

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*: "A dark 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 Maoist.

"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*