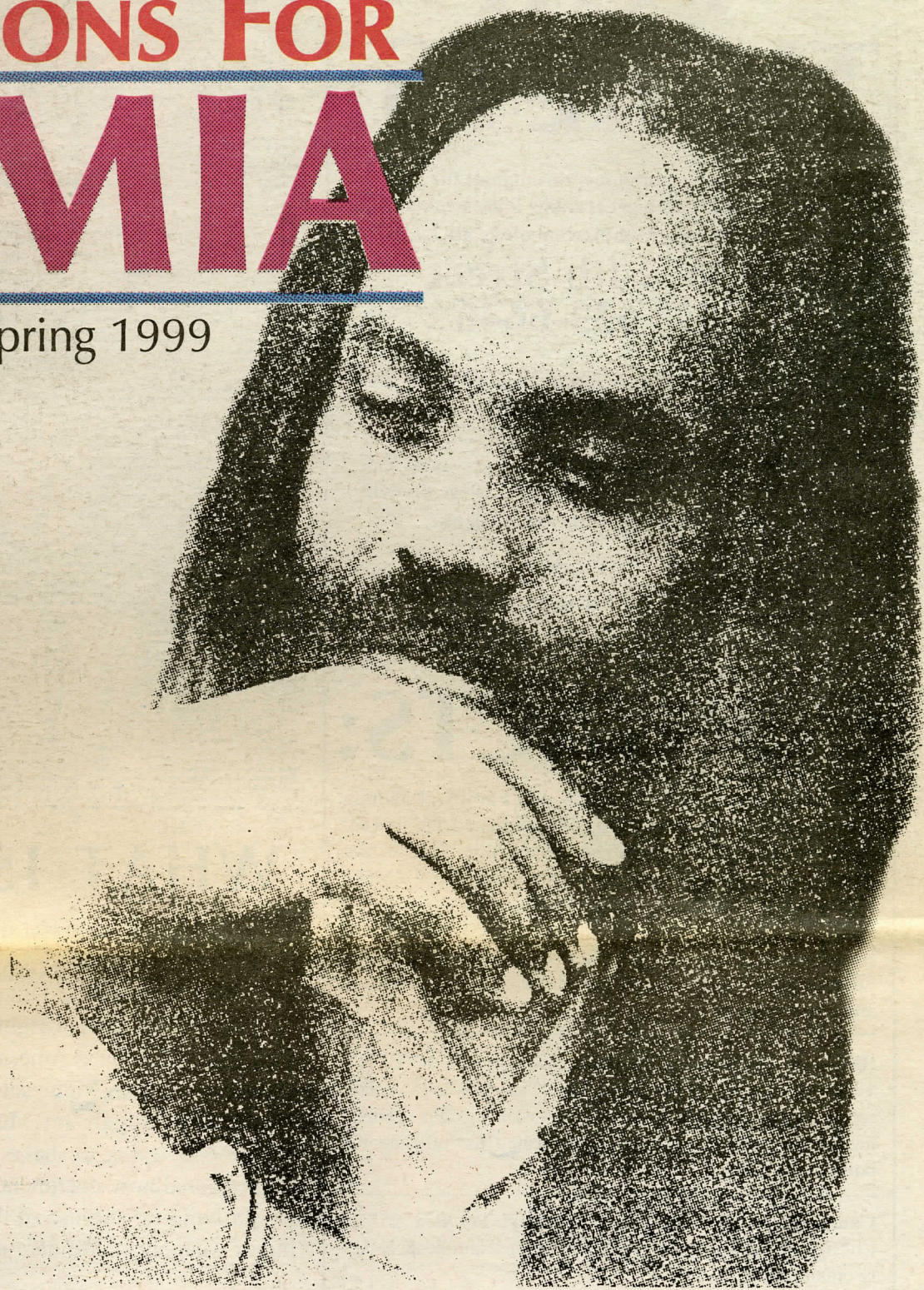


M MILLIONS FOR MUMIA

Mumia Abu-Jamal Is All Of Us • Spring 1999



In a climate of widespread concern
regarding police misconduct and
violence, Mumia Abu-Jamal,
journalist and radical activist
faces the immediate prospect

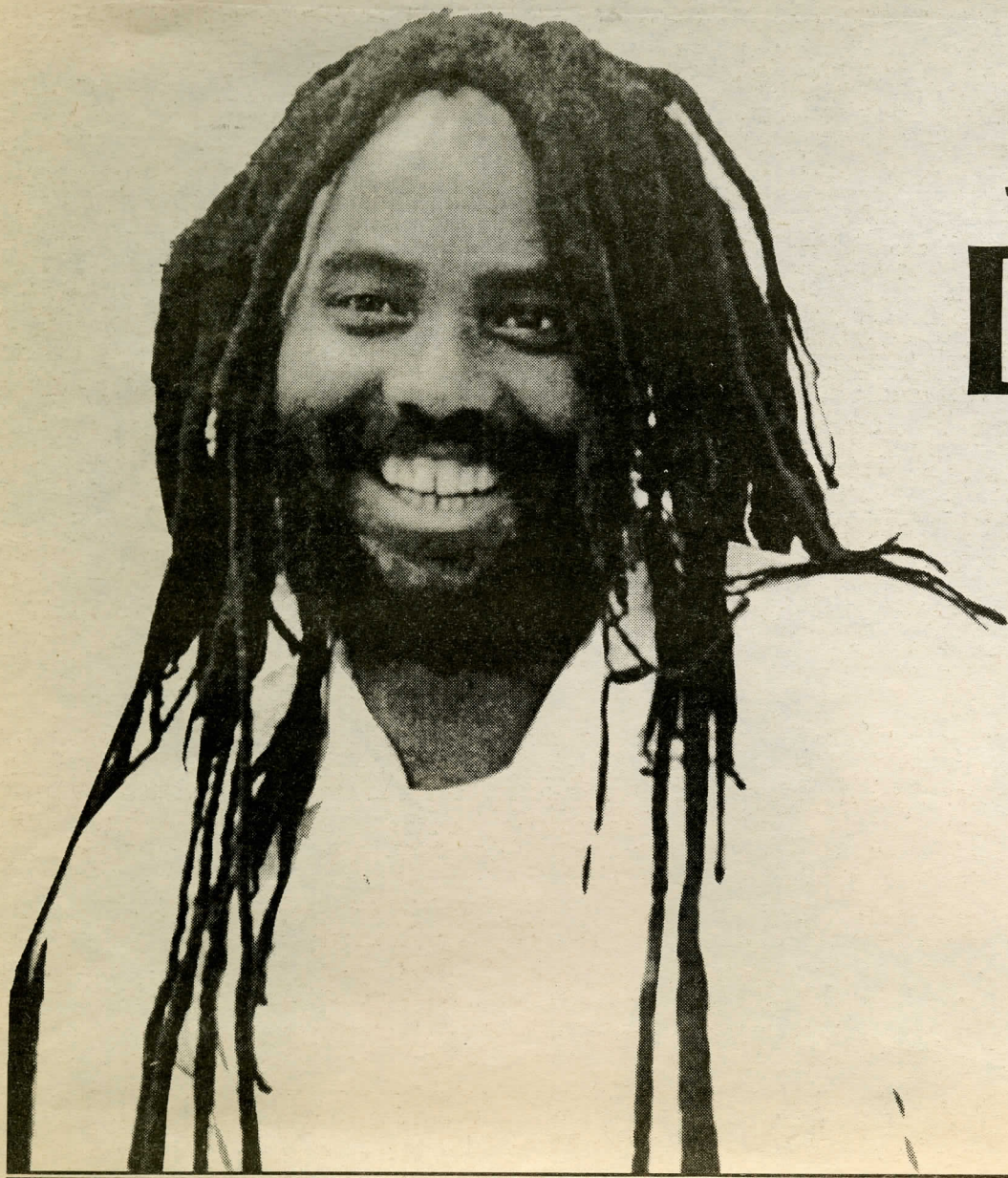
of execution. A former Black Panther with a history of
criticizing the Philadelphia police
department, Abu-Jamal was
convicted of killing a police
officer almost two
decades ago in a
trial many claim to have
been without chance of acquittal.

**PHILADELPHIA
FOR A NEW TRIAL**

APRIL 24

**JOIN THE MILLIONS
FOR MUMIA MARCH**

Selected Endorsers: All African People's Revolutionary Party • American Friends Service Comm. • Center for Campus Organizing • Center for Constitutional Rights • D.C. Welfare Rights Union • December 12th Mvmt. • Freedom Road Socialist Org. • Haiti Support Network • Intl Action Center • Intl. Socialist Organization • Min. Ben Chavis, Nation of Islam • National Conf. of Black Lawyers • National Lawyers Guild • The New Afrikan Liberation Front • Prison Legal News • Sonia Sanchez, poet • Rev. Al Sharpton • Student Liberation Action Mvmt. (SLAM) • Alice Walker, author • Leonard Weinglass, attorney • Cornell West, author • Undergraduate Student Gov't, Hunter College - CUNY • Women's Intl. League for Peace and Freedom...



JUSTICE DENIED:

Mumia Abu-Jamal is the only American political prisoner on Death Row. In a trial that can only be called a farce, he was railroaded for the killing of a Philadelphia cop. While the mass media has consistently repeated the police version of events as fact, the truth is coming out.

In the early hours of December 8, 1981, Mumia Abu-Jamal was driving a cab in downtown Philadelphia, supplementing his income as a journalist. The bars were just letting out and the streets were full of people. Suddenly, Mumia spotted a police officer beating a young Black man spread-eagled against his car. When he went to investigate, he discovered that it was his own younger brother, Bill Cook, who was being beaten.

Within minutes, Mumia was sitting slumped on the curbstone, critically injured with a gunshot wound in the abdomen. The police officer, Daniel Faulkner lay dead. Other police arrived and took Faulkner to the morgue, waiting 45 minutes to carry Mumia to the hospital. Mumia arrived with his head bleeding after being thrown into a light pole by the arresting officers.

Mumia Abu-Jamal was charged with murder.

By the time Mumia went to trial, he had already been tried and convicted by the news media. A former member of the Black Panther Party and now a radio journalist well-known for his exposés of police brutality, his political beliefs became central to news coverage.

During the sentencing phase of the trial, the judge allowed the state to use Mumia's membership in the Panthers to argue for the death penalty. In fact, the prosecution told the jury that Mumia's membership was evidence of his premeditation to kill. The following is just part of the exchange:

Question (to Mumia): Do you recall saying "All Power to the People?"

Answer: Yes

Question: Do you believe your activity as well as your philosophy are consistent with the quote, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun?"

Answer: I believe America has proven that quote to be true.

Question: Do you recall saying that "The Black Panther Party is an uncompromising party, it faces reality?"

Answer (Mumia, nodding affirmatively): Yes.

By any standards, this was not a fair trial. Consider the following:

- Mumia was tried before Judge Albert Sabo, who holds the record among sitting judges in the U.S. for handing out death sentences. Of the 31 people he has sentenced to death, all but two have been people of color.

Sabo has also had a lifelong association with the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, the police "union" that has led the charge to have Mumia executed. Six former Philadelphia prosecutors have sworn in court documents that no accused person could receive a fair trial in Sabo's court.

- The jury was impaneled only after eleven qualified African Americans were removed by peremptory challenges by the prosecution. As a result, in a city that is 40% Black, only two of the jurors were African American. A recent scandal revealed that the practice of deliberately removing qualified Blacks from jury pools was taught to Philadelphia prosecutors in a special video training tape.

- Jamal was denied the right to act as his own attorney. His court-appointed lawyer later testified that he didn't interview a single witness in preparation for the trial and that he had informed the court in advance that he was not prepared. The lawyer was later disbarred for incompetence.

- Judge Sabo approved only a few hundred dollars for the defense to investigate the case, while Pennsylvania's average allocation in capital cases is \$6,500. The defense investigator quit the case before the trial began because the meager funds were exhausted. Neither a ballistics expert nor a pathologist were hired.

- There was no physical evidence linking Mumia with a shooting of Faulkner. Mumia did have a gun at night, a licensed .38 caliber handgun he bought after having been robbed twice while driving a cab. According to the written findings of the medical examiner, however, Faulkner was shot by a .44 caliber bullet. Jamal's lawyer said he didn't see that portion of the report, so he never raised it.

- The police never tested Mumia's gun to determine if it had recently been fired, never tested his hands to see if he had fired a gun, and "lost" a bullet fragment removed by the medical examiner.

Mumia was convicted and sentenced to death.

In 1989, the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court denied his first appeal.

Today Mumia Abu-Jamal has new lawyers, a team headed by noted civil rights attorney Leonard Weinglass. On June 5, 1995, Weinglass and the NAACP

Legal Defense Fund filed a 300-page Post Conviction Review Appeal (PCRA) at Philadelphia's City Hall, while outside hundreds of demonstrators rallied in Mumia's defense.

"What we seek today," Weinglass told the demonstrators, "is Mumia's first day in court, because he hasn't received one yet."

The appeal brief contained 47 exhibits and thirteen affidavits. Among other things, the new appeal detailed the following objections to the original trial:

- The prosecution's version of the events was that Mumia shot Faulkner, was himself shot once in the chest by the falling officer and then fired four more shots before collapsing. To prove this view, the state presented six witnesses out of the over 120 people at the scene of the shooting. Four other witnesses, however, gave accounts that, to varying degrees, contradicted the prosecution version. These witnesses, situated in four different locations on the street, reported seeing the shooter flee and all had him going in the same direction. None of these eyewitnesses knew each other or Mumia. Yet there was no investigation into these statements. The jury did not hear this version of the events.

- The jury was not allowed to know that testimony of one prosecution witness differed significantly from his original statement and that the witness was on probation at the time for throwing a Molotov cocktail into a schoolyard for pay.

- The prosecution's key witness was a woman named Veronica Jones, herself in serious trouble and thus vulnerable to police pressure. Less than a week after Faulkner's death, she told police she had observed two men jogging from the scene of the shooting. Jamal was lying on the ground, wounded. At that time, she was being threatened with up to ten years of prison time for something unrelated to Mumia's case, as well as the possibility of losing custody of her three daughters. Detectives offered to make things easier for her if she would alter her original story. When called to testify in the 1982 trial, Jones denied that she saw anyone other than Jamal and his brother at the scene.

In 1996, she went to court to set the record straight.

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M MILLIONS FOR MUMIA

Justice Demands a New Trial!

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an innocent man on

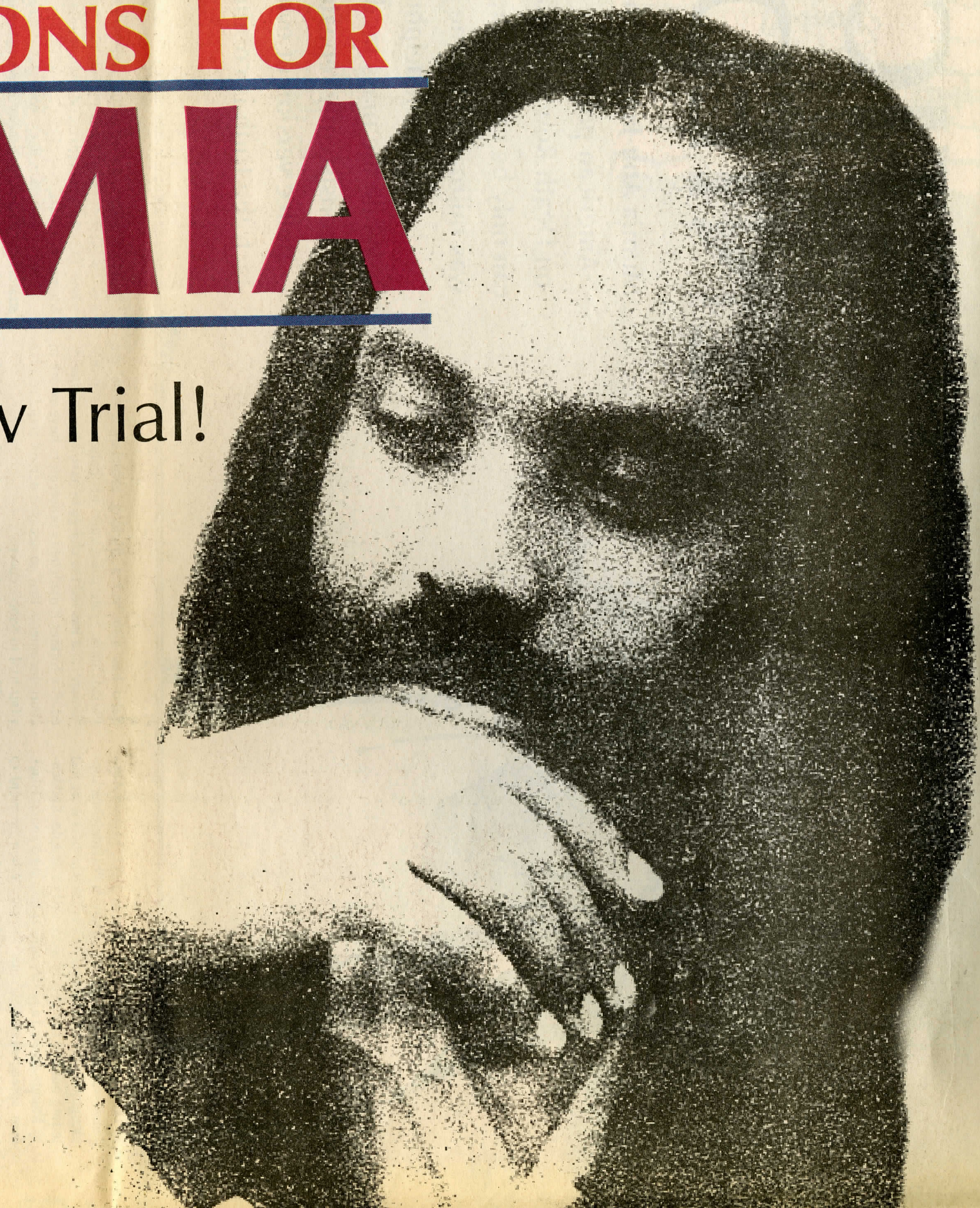
Pennsylvania's Death Row.

After a life dedicated to human

liberation, an encounter with

Philadelphia's notoriously brutal police

department left him shot and a suspect



farce and Mumia was sentenced to die.

After 18 years in the shadow of death,

his final state appeal has been rejected

by the very legal establishment he spent

his life fighting.

Whether you demand a fair trial, or are

committed to defending our political

prisoners, every person of conscience

must make it to Philly. Buses will be

leaving from all over New York.

Call now to reserve your space.

WE NEED MILLIONS FOR MUMIA.

PHILADELPHIA APRIL 24

FOR TICKETS OR MORE INFORMATION (212) 633-6646

INITIATING ORGANIZATIONS:

International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal
Academics for Mumia • Black Radical Congress
Bruderhof • Campaign to End the Death Penalty
Critical Resistance • Jericho Movement
Million Woman March National & Universal Movement
Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal
National Afrikan Liberation Front
National People's Campaign • New York Free Mumia Coalition
People's Video Network • Refuse & Resist

SELECTED ENDORSERS:

1199 Health & Hospital Workers Union • Pam Africa • All African People's Revolutionary Party • American Friends Service Comm. • Center for Campus Organizing • Center for Constitutional Rights • Noam Chomsky, prof. of linguistics - MIT • Ramsey Clark, former U.S. Attorney General • Angela Davis • D.C. Welfare Rights Union • December 12th Mvmt. • E.L. Doctorow, author • Freedom Road Socialist Org. • Stephen J. Gould • Haiti Support Network • Yuri Kochiyama, Asians for Mumia • Intl Action Center • Intl. Socialist Organization • Min. Ben Chavis Muhammad, Nation of Islam • National Conf. of Black Lawyers • National Lawyers Guild • The New Afrikan Liberation Front • Geronimo Ji Jaga (Pratt), former political prisoner • Prison Legal News • *Rage Against the Machine* • Sonia Sanchez, poet • Rev. Al Sharpton • STORM, Bay Area • Student Liberation Action Mvmt. (SLAM) • Alice Walker, author • Leonard Weinglass, attorney • Cornel West, author • Undergraduate Student Gov't, Hunter College - CUNY • Women's Intl. League for Peace and Freedom...and thousands more.

The Movement to Free Mumia

We Have the Power to Stop His Execution

Mumia always had a core of dedicated supporters fighting to help him win his freedom. For many years, members of the MOVE organization and the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal fought to keep his case alive. Other organizations, such as the New York Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Committee and the Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal in State College, Penn. carried on the struggle as well.

Since Mumia's final appeal before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, a rush of momentum has been building towards the Millions for Mumia March on April 24th, 1999 in Philadelphia. A recent Town Hall meeting on Broadway brought out a unified left and speakers as diverse as E.L. Doctorow and Mumia's Lawyer Leonard Weinglass. This organizing meeting was sold out as hundreds lined the block waiting to get in.

Rage Against the Machine headed up a sold-out Meadowlands concert "Rage for Mumia," which also featured the Beastie Boys, Bad Religion, Chuck D., and Chumbawumba. Even under tremendous pressure from New Jersey Governor Whitman and the NJ State Troopers, the concert was an incredible success. Debate over the nature of the case spilled onto the Howard Stern Show, where Tom Morello, lead singer of Rage, and Weinglass debated police representatives. Ironically, the head of the Jersey State Troopers who tried to censor the show, Carl Williams, was forced to resign for publically stating that people of color were responsible for the drug trade. New Jersey troopers are notorious for random highway stops charging DWB — driving while black.

The unprecedented unity of progressive and revolutionary political forces in the movement to win Mumia a new trial, and his eventual freedom, is one of the greatest achievements so far. This strength was demonstrated in 1995 when Gov. Ridge announced the signing of Mumia's death warrant. In the week following the announcement, there were actions demanding a new trial for Mumia in over 30 US cities, as well as in Kingston, London, Berlin, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Tokyo, Toronto, Vancouver and other cities. 1995 was the first time Mumia's case burst into the mainstream, and the movement was successful in beating back this attempt to silence him.

In Philadelphia itself, where most of

the media have continually repeated the police version of the events, close to 700 people rallied in front of city Hall in a demonstration organized by the International Concerned Friends and Family. The New York Free Mumia Committee drew another 500 out to picket in front of Penn Station during rush hour. In Washington, a group of demonstrators marched from Union Station to the Hall of States, where gov. Ridge's Washington office is located. In Minneapolis, 200 people tied up traffic in a university neighborhood. At the end of the demonstration, the police attacked with mace and horses, arresting nine people. In San Francisco, a June 26 demonstration of some 700 people was attacked by the police. There were 250 arrests. Charges were later dropped.

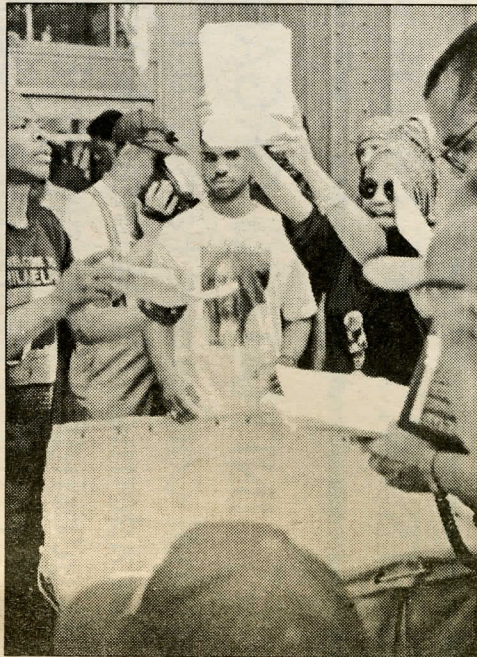
The Rev. Jesse Jackson sent a telegram to US attorney general Janet Reno calling for a retrial. The City Councils of Detroit, Los Angeles and Madison, Wis. passed resolutions of support. Even Willie Brown, Mayor of San Francisco called for a "Mumia Abu-Jamal Day." Sympathetic articles and Op-Ed pieces appeared in The New York Times, USA Today, and The Washington Post. US Senator Carol Moseley-Braun of Illinois and US Rep. Ronald Dellums and Maxine Waters of California spoke out against his execution, as have internationally known singer Harry Belafonte, authors Alice Walker and Cornel West, civil rights attorney William Kunstler, former US attorney general Ramsey Clark, poet Sonia Sanchez, Boston University professor Howard Zinn, Southern Christian Leadership Conference president Dr. Joseph Lowery and actor Ossie Davis, who thirty years ago delivered the eulogy at Malcolm X's funeral.

The labor movement has spoken out, including ILGWU Locals 6 and 10 in San Francisco, Chicago transit workers, eighteen local AFSCME presidents in Detroit, as well as unions in Britain and Australia. Members of the French General Confederation of Labor (CGT), the Metro Toronto Labor Council and Vancouver Public Employees in Canada and Section 10 of the Mexican Teachers Union.

By Aug. 5th, 1995, it became clear the demonstration would be huge and the pressure too great to kill Mumia. Judge Albert Sabo issued a stay of execution! But Mumia remains on Death Row, and he is running out of appeals.



Above: February 26th Town Hall meeting for Mumia packed to capacity. Hundreds demanded a new trial and listened to presentations from individuals as diverse as Safiya Bukhari, Ramsey Clark, Leslie Feinberg, C. Clark Kissinger, and Mumia's attorney, Leonard Weinglass. This event was for building the Millions for Mumia March on April 24.



Left: Over one million signatures demanding a new trial for Mumia were presented to Attorney General Janet Reno. Worldwide pressure like this was able to stay Mumia's last death warrant. Since that time he has lost his last state appeal.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

Message from Secretary General Cyril Ramaphosa of the African National Congress to Pennsylvania Gov. Thomas Ridge:

We write to urge you to use your power as governor to commute the death sentence imposed upon Mumia Abu-jamal and in addition to allow a retrial of his case. We ask for your compassionate reconsideration of the sentence that has been imposed and that he be removed from death row and allowed to appeal his sentence.

Excerpts from a statement by the Zapatistas — Chiapas, Mexico

What sense is there in killing to prove that killing is wrong? What sense is there to attempt to resolve one inhumane act with another? But in addition, when you blame and try to legally murder an innocent man simply because he was born Black and proud, because an election campaign in the state of Pennsylvania needed its quota of blood, is that what the US hypocritically calls justice?

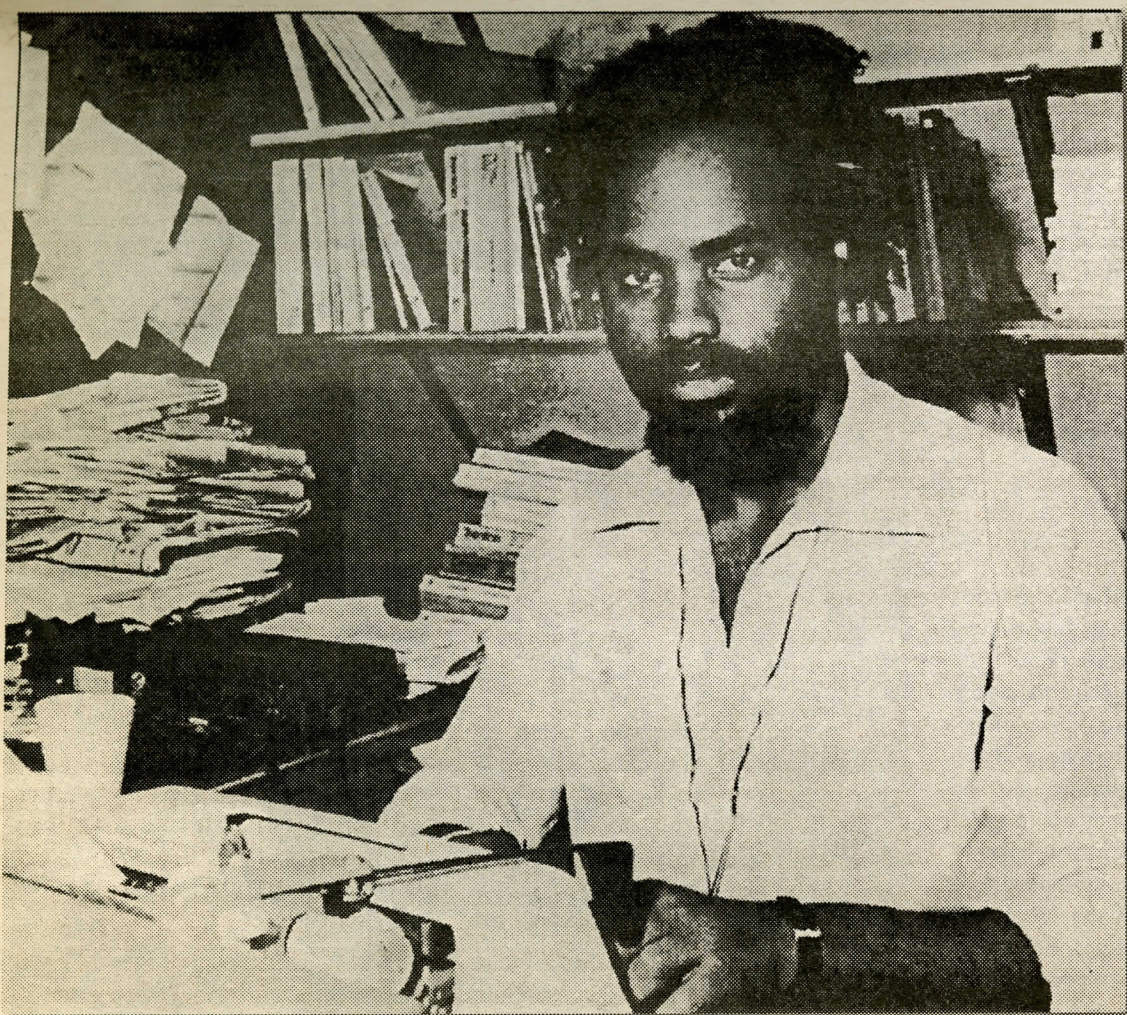
We call on the people of the state of Pennsylvania, on the people of the United States, and on the people of the world to reject this barbarism, and ask that men and women of good will and all lands prevent the execution of Mumia. Because if Mumia Abu-Jamal is killed, human dignity will suffer a new defeat. We will not allow that, comrades and sisters and brothers. Abolish the death penalty! Free Mumia Abu-Jamal now!

Statement from the Student Liberation Action Movement, CUNY

We are students at the City University of New York who have been struggling tooth and nail to resist Giuliani's assault on access to higher education for people of color and the working class. For simply demanding to learn, we have been beaten by police, spied on, and disrespected. It is the heroes, men and women like Mumia Abu-Jamal who let us know we are not alone, that our fight is for all people's freedom, and that we must live and breathe the movement for a world based on the power of the people. Mumia Abu-Jamal shows the power we have when we are fearless and determined. A movement that doesn't support its political prisoners is no movement at all. We demand a new trial, or the pardon of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

A message from Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier

We must now live and breathe Mumia's case 24 hours a day. I want to encourage supporters to intensify the struggle for Mumia's life. I know you can stop this execution because no matter how evil a government may be, they still cannot defeat the power of the people. If we are able in unity to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-jamal, we are not only saving the life of the man who speaks for those who are not often heard and whose stories are rarely told, you are saving all of us who remain unjustly behind bars from the depths of hopelessness. Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!



As a young man, Mumia served as Communications Director for the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Panther Party. The skills he learned were put to use as a radio journalist.

"VOICE OF THE VOICELESS" THE LIFE OF MUMIA

Mumia Abu-Jamal joined the Black Panther Party in 1968 in his hometown of Philadelphia. He was fourteen years old. Earlier that same year, he had been beaten and arrested by the police for protesting an appearance in Philadelphia by Alabama governor George Wallace, who was then running for president on an openly white supremacist platform.

In 1970, Mumia was appointed Minister of Information of the Philadelphia branch of the BPP.

Mumia later became a free-lance journalist and radio talk show host on WUHY, specializing in coverage of events in the Black community. For his devotion to the issues most affecting the poor and oppressed, he became known as the "Voice of the Voiceless." His work won him attention and recognition. He was elected chair of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists. He won a Peabody Award for outstanding journalism. In December of 1981, the Philadelphia Inquirer profiled him as "Jamal: An eloquent activist not afraid to raise his voice."

He also earned the wrath of the Philadelphia Police Department.

Mumia relentlessly exposed cases of police brutality, rampant in the "City of Brotherly Love." He particularly focused on police attacks against the radical, largely Black organization MOVE, including the siege of the MOVE commune on Aug. 8, 1978. MOVE would later become the object of one of the only aerial bombings of a US city, when Philly cops dropped a bomb from a helicopter onto a MOVE house in 1985, incinerating eleven children, women, men and their animals and setting fire to 62 nearby houses.

Mumia has continued his journalistic work in prison, writing for numerous newspapers and magazines. A book of essays entitled "Live from Death Row" was featured on Entertainment Tonight, CBS Evening News, Hard Copy, The Washington Post

and the New York Post. The essays were based on a series of tapes he had recorded for National Public Radio until that project was killed by a right-wing uproar led by the Fraternal Order of Police.

A second book, "Death Blossoms," was published in 1997.

On Jan. 13, 1995, Mumia was moved to Pennsylvania's new "Super Max" prison in Greene County, a rural area in the southwestern part of the state, far from his supporters in Philadelphia. The state now had a new governor, Thomas Ridge, elected on a promise to begin signing death warrants and revive executions in Pennsylvania after a more than 30-year hiatus.

On June 1, just days before Mumia's lawyers were to file his appeal, Gov. Ridge signed Mumia's death warrant. Mumia was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection on August 17th — which happens to be the birthdate of the great Black nationalist leader Marcus Garvey. Ridge's signing of the death warrant followed several weeks of increased coverage of Mumia's case, focused largely on the cops' attempt to silence him.

One aspect of the appeal petition was a motion to disallow Common Pleas Court Judge Albert Sabo from rehearing the appeals. Sabo is the judge who presided over Mumia's original trial. By mid-1995, there were over 180 people on Death Row in Pennsylvania, more per capita than any other state. Philadelphia itself is the number three city in the country in number of death penalties. As of July, 1995, 103 people were on Death Row after receiving the death penalty from Philadelphia courts. 91 of these were people of color. Judge Sabo served for fourteen years on a select panel of judges hearing only homicide cases. Although Sabo had fewer homicidal cases than his colleagues, he still sentenced more defendants to death. He is seen as the hanging judge of a hanging town in a hanging state.

Another Nameless Prostitute Says the Man Is Innocent

—for Mumia Abu-Jamal,
Philadelphia, Penn./Camden, New Jersey
—by **Martín Espada**

(This poem was written for National Public Radio, but under pressure from the Fraternal Order of Police, it was censored by a program ironically called "All Things Considered.")

The board-blinded windows knew what happened;
the pavement sleepers of Philadelphia, groaning
in their ghost-infested sleep, knew what happened;
every Black man blessed
with the gashed eyebrow of nightsticks
knew what happened;
even Walt Whitman knew what happened,
poet a century dead, keeping vigil
from the tomb on the other side of the bridge.

More than fifteen years ago,
the cataract stare of the cruiser's headlights,
the impossible angle of the bullet,
the tributaries and lakes of blood,
Officer Faulkner dead, suspect Mumia shot in the chest,
the witnesses who saw a gunman
running away, his heart and feet thudding.

The nameless prostitutes knew,
hunched at the curb, their bare legs chilled.
Their faces squinted to see that night,
rouged with fading bruises. Now the faces fade.
Perhaps an eyewitness putrefies eyes open in a bed of soil,
or floats in the warm gulf stream of her addiction,
or hides from the fanged whispers of the police
in the tomb of Walt Whitman,
where the granite door is open
and fugitive slaves may rest.

Mumia: the Panther beret, the thinking dreadlocks,
dissident words that swarmed the microphone like a hive,
sharing meals with people named Africa,
calling out their names even after the police bombardment
that charred their black bodies.
So the governor has signed the death warrant.
The executioner's needle would flush the poison
down into Mumia's writing hand
so the fingers curl like a burned spider;
his calm questioning mouth would grow numb,
and everywhere radios sputter to silence, in his memory.

The veiled prostitutes are gone,
gone to the segregated balcony of whores.
but the newspaper reports that another nameless prostitute
says the man is innocent, that she will testify at the next hearing.
Beyond the courthouse, a multitude of witnesses chants, prays,
shouts for the prison to collapse, a shack in a hurricane.

Mumia, if the last nameless prostitute
becomes an unraveling turban of steam,
if the judges' robes become a cloud of ink
swirling like octopus deception,
if the shroud becomes your Amish quilt,
if your dreadlocks are snipped during your autopsy,
then drift above the ruined RCA factory
that once birthed radios
to the tomb of Walt Whitman,
where the granite door is open
and fugitive slaves may rest.

from Zapata's Disciple

Mumia & the Media

Journalistic Sensationalism and Irresponsibility at its Worst

Nearly two decades after Mumia Abu-Jamal was sentenced to death, his case has become a focus in some media outlets as a result of his celebrity support and the international public outcry surrounding the October 29, 1998 Pennsylvania Supreme Court rejection of his appeal for a new trial. Unfortunately, two of the most prominent pieces that were run, on KGO-TV in the Bay Area and on ABC's TV news magazine, 20/20 were short on facts and serious reporting and high on sensationalism, in an attempt to discredit the campaign to free Mumia.

On May 7 and 8, 1998, before the appeal was denied, KGO-TV, the ABC affiliate in the San Francisco Bay Area, broadcast a two-part series on Mumia's case.

According to the Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition and Leonard Weinglass, head of Abu-Jamal's current legal team, the method of the 12-minute news series was to "interview supporters of Jamal on the pretense of making a factual report. Particular statements by these individuals were then edited out of their context and presented alone, each followed by an assertion that what was just said was false." Dan Ashley, a KGO reporter, presented the network's interpretation and "alternative statement" after each interviewee had spoken.

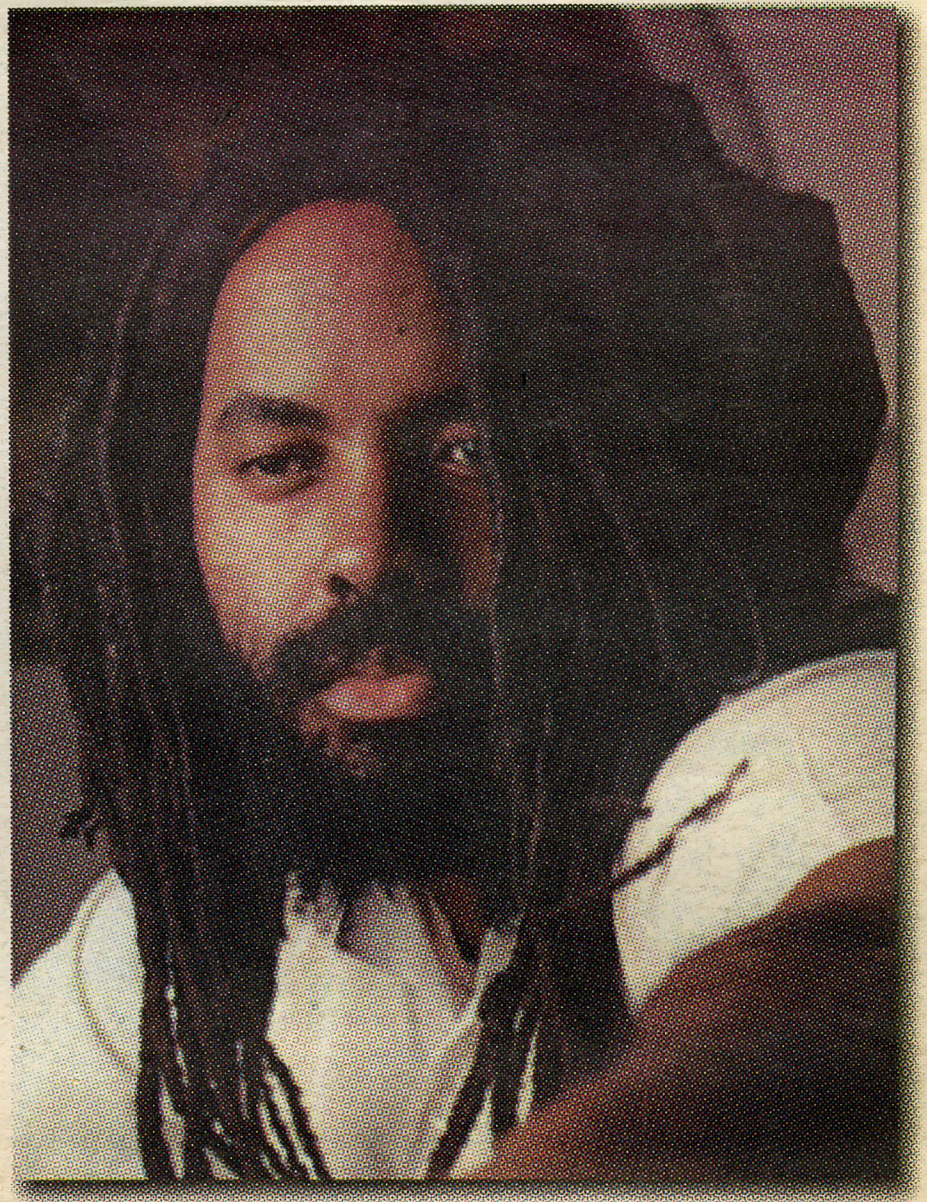
KGO-TV's thesis was that "four eyewitnesses saw Jamal come up from across the street shooting the officer in the back. The officer gets off one shot. He falls to the ground. He's disarmed. He's lying there face up. Jamal fires into his face and kills him." These statements were not derived from witness interviews or even trial transcripts, but came directly from Hugh Burns, the Philadelphia assistant district attorney who opposed Jamal's appeals. Six eyewitnesses actu-

ally testified at the original trial, and the only one whose statements resembled Burns' was Cynthia White, a convicted prostitute who was serving a sentence at the time of the trial and was put up in a hotel during the trial and released after. The other eyewitnesses claimed not to remember her on the scene at all, and she could not corroborate the only undisputed fact: that Faulkner shot Abu-Jamal.

Veronica Jones testified at the 1981 trial that the police offered her and White a deal if they would testify that Abu-Jamal shot Faulkner. She also repudiated a signed statement given immediately after the shooting, in which she claimed that she had seen two men leaving the scene. In 1996, at hearings for a retrial Jones came forward and said that she had actually seen two men, but had lied because police had threatened to jail her and take away her children. The hearings were presided over by Judge Sabo who had presided over the original trial and who, in 1981, had already sentenced 26 people to death, including 24 African-Americans.

KGO failed to report on these facts. They also ignored other key facts like the incompetence and ill-preparedness of Abu-Jamal's 1981 court-appointed lawyer or that Jamal was unable to afford forensics specialists, an investigator, or other expert witnesses. Weinglass presented all these facts to KGO (also 20/20 latter on) but they instead choose to ignore them.

On December 9, 1998, after the appeal for a retrial was denied, the ABC television show 20/20 did a report on the Jamal case. According to anchor Sam Donaldson, ABC conducted a four-month independent investigation of the case. The 20/20 report nearly mirrored the KGO-TV series aired seven months



before (KGO is, after all, an ABC affiliate). Like the KGO special it also failed to mention vital points in the case.

20/20 neglected to mention that Judge Sabo presided over both the original trial and the earliest appeal for a retrial and that the majority of Pennsylvania Supreme Court judges were elected with the backing of one of Abu-Jamal's biggest opponents, the Fraternal Order of Police.

20/20 also presented partial information as truth; ABC deemed it credible that two police officers heard Abu-Jamal give an "emergency room confession" but neglected to report it until two months later. However, the show simply glossed over the facts that the attending physician, who was constantly present, heard nothing, and that none of the officers present had mentioned a confession in their written reports at the time. Officer Gary Wakshul had in fact reported that "The Negro

male made no statements."

ABC also reported that witness William Singletary, who contradicted the police version of events, had waited ten years before coming forward with his version of events. However, there was no mention made of Singletary's claim that he had in fact made a statement immediately after the shooting, but that it was torn up by police, who proceeded to harass him so much that he was forced to leave Philadelphia.

If anything, the recent anti-Mumia media blitz once again shows that we can not rely on the ranks of the corporate media to provide us with the whole story of controversial cases like Jamal's. The movement to fight for justice for Mumia must create its own media outlets and continue to counter the distortions of Disney, Donaldson and the rest with the truth about Mumia.

JUSTICE DENIED, FROM PAGE 3

As soon as she was sworn in, Judge Sabo threatened her with seven years in prison for perjury. When she had finished testifying, she was immediately arrested for violating a two-year-old bench warrant - even though the warrant was for someone with a different name! She was basically arrested for testifying on behalf of Mumia.

- A pathologist retained by Weinglass concluded that Mumia was wounded by a bullet that was traveling downward and thus could not have been fired upon by a collapsing Faulkner.

- Two witnesses supported by the Fraternal Order of Police testified to hearing Mumia "brag" of shooting Faulkner as he was carried into a hospital emergency room after being shot. The police have made a great deal of this "confession." However, a third officer, Gary Wakshul, who was beside Mumia during the entire time in the emergency room, noted in his report, "The Negro made no statement." Wakshul did not testify during the

trial because he was "on vacation." Judge Sabo refused to grant a continuance so Wakshul could be brought in. Today we know that Wakshul was in fact home and available. Furthermore, we also know that no officers present claimed to have heard any "confession" *until two months after it allegedly occurred* — and after Jamal had filed police brutality charges.

The appeal also stated that Mumia was a target of the FBI's Counterintelligence program (COINTELPRO) and that local law enforcement agencies had a deep-seated bias against him.

The Current Crisis: Mumia's Final State Appeal Rejected

The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has denied Mumia a new trial in the state courts. Despite evidence of witness intimidation, false testimony from prosecution witnesses, judicial misconduct on the part of now-retired Judge Sabo as well as the pro-police bias of five out of the seven judges ruling on Abu-Jamal's case, the state found

Mumia's appeal for a new trial to have no merit. This is especially dangerous because of recent federal legislation which mandates that Federal Courts can no longer rule on matters of fact and must take the State Courts' verdicts as final. Since the facts were so skewed in the original trial, this makes public pressure particularly important in seeing that justice is done.

Although legal options are not entirely exhausted yet, there is intense political pressure coming from Pennsylvania's Fraternal Order of Police and their supporters to get Mumia's death warrant signed. If Governor Tom Ridge were to sign the warrant, Mumia's legal team could have the federal courts grant a stay, but this would only be temporary.

Ultimately, Mumia's execution won't be halted by judicial fiat. If it weren't for the movement to stop Mumia's execution, his death warrant would have probably been signed already. While the movement has been gaining momentum and broad support, we have to keep building until he is given a fair trial. ¡Philly, April 24!