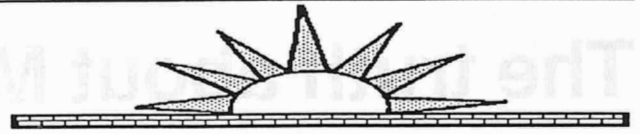


NEW LIFE



A SOCIALIST BULLETIN SERVING THE LABOR PARTY MOVEMENT

No. 16 • JULY-AUGUST, 1995 • 25¢ • BOX 441283, DETROIT, MI 48244-1283 • PHONE/FAX: 313-584-6556

Workers of all ethnic groups ...

Unite against

racist police

murder!

Stop the execution

of Mumia

Abu-Jamal!



The truth about Mumia . .

The execution of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal has been slated for August 17, 1995. Since obtaining the office of governor in Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge has received increasing pressure from the Philadelphia Fraternal Order of Police, and State Representative Mike McGeehan to sign Mumia's death warrant.

Also playing a major role in the signing of an innocent man's death warrant is the increased publicity of Mumia's book "Live from Death Row," for which he received \$30,000 from Addison-Wesley Publishing Company.

Discontent from Rep. McGeehan about death row inmates obtaining profits while sitting on death row really has no merit, since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to single out a particular section of people, in this case death row inmates, from freedom of expression.

The injustice served in Jamal's case has grown into a worldwide movement fighting to stop the execution and to free Mumia.

The facts of the trial at first look give conclusive evidence as to why Mumia did not pull the trigger the evening of December 9, 1982. Four clear cut examples prove that the state's evidence, which sentenced a revolutionary man to death, are wrong.

Of the four prosecution witnesses, none had identified Mumia in a line up. Other witnesses at the scene said the person who shot Officer Faulkner had run from the scene. The weapon which killed Officer Faulkner was not identified. The arresting officer was unavailable for testimony [who had testimony contradicting that Mumia confessed to the killing]. He was on vacation and no delay in the trial was given.

The fact that Mumia Abu-Jamal was a prominent Black journalist, known as "the voice of the voiceless," who exposed police brutality, and gave an opportunity for the MOVE organization to tell its tragic tale in a city which bombed their residence on May 13, 1985, killing 11 people, 5 of which were children, angered Mayor Rizzo and the racist police system.

Mumia was Minister of Information for the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Panther Party when he was a teenager. The prosecution decided that Mumia's political opinions were somewhat relevant to the killing of

Officer Faulkner. Mumia was asked if he ever said the famous statement, "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun," or the revolutionary phrase, "Power to the People." In a sense, the Black Panther Party ideology was on trial, without having sufficient witnesses to examine who and what the Black Panther Party really represented. To the 12 jury members, 10 of whom were white, this could only help the prosecution's case, because the ignorance of the Black Panther Party weighed heavily in the minds of this jury.

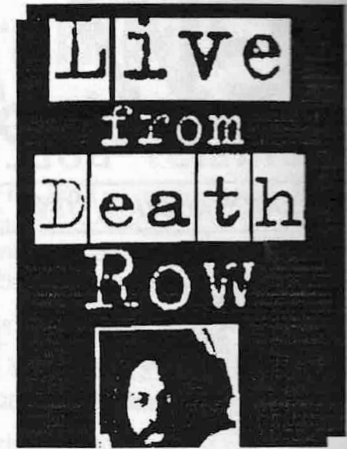
Mumia's case is particularly important to all believers in justice and freedom of speech. For if it were not for Mumia's revolutionary thought, which he expressed in a way that would influence people against this racist, decadent government, he would not be a threat to the status quo.

This type of rhetoric is a threat to the powers that be, thus it was inevitable that they tried to silence Mumia "by any means necessary." The fact that Officer Faulkner did die and Mumia happened to be at the scene where this took place, was enough for the state to get their man.

The question has to be asked: Who is the real criminal? A revolutionary Black man telling the truth of the conditions of the oppressed masses or the so-called "august" body who framed him and now has set an execution date?

Yes, the state has tremendous powers, lots of money and weapons, and many supporters, but there is something each of us can do.

Write, call or fax the office of Thomas Ridge and express your feelings: Governor Thomas Ridge, Main Capital Bldg., Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120 — (717) 783-1198 (office), (717) 783-1396. Join the Coalition to Stop the Execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal, which meets every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at the Trumbull Theater. Call (313) 275-8979 for more details. Join the National Day of Protest on July 3, meeting first at Kennedy Square at 11:30 a.m., then gather for a march at 6:00 p.m. at the corner of Woodward and Warren. A major demonstration will be held in Philadelphia on that same day, and in cities all across the country. This is of uppermost importance for all who believe in freedom, justice, and revolution.— Eric Gubka ■



The last yard of the day is finally called. "Capitals! Fourth, fifth, and sixth tier — YARD UP!" the correctional officer bellows, his rural accent alien to the urban ear. One by one, cells are unlocked for the daily trek from cell to cage. Each man is pat-searched by guards armed with batons and then scanned by a metal detector.

Once the inmates are encaged, the midsummer sky rumbles, its dark clouds swell, pregnant with power and water. A bespectacled white-shirt turns his pale face skyward, examining nature's quickening portent. The rumbles grow louder as drops of rain sail earthward, splattering steel, brick, and human.

"Yard in!" the white-shirt yells, sparking murmurs of resentment among the men.

"Yard in! Shit, man, we just out here!"

The guards adopt a cajoling, rather than a threatening, attitude. "C'mon fellas — yard in, yard in. Ya' know we can't leave y'uns out here when it gits ta thunderin' and lightnin'."

"Oh, why not? Y'all 'fraid we gonna get ourself electrocuted?" a prisoner asks.

"Ain't that a bitch?" adds another. "They must be afraid that if we do get electrocuted by lightnin', they won't have no jobs and won't get paid!"

Although usually two hours long, today's yard barely lasts ten minutes, for fear that those condemned to death by the state may perish, instead, by fate.

For, approximately 2,400 people locked in state and federal prisons, life is unlike that in any other institution. These are America's condemned, who bear a stigma far worse than "prisoner." These are America's death-row residents: men and women who walk the razor's edge between half-life and certain death in thirty-eight states or under the

Workers in Decatur and alternatives for the coming elections

Striking Caterpillar workers, Bridgestone-Firestone workers, and locked-out Staley workers are thinking of playing a role in the coming local elections for city council and mayor, and are considering various different ways of doing this.

An important number seem to agree that it would be a big step forward for union officials and/or union workers from all three unions to run for office and win, and that this is the direction workers should go in.

But an important number also express concerns about whether it would be possible for a union official or union worker to appeal to the majority of the voting population and actually win.

Perhaps it would be better to find someone who is not so closely identified with the labor movement, get a pledge from him to back labor, then map out a campaign designed to win the support of the majority of the population and carry it out, with the aim of getting the candidate elected.

Before going any further, it is necessary to say that the very fact that workers are thinking about and discussing this question is a big step forward.

Workers are absolutely right to consider all possibilities, not to reject any possibility in advance, out of hand, without thinking about it and considering it from all sides.

What would be best for the working class and the organized labor movement? Everyone thinks that it would be great to run union officials and/or union workers and win. But what if they lost? Would it be better to run union officials or union workers even if they lose? Or would it be better to run a "friend of labor" and win?

As partisans of the labor movement, we think the most important thing is to build up the independent power of the labor movement itself, to build the *size* of the labor movement (reach out to the new, young, unorganized workers), build its *independence* from the bosses and its fighting spirit, so that workers will be in a better position to defend themselves and

fight for their interests in many different ways (with meetings, demonstrations, strikes, independent labor candidates for office, etc.)

"Would it be better to run union officials or union workers even if they lose? Or would it be better to run a 'friend of labor' and win?"

From this point of view, it would be better for union officials and/or union members to run for office and lose, than for friends of labor to run for office and win (even if the friends of labor were actually true to labor in office, which is very unusual).

Workers need to stop relying on people from other classes — who aren't part of the organized labor movement, who aren't willing to identify themselves totally with the organized labor movement — to run for office and fight for workers' interests.

Workers can and must learn how to do all these kinds of things for themselves. All the propaganda that workers and their children are bombarded with from the time they enter kindergarten until the time they die — that workers are workers and bosses are bosses because workers aren't as intelligent and capable as bosses — is a lie designed to keep the workers on the bottom and the bosses on top.

If workers in Decatur run their own candidates for office, from their own ranks, and talk to the people about what the labor movement stands for — like forcing the bosses to hire more full-time workers with full pay and benefits; increasing the minimum wage; equal pay for equal work; expanding public healthcare and public

education; abolishing anti-labor laws that restrict workers' rights to organize unions and strike — workers will learn from this experience, they'll be stronger, they'll build more support for the labor movement, whether they actually win the office or not.

If workers run a "friend of labor," who is not openly identified with the labor movement, who does not openly proclaim that his campaign is aimed at building support for the labor movement, and that he will use his position in office to build support for the labor movement, it's quite possible that workers will win office for this candidate, but lose the war. Workers will be spending thousands of hours and dollars campaigning for a candidate who is not using his campaign — literature, speaking engagements, TV, radio, newspaper spots — to build support for the labor movement. Even if he gets into office and keeps the promises he made — which, again, is very unusual — he won't be using his time in office to build support for the labor movement. And, of course, it's quite possible that he won't win, or that if he does, he'll break his promises, in which case, the workers will have wasted a lot of time and money for nothing.

So, taking all this into consideration, running union officials and/or union members who openly proclaim that the purpose of their campaign is to build support for the labor movement is really the best strategy, the surest strategy, the one with the least risks, and the greatest potential for gain. Workers will learn from this experience; if they don't win the office this time, they'll figure out what mistakes were made and figure out how to win it the next time.

Sooner or later workers are going to figure out how to build their own parties, their own candidates, their own governments, and their own societies, truly open and democratic societies in which working people can be comfortable. Workers in Decatur have already taken a big step in this direction. Now is a good time to take another. — Margaret Guttshall, United Auto Workers Local 1981



Pennsylvania officials plan to kill Mumia Abu-Jamal, an innocent man, with a lethal injection on August 17 ...

Demand that Clinton stop the racist execution of Mumia!

Demand that all leaders of unions and all organizations against racism mobilize members in mass meetings and demonstrations to demand a stop to the execution!

Mumia Abu-Jamal is an innocent man. Philadelphia police shot, arrested and beat Mumia. Then they falsely charged him and convicted him of killing the policeman who shot him. The bullet found in the policeman's body was not from Mumia's gun; witnesses saw another man running from the scene that they thought killed the policeman. The judge would not allow this and other evidence of Mumia's innocence to be presented at the trial. The judge excluded Mumia from important parts of Mumia's trial and Mumia couldn't even hear the testimony against him. The judge was prejudiced against Mumia because Mumia is Black and because Mumia, a radio reporter, had been speaking out against racist police brutality in a very effective way.

Everyone who claims to be against racism, police brutality and injustice has a responsibility to do everything in his/her power to stop this execution. Statements and petitions are a good start, but they are not enough.

Clinton has the power to stop this execution. He must

be forced to use it. Leaders of unions and all organizations against racism must demand that he use it. They can and must organize mass meetings and demonstrations of thousands to demand that the execution be stopped.

Young people, working people, all who love truth and justice!

Join the fight to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Demand that the leaders of your organizations organize mass meetings and demonstrations to stop the execution!

Demonstration!

**Saturday, August 12, 5 pm,
Assemble at Chene Park,
Chene and Jefferson**

Daily demonstrations! Federal Building!

**Michigan and Cass
Monday, August 14, 4-6 pm
Tuesday, August 15, 4-6 pm
Wednesday, August 16,
from 12 noon on ...
Thursday, August 17,
12 noon on ...**

cluded the Socialist Workers Current, a socialist tendency inside the Workers Party, part of International Workers Unity.

Ford workers in San Pablo held assemblies of 6,000 workers that voted to support the strike and workers of Scania and Mercedes held one-hour solidarity strikes.

It was the first big crisis for the newly elected Cardoso government.

France

Big strikes shook France in the last months. Public employees held a one-day general strike on May 30 to protest plans of privatization of state-owned industries. In *La Commune*, newspaper of the French group, La Commune, that is developing a relationship with International Workers Unity, we read: "General strike of public employees (Corse, Renault, Peugeot-Sochaux, Air-Inter, PTT, impots). Strike after strike with the same demand: unity of the workers and their union organizations for a general salary increase."

Bosnia

The Bosnian people have strengthened their struggle against the Serbian aggressors. They have mounted offensives against strategic positions, in spite of the continued arms embargo on them and the arms sales to Serbia! The prime minister of Bosnia made clear what the true role of the UN and the U.S. is when he said on June 26: "The international community, whether it likes it or not, and the United Nations organization, is an accomplice in the genocide against Bosnia and its people."

All U.S. workers should support the struggle of Bosnia for freedom, for independence, for self-determination. U.S., UN and European troops out of Bosnia! Lift the arms embargo! ■

New Life is a socialist bulletin published in the interests of the labor party movement. *New Life* is a supporter of International Workers Unity, a tendency of the Fourth International, the world party of the socialist revolution, founded by Leon Trotsky and his co-thinkers. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of *New Life*. These are expressed in editorials. Editorial Board: Eric Gubka, Margaret Guttshall, Tim James, Kim Morgan, Fred Russo.

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Socialism: a long-term solution

Given the degenerating state of capitalism, it's not surprising that the ruling class is resorting to such extreme measures as their threat to execute Mumia Abu Jamal. It's an extension of their increasingly rabid policies against working class and oppressed people: the expansion of police brutality, the sky-rocketing rate of imprisonment, the rising attacks on workers' rights and standard of living, and the increasingly racist attempts to deny immigrants rights. All of these are typical capitalist responses to problems created by capitalism itself.

Because our productive capacity has grown beyond the limits of capitalist markets, the rich try to maintain their profits by squeezing more work from fewer workers and taking more public funds. And they try to divide us with racism and to control us with police. It's no coincidence that police pepper-gassed workers at the gates of the A.E. Staley plant in Decatur, while police prey upon young, black men in ghettos. It's also no coincidence that Mumia Abu Jamal's life is threatened by the same government which executed the Rosenbergs for an impossible crime.

The ruling class has traditionally used murder to silence those who unify and inspire working class and oppressed people—e.g. Malcolm X, Fred Hampton. They've also used prisons: many former Black Panthers are still in prison today. And, of course they don't use prison just on our leaders. More than ever, prison has become a favorite tool of the bourgeoisie. Huge numbers of working class and poor people are being locked up. According U.S. Justice Department figures, more than 1 MILLION people are now in prison in this country and every week 1,500 more are being incarcerated. They admit that it's not because of increased crime—in fact, they say crime has actually *decreased* slightly.

What they don't admit, however, is that they want to kill Mumia because even in prison, they can't silence him. Since the police

framed him and locked him up, many people have worked to help Mumia describe for us the abysmal conditions of death row prisoners. He has remained a profoundly charismatic voice for the most oppressed sections of society and has appealed to common decency and positive action. So, even in prison, Mumia Abu Jamal is very dangerous to the ruling class and is someone they cannot tolerate.

The case of Mumia Abu Jamal is the tip of a sinister iceberg. We must fight their blatantly unjust, legal lynching of Mumia. We will face more attempts to execute whoever the ruling class wants to get rid of. We have to fight the death warrant against Mumia; that must be our short-term strategy.

At the same time, we must fight to eliminate the threat of executions of workers altogether. On a long-term basis, the only way towards that goal is to overthrow the capitalist class. As long as there is a small group which benefits from exploiting and controlling the majority, we will have police, prisons and executions used against workers. Only with socialism — where the whole working class controls production for all people's needs — will the conditions exist for the total elimination of all forms of oppression. If everyone has a job, if funds for education aren't stolen for corporate welfare, if we have true democracy, what need would there be to divide and control people? What need would there be for prisons or executions? In fact, with all of us working together in a socialist society, the conditions would be ripe for each one of us to reach greater potentials than we can even imagine now. — K. Morgan ■

What
is
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fighting
for?

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of New Life,
a socialist publication

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should join
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Unite against racist police murder!

Tom Ridge, the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, is ordering prison officials to execute Mumia Abu-Jamal on August 17.

Government officials claim that Mumia Abu-Jamal killed a policeman who was beating his brother. But they never proved that Mumia was guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Alleged witnesses could not identify Mumia. The bullet found in the policeman didn't come out of Mumia's gun. Witnesses who saw another man running from the scene were never called. Mumia's court-appointed lawyer was later disbarred and Mumia, an African-American, was convicted by a jury of 10 whites and 2 Blacks.

Thus thousands of youth, workers, and organizations of all ethnic groups, including the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, the National Black Police Association, the African National Congress, and the ACLU, are calling on government officials to stop the execution and free Mumia, or, at least, to give him a new trial.

Yet, so far, government officials have refused.

Why?

There are hundreds of men in prison who have confessed to crimes far worse than killing a policeman beating a relative — men who have raped, beaten, and murdered women and children. Why are government officials so determined to kill a man who claims to be innocent, who thousands believe to be innocent, and who, indeed, is innocent?

Because Mumia Abu-Jamal not only dared to expose and fight racist and anti-working class police brutality in a very effective way — as a member of the Black Panther Party, as a journalist, as a friend of MOVE (a radical Black organization in Philadelphia persecuted by the police), and as a prisoner on death row. He also dared to call for the revolutionary overthrow of the powers in this society that promote racist and anti-working class police brutality, and for the construction of a new society, free from this kind of oppression.

A powerful working class and popular movement is developing against the rich white men who own and control the U.S. — expressed in the popular uprising against racist police brutality in L.A., in the struggles of Staley workers, Caterpillar workers,

GM workers, immigrant workers, and in the movement for a labor party. These same rich white men want to hold back this working class and popular movement by eliminating those within its ranks who are most devoted to the oppressed, most self-sacrificing, most honest and incorruptible, like Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Young workers, students, working women and working men of all ethnic groups!

We need more people like Mumia Abu-Jamal! People willing to stand up to the bosses and the oppressors. People willing to speak the truth, spread the truth, and fight for the truth.

The threats to our jobs, wages, and working conditions aren't coming from the radicals and revolutionaries within our ranks. It's coming from the bosses and their hired guns.

Workers may not agree with everything that the radicals or revolutionaries say or do. But

they need to defend radicals and revolutionaries against the bosses and their hired guns.

Workers must not allow the bosses to take those most devoted to the oppressed, those most willing to fight, away from them.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is part of the struggle of workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world against the exploiters and oppressors for a better life. He is one of our best fighters.

If you want a better life . . .
Fight for the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal!
Stop the execution!
Don't let them take him from us!

Demand that all working class and popular organizations, especially the unions, take a stand and do everything in their power, including a mass union mobilization, to stop the execution!

New Life ■

Organizations for Mumia

The MOVE Organization; The International Campaign to Free Geronimo ji Jaga (Pratt); Equal Justice USA/Quixote center; Partisan Defense Committee; Catholic Committee of Appalachia and Council for Peace and Justice; All People's Congress; National People's Democratic Uhuru Movement; Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru; Gray Panthers; Bread and Roses Foundation; Sisters of St. Francis; Black United Fund of PA; The Black Panther Community News Service; Nation of Islam; LA Coalition to Stop Mumia's Murder; 17th NYC Rock Against Racism; American Indian Movement; CURE; Refuse & Resist; Freedom Socialist Party & Radical Women; Front Line Network; John Brown Education Fund; The Managing Committee of the Journalists Section of the Berlin-Brandenburg Union of Media Workers, Printers, Paper Workers, Writers and Artists; Amistad-March '31 N'COBRA (National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America); PA Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty; The Philadelphia Tribune; State College, PA Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal; Western Pennsylvania Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal; Amnesty International USA; Amnesty International France; National Steering Committee for Black Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War; Sisters Remember Malcolm; Freedom Now Network; Just Justice (France); Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Coalition; Arts & Writings Against the Death Penalty; New York Chapter of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; AFSCME Local 215; Communication Workers of America, District 1; Labor Black League for Social Defense; P.A.C./NJ A.B.C.; Sundiata Acoli Freedom Campaign; The Prison Legal News

CELEBRITIES/ACTIVISTS

Assata Shakur; Ruby Dee; Alice Walker; St. Rep. Dave Richardson; Whoopi Goldberg; Diggable Planetis; Sonia Sanchez; Del Jones, War Correspondent; Dhoruba Bin-Wahad; Ed Asner; Danny Glover; John Edgar Weidman; Mike Farrell; Chuck D - Public

Enemy; Father Paul Washington; Rage Against the Machine; Ice Cube; Sinead O'Conner; Cypress Hill.

Our position

1. Mumia Abu-Jamal and his supporters have led and organized a very effective movement against racist police brutality in Pennsylvania, which has exposed the racist, anti-working class and undemocratic character of the U.S. justice system, and undermined the authority and unity of this racist state. Racist police, prison, and government officials want to murder Mumia in order to throw back and divide this movement.

2. Workers and unionists of all ethnic groups need to make an all out fight, not only to stop the murder, but also for the liberation of Mumia. By taking a stand not only against attacks on workers, but also against attacks on all oppressed peoples, especially peoples of color, workers will be able to develop allies and eventually build a movement large and powerful enough to totally overthrow the power of the bosses and build a society in which all workers and oppressed peoples can be comfortable. ■