voice of the voiceless."

Mumia is innocent. In 1981, Mumia was framed and falsely accused of killing a Philadelphia police officer. He never received a fair trial. He has been on death row for over 17 years. A growing world wide movement of supporters believes he was sentenced to death for his political beliefs and must be freed.

### MUMIA'S CURRENT LEGAL SITUATION:

If we act now, Mumia may finally have his day in court. Soon, Federal District Court Judge William H. Yohn will decide whether Mumia Abu-Jamal should be granted an evidentiary hearing, or whether the federal courts will review Mumia's case based solely on the court record developed by Judge Sabo, who put Mumia on death row. This is Mumia Abu-Jamal's last chance to put new evidence, witnesses and expert testimony on the record. The prosecutorial and judicial misconduct of his original trial demands that the suppressed evidence be heard. Justice demands the release of Mumia.

# Chicago Anti-Police Brutality and Wrongfully Convicted Activists on the Importance of the case of Mumia Abu-Jamal

## An Interview with George Morris

*George Morris is an activist in anti-police brutality organizing and is part of the Stolen Lives Project.*

*MN: How did you first hear about Mumia?*

**GM:** I heard about Mumia a long time ago. Something about it was going around in the news, but I didn't really know much about it.

*MN: When did you really get to know about Mumia's case?*

**GM:** After my son was killed by the police. I became active in fighting police brutality and I heard more about his case.

*MN: What do you think makes Mumia important?*

**GM:** Mumia's case is the key to all the struggles against police brutality, wrongful incarceration, and the whole justice system... And he has a lot of people and organizations focused on him worldwide. Out of jail he could finally move freely to wake people up. Imprisoning him is just a way to censor him. He caused the police and city politicians too much trouble, so they are trying to shut him up.

*MN: What do you think about Mumia's current legal situation?*

**GM:** First of all, George W. [Bush] murdered the Beats woman in Texas, Diallo's murderers were found not guilty. They surely won't soft-pedal anything with Mumia... They are on a roll. They want to end it. It's going to be a rough and difficult legal struggle. No emotional sentiment will change how the government feels about Mumia. We are in a power struggle. The battle has to be won in the courts, but it will be fought in the streets.

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## Darby Tillis Supports Mumia

*Darby Tillis was freed from Illinois's Death row on Jan 21, 1987 after a Judge found him not guilty in his 5th trial. Darby spent 8 years on death row in part because Chicago DA's put on testimony they knew had to be false and stopped witnesses from testifying who could exonerate him. Darby Tillis also had to contend with prosecution efforts to keep Blacks off his jury. These are also some of the issues in Mumia's case.*

I've been speaking for Mumia for nine years, beginning at a meeting at the Blackstone Hotel.

One thing which drew me to Mumia's case is that my family is from Philadelphia and I lived there when I was young... my baby brother died in a Philadelphia police station and we never did get any explanation. The police will fake evidence anywhere in the country and the Philadelphia police are no exception.

*Of Mumia's political ideas...*

They are afraid to let him out. He doesn't speak just to Blacks; he speaks to people around the world. More is at stake than the life of one man, that's one of the reasons they don't want him to be free; Mumia will carry a banner for everyone.

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● **Stand with Mumia on his first day in court:** Make plans to go Philadelphia in mid April. Transportation is being organized. Call 773/381-6507 for details.

SEND LETTERS demanding that the evidence be heard to: Judge William H. Yohn, Jr., United States District Court, 2609 United States Courthouse, 601 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106; fax (215) 597-6390 AND SEND A COPY TO US!

## A Statement of Solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal from Gwendolyn Hogan

*Gwendolyn Hogan's husband was murdered by a police officer. Since then, she has become a powerful speaker and an activist in the movement against police brutality.*

We have to fight hard to save Mumia, because Mumia is another example of just how the justice system MURDERS innocent people, from law enforcement, to prosecutors, to judges, to politicians, and the prison systems all over this country. If it was not for the many supporters of Mumia, they would have killed him by now. If Mumia was not exposing all of the wrong doings of these so-called officials I just named, he would not be sitting on death row.

It's only because Mumia has the courage and determination to confront these evil-doers that they concocted a way to shut him up! Just like they have done so many times in the past to outspoken leaders.

If the public, voters, politicians, and citizens all over this country do not stand up and fight for Mumia's life, then this country, and all of it's evil-doers, will continue in a worse way to bring oppression, and injustice to anyone it selects or sees as a threat to their evil ways. They will continue to lie in the courts, obtain false witnesses, create false evidence, take bribes and make bribes for their own self satisfaction.

There should be a public outcry all over this nation for Mumia, because it's Mumia today, and anybody tomorrow!

**WE MUST FIGHT TO FREE MUMIA, FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FUTURE.**

— Gwendolyn Hogan

**International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal (ICFF-MAJ) ● 215/476-8812 ● www.mumia.org**

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