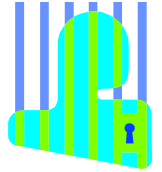


International Workers' Defender

NEWSLETTER OF

WORKERS' EMERGENCY APPEAL NETWORK

VOL. 2, JANUARY 2010



WE ARE ALL MUMIA!

AN EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS ACTIONS TO FREE Mumia Abu-Jamal!

TO THE WORKERS OF THE WORLD:

Time is getting short. The bosses' courts have removed another barrier to Mumia's execution. We must launch an International Workers Campaign for Mumia's Freedom immediately.

Mumia Abu Jamal, wrongly convicted of the murder Officer Daniel Faulkner on the streets of Philadelphia, has been on Death Row now approaching three decades.

Much of the effort to free Mumia has been directed to legal defense work, and disseminating the evidence that his kangaroo court trial was run by a racist judge, a faithful servant of imperialism, intent on removing one of the most ardent advocates for the working class and poor from his political work. But even in prison Mumia has steadfastly fought for the interest of the working class, writing and commenting from his cell to voice his opposition to imperialism's barbarism. His radio addresses can be heard at: <http://prisonradio.org/mumia.htm>

We fight for Mumia on both the legal and political front. Alongside the legal defense, the workers' movement, and the movement of the oppressed have periodically held street actions and forums to keep up the pressure. The most powerful and exemplary action, showing the method that can free Mumia, was the ILWU Local 10 political strike along the west coast of the U.S. on April 24, 1999. On May 1, 1999, the call of the ILWU was taken up across the globe as teachers in Brazil took to the streets for Mumia, and millions of workers across the globe registered their support for Mumia at the May Day marches and rallies the following week.

ILWU Local 10: Lead Another Political Strike to Free Mumia! Only Massive Strikes and Mobilizations Can Stop Mumia's Execution and Lead to His Freedom!

In the intervening decade, the working class has been under attack by the Clinton/Bush/Obama drive to maintain a moribund and decaying capitalism. During the last ten years, the working class - in particular its leadership - has let down the fight for Mumia's freedom. Mumia, on the other hand, has consistently and with great insight and eloquence continued his critique and commentaries against the crimes of parasitic imperialism. Never showing bitterness at our inability to free him, he has demonstrated patience and understanding as regards the ebbs and flows of workers' ability to fight back. He has never spoken against the limitations some of his supporters put on the movement. The thousands of labor leaders who marched in 1999, as well as the leaders of the legal defense, have been incapable of freeing Mumia primarily because the ruling class has no intention of letting him out of prison alive. It is only because of the massive mobilizations that Mumia has not been executed already. But the courts and the politicians have shown us clearly there is no justice for the working class. It is JUST US who can FREE MUMIA! There are those who call for a new trial, but we have to be clear there is no justice in the bosses' courts! Only a massive international workers' campaign of labor actions can free our brother and all political prisoners. **We Demand: Free Mumia Now!**

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court took another step in the direction of silencing Mumia's voice. In order to understand what happened, it must be explained that in death penalty cases there are two phases of the trial: one to decide guilt or innocence, and one to decide whether to impose the death penalty or some lesser sentence. In the second phase of the trial, the jury can consider aggravating and mitigating factors. Unlike most other issues in a criminal case, the jury does *not* have to agree unanimously on the mitigating factors. In March 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit reversed Mumia's death sentence, finding that the original Pennsylvania state judge failed to **TELL** the jury in the Jury Instructions, that they did not have to agree unanimously on mitigating factors. Because the Third Circuit reversed the death sentence on that basis, they did not decide about Mumia's other arguments that his death sentence was wrong.

There is a federal law called the AEDPA (Anti-terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act) that says that federal courts can only overturn state court decisions if they meet a certain test for being a really blatant error. In January 2010, the US Supreme Court decided in a separate case that under the AEDPA, an error in the jury instructions similar to that made in Mumia's case was not serious enough under state law to justify the federal court in reversing the death sentence. Then they sent back Mumia's case to the Third Circuit for that court to take the first crack at deciding how the precedent set by that recent decision applies in Mumia's case.

We know significant sectors of the ruling class want Mumia dead. His incarceration and his potential execution are a message to working class militants to stand down. But if anything, the persecution of Mumia hardens our resolve. Those who tell us petitions to Obama will result in freedom for Mumia are sowing illusions that will pacify the movement just now when it needs to be mobilized. Petitions can serve the movement if they are used for organizing new action committees and publicizing the case. When they substitute for mobilization, however, they only disarm the movement! The clock is ticking! Signing a petition is not enough! Only if every signer is ready to prepare for **MASS WORKERS' MOBILIZATIONS AND INDEFINITE WORK STOPPAGES CAN WE EXPECT TO FREE MUMIA!**

Internationally, workers living under the jackboot of imperialism are facing or will face the same enemy as Mumia. In Honduras, worker militants are being "disappeared" by the coup. Heroic miners in Peru today fight for their comrades' freedom (see www.humanistsforrevolutionarysocialism.org/IFLT_Documents/IWO_Peru_Supp.pdf). In Bolivia, mineworkers have been abandoned to the fascist Media Luna's assaults with complicity of the Morales regime. We must unite to defend all workers under attack by imperialism and its agents. From the workers under the heel of the fascist bosses in the Media Luna, to the South African workers abandoned by the popular front, to the millions of super-exploited workers living in the slave-like conditions demanded by Wall Street, London, Brussels, Tokyo and the Red Mandarins, we know imperialist capitalism is the enemy which exploits us and which must be defeated. The workers and peasants of Gaza, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan are daily under assault by the same criminals who imprison Mumia! From all corners of the earth, we know **MUMIA WON'T BE FREE UNTIL WE ARE ALL FREE, BECAUSE: WE ARE ALL MUMIA!**

The destruction of Haiti, foreshadowed by the devastation of New Orleans by Katrina, and of the low-lying areas during the Tsunami are examples of how, under imperialism, the working poor and oppressed are the most vulnerable. Chronic underdevelopment, fueled by the same combination of imperialism and racism that keeps Mumia locked up on death row, has resulted in dangerous housing and no emergency preparedness. During Katrina, Bush sent in Blackwater mercenaries, and now Obama sends the Marines.

In keeping with its imperialist nature, the U.S. is treating its incursion into Haiti as an occupation rather than a rescue mission. Imperialist nations have the equipment and supplies that the people need, but they control their use and distribution for their own ends. In a callous display of arrogance and power, tons of humanitarian aid supplies were turned away at the Haitian airport by the Marines. The corrupt puppet government of Haiti has turned over the nation to the US. Meanwhile, the people have self-organized and are caring for themselves. We must demand: U.S. and UN Troops out of Haiti! We call on the survivors to turn the popular committees into three days because it is not entirely consistent with organs of workers' power. In the refugee camps, do not submit to international authority; build workers' and refugees' committees to manage the distribution of food and supplies. For a government of workers and poor peasants!

Through the imprisonment of Mumia, the occupation of Haiti, and countless other actions against workers, the poor, and those who defend them, the imperialist bosses have shown that all they have to offer is exploitation, oppression, continuous war, prison, and barbarism, while they fight for profits and ultimately act as a fetter on the advance of the forces of production and the very survival of humanity. Only a socialist economy under democratic workers' self-management and planning can revive the world economy, turn around the environmental crisis, and meet the needs of the working class and poor.

The ILTF (International Leninist Trotskyist Fraction) is appealing to vanguard workers across the globe to prepare your ranks, prepare resolutions to take labor actions for Mumia, and prepare for united massive work stoppages to FREE MUMIA AND FREE ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS! Workers have no faith in the bosses' courts, and no faith in politicians or priests. Only workers' action will free our comrades!

Humanist Workers for Revolutionary Socialism: <http://www.humanistsforrevolutionarysocialism.org>

See also: http://www.humanistsforrevolutionarysocialism.org/IFLT_Documents/Free_Mumia.htm

PLEASE SEND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT!

SEND RESOLUTIONS AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:

MUMIA ABU-JAMAL AM 8335 SCI-GREENE 175 PROGRESS DRIVE WAYNESBURG, PA 15370

International Labor Defender is the newsletter of Workers' Emergency Appeal Network (WEAN), which is dedicated to the fight for the liberation of international class war prisoners. WEAN is in political agreement with Humanist Workers for Revolutionary Socialism. With the clearest understanding that massive labor mobilizations are needed to free all class war prisoners, each volume will mobilize support for the defense of one or more victims of the repression aimed at the working class. We fight in the tradition of the International Labor Defense, which mobilized millions to defend [Sacco and Vanzetti](#) in the 1920s. Our immediate task is to publicize and gather support for proletarian fighters under attack by the capitalist offensive. Our intention is to gather our class forces into a mighty fist to crush this system of profit and war, ending the capitalist regimes, which imprison the best fighters engaged in workers' struggles around the world!

An Injury to One is an Injury to all!

Free [Mumia Abu-Jamal](#), Free [Leonard Peltier](#), Free the Peruvian Miners!

Free all Class War Prisoners!