

Why does the u.\$. seek to execute Mumia Abu-Jamal?

Mumia is an outspoken Black nation activist and staunch anti-imperialist. He was Minister of Information for the Philadelphia Black Panther Party chapter, and later a radio journalist opposing repression of Blacks and injustice in general.

The Philly police and government hated Mumia for his work exposing police brutality. Years ago, the mayor of Philadelphia singled Mumia out at a press conference with the ominous warning: "Someday you'll pay for what you've done." What Mumia Abu-Jamal did do was raise the consciousness of the Black nation about its colonization by white settler Amerika.

Mumia was framed for the righteous 1981 killing of a Philadelphia cop engaged in an act of police brutality. The Philly police and power structure created an opportunity to silence his activism by conducting a bogus trial and convicting him of murder.

Like hundreds of other revolutionaries fighting for national liberation of the Black nation, Puerto Rico, the nation of Aztlan and various (indigenous) First Nations, the u.\$. has targeted Mumia in efforts to thwart the struggle for genuine justice and peace.

These revolutionaries fought for an end to the domination of their peoples by the white settler Amerikan majority. They advocated self-determination as a means to end the systematic poverty, imprisonment and exploitation of their peoples. They fought against the denial of basic needs like food, housing, education and adequate medical care. At the same time, the Black Panther Party, the Young Lords Party and the American Indian Movement demonstrated that they could meet these needs of the people better than the capitalist system could.

Activists were imprisoned because of their political beliefs - like Leonard Peltier, Oscar Lopez and Mumia Abu-Jamal. Many have already been murdered - like Fred Hampton, Malcolm X and Anna Mae Aquash. Now, the state steps up its repression in attempts to murder Mumia.

There are currently 1.8 million humyns within Amerikan prisons. The police disproportionately stop, harass and arrest Blacks, Latinos, and indigenous nation members. The oppressed are denied adequate legal representation, allowed only token trials without a jury of their peers, and are sentenced to disproportionately longer sentences than whites convicted of the same offenses. Once in prison, these humyns are treated like animals. They

are denied basic so-called rights like education, health care and nutritional food. And they are constantly brutalized and retaliated against if they speak out.

Mumia wrote in *Live from Death Row*: "Adark repressive trend in the business field known as "corrections" is sweeping the United States, and it bodes ill both for the captives and for the communities from which they were captured. America is revealing a visage stark with harshness. Nowhere is that face more contorted than in the dark netherworld of prison, where humans are transformed into nonpersons, numbered beings cribbed into boxes of unlife, where the very soul is under destructive onslaught."

The massive round up of the oppressed into Amerika's prisons serves as a tool of social control. With leaders silenced and with large percentages of oppressed nations imprisoned, unable to organize against oppression - Amerika's system based on profit can continue.

Increased repression cannot stop the demise of imperialism (the domination of one nation over others.) It is a system that exists at the expense of the majority of the world's population. The repression that stalls the death of imperialism only breeds the resistance that will smash it.

MIM understands that the majority of Amerikkans (white settlers) have a vested interest in perpetuating the imperialist super-exploitation of the Third World and the genocidal proliferation of Amerika's imprisonment. We build opposition to the current system of oppression among those who are genuinely interested in human rights and justice - those who support the interests of the majority of the world's population.

MIM is a Marxist-Leninist-Maoist revolutionary party that understands that injustices perpetuated by the u.\$. within Amerika and around the world are not 'isolated incidents within a good system.' The injustices are fundamental to a system based on barbarity and genocide. Though it is possible to fight for some temporary gains within the current system - like Mumia's freedom or the end to censorship - it is not possible to eradicate inequality, repression and exploitation within the imperialist system. For those

who are not communist, MIM helped form the Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL). RAIL is a radical mass organization for activists who want to oppose imperialist injustices but who are not communist.

I continue to fight against this unjust sentence and conviction. Perhaps we can shrug off and shred some of the dangerous myths laid on our minds like a second skin — such as the "right" to a fair and impartial jury of our peers; the "right" to represent oneself; the "right" to a fair trial, even. They're not rights — they're privileges of the powerful and rich. For the powerless and the poor, they are chimera that vanish once one reaches out to claim them.

— Mumia Abu-Jamal,
Live from Death Row

Ridge steps up plan to murder Mumia

On October 13th, Penn. Governor Thomas Ridge issued a warrant for death, by lethal injection, for Mumia Abu-Jamal along with two other SCI Greene prisoners. The date currently set for Amerikkka's murder of this righteous anti-imperialist and Black leader is December 2nd.

On October 4th, the u.s. Supreme Kangaroo Court announced that it would not hear Mumia's writ of certiorari during the current term. This was a refusal of the SC to intervene in Mumia's appeal despite the overwhelming evidence that he never received a fair trial.

The writ of certiorari requested the SC to intervene before Mumia's case works its way up through the federal court system because Mumia's sixth amendment rights were violated during his original trial. The sixth amendment is supposed to guarantee the right to a fair trial before a jury of one's peers. During his original trial, Mumia was refused the so-called right to act as his own attorney, taken out of the courtroom and refused the ability to monitor his own trial from outside.

The announcement means that Mumia is immediately placed under 24-hour surveillance and has greatly limited so-called privileges such as phone calls and access to lawyers, supporters and family. Ridge's announcement was made despite the knowledge that Mumia and his lawyers will soon file a writ of habeas corpus in federal district court. This filing will initiate the federal appeals process and probably stay Mumia's execution. Mumia's defense team will request an evidentiary hearing to demonstrate that evidence excluded by the racist judge Sabo in the original trial is crucial to Mumia's defense.

Setting the execution date amounts to stepped-up psychological warfare against Mumia and his supporters. The murder of Mumia is one attempt by Amerikkka to demonstrate

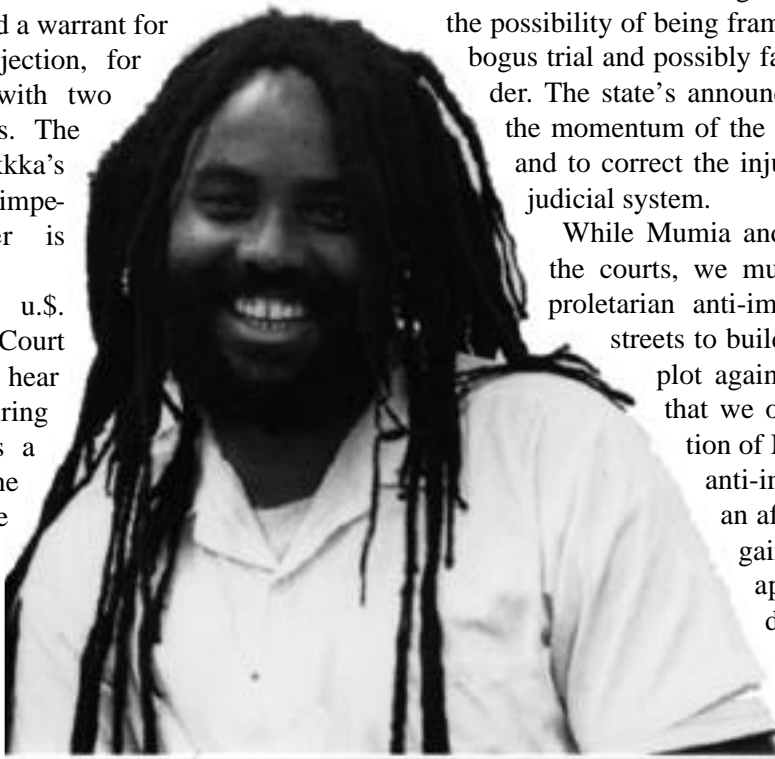
that revolutionaries cannot fight for justice without facing the possibility of being framed and convicted during a bogus trial and possibly facing state-sponsored murder. The state's announcement attempts to thwart the momentum of the movement to save Mumia and to correct the injustices of the Amerikkkan judicial system.

While Mumia and his lawyers fight within the courts, we must continue and intensify proletarian anti-imperialist activism on the streets to build opposition to the murder plot against Mumia. Demonstration that we oppose the planned execution of Mumia and silencing of his anti-imperialist politics can have an affect on Mumia's ability to gain a stay and further appeals. It is possible to demonstrate that the state's repression will only be met by increasingly vigilant mass opposition. It is possible to demon-

strate that there is anti-imperialist opposition to state murder of activists.

Mass demonstration and organization hastened the release of 11 Puerto Rican Prisoners of War and can be a similarly effective tool in pressuring for Mumia's freedom. However, while it is good for new allies to join in protesting the injustice against Mumia, MIM urges all activists supporting Mumia to also challenge the very system that repeatedly denies Black men a fair trial with the jury of their peers, adequate legal representation and a fair and just appeals process within the courts.

MIM fights for the freedom of Mumia in the internationalist tradition of the Black Panther Party's work. We fight for Mumia's freedom because he is a revolutionary leader, but also because he is one of more than 1.8 million people in Amerika who is in prison without benefit of a fair trial. We fight for Mumia's freedom in the context of fighting for an end to U.S. injustice here and around the world. MIM urges others to stand against imperialism as you fight for Mumia's freedom - without doing this, the system that seeks to execute Mumia is let off the hook.



Stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal!

End the Amerikkkan Lockdown!

End the imperialist system of repression & genocide!

Maoist Internationalist Movement • PO Box 29670 • Los Angeles CA 90029-0670
www.etext.org/Politics/MIM • mim@mim.org