

United-front protest

Initiated by the Partisan Defence Committee

Free Mumia now!

Mumia Abu-Jamal

is innocent!

Abolish the racist

death penalty!



COC Productions

Saturday 19 April, 1pm
US Embassy, Grosvenor Square, London W1A
(Nearest Tube: Bond Street)

Partial list of endorsers at 15 April 2008:

Aberdeen Trades Union Council
African Liberation Support Campaign (ALISC), London
Afrikan Liberation Day Organising Committee, London
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241, Chicago
A World to Win, London
Black Action Defense Committee Inc, Toronto
Patricia Campbell, President, Independent Workers Union (Ireland)*, Belfast
Dr Paul Mason, Cardiff Nexus Innocence Project/No More Prisons, Cardiff, Wales
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, New York City Chapter
Paul Moffat, Communication Workers Union Eastern Region
Communication Workers Union Essex Amal Branch
Congress of South African Trade Unions — Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
Day-Mer Turkish & Kurdish Community Centre, London

Jim Deery, Chairperson, Greater New Lodge Community Forum — North Belfast*
Gerry Downing, Committee Member, TGWU/UNITE 1/296*
Professor Dr Heinrich Fink, Chairman, VVN-BdA (Association of the Victims of the Nazi Regime — Coalition of Anti-fascists)*, Berlin
Dean O'Hanlon, Finsbury Park Branch, National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers
Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!
George Jackson Socialist League, London
Goldii, daughter of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Philadelphia
Jack Heyman, Executive Board member, ILWU Local 10*, member, Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, San Francisco, California
Terry Hoad, President, Oxford UCU*
Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, Oakland, California
Marcus Garvey Organising Committee, London
Pan-Afrikan Society Community Forum, London

Partisan Defence Committee
Fred Hampton Jr, Chairman, Prisoners of Conscience Committee, Chicago
Matthew Ryder, Matrix Chambers*, London
Scottish Trades Union Congress
Smita Shah, Barrister, Garden Court Chambers*, London
Spartacist League/Britain
Spartacus Youth Group
Toronto Forum on Cuba, Toronto, Canada
Margaret Valente, Community Development Worker, Star Neighbourhood Centre*, Belfast
Glenroy Watson, Chair, RMT Finsbury Park Branch*

*** Organisation listed for identification purposes only**

We want to make it very clear that endorsers and speakers at this protest initiated by the PDC under the slogans "Free Mumia now! Mumia Abu-Jamal is innocent! Abolish the racist death penalty!" do not necessarily agree in any particular with the call for the protest printed on the reverse of this leaflet or any other publicity issued by the PDC for the protest.

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The **Partisan Defence Committee** is a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal and social defence organisation which champions cases and causes in the interest of the whole of the working people. This purpose is in accordance with the political views of the Spartacist League.

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All out to free Mumia now!

America's racist rulers want to silence the powerful voice of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The 27 March Third Circuit Court of Appeals decision upholding Mumia's frame-up conviction for the 1981 killing of Police Officer Daniel Faulkner proves, again, that *there is no justice in the capitalist courts*. It is a slap in the face to all opponents of racist injustice. Mumia now faces the prospect of another sentencing hearing — not a new trial — where the death sentence could be reinstated or where he could be entombed in prison for life. *We must not let this happen! All out at the US Embassy on 19 April! Join the united-front protest initiated by the Partisan Defence Committee under the slogans: Free Mumia now! Mumia Abu-Jamal is innocent! Abolish the racist death penalty!*

The court's ruling is just a newer version of the December 2001 decision of federal district court judge William Yohn, which overturned Mumia's death sentence while upholding his conviction. As Mumia stated in 2002 after Yohn's decision: "I continue to be innocent. A court cannot make an innocent man guilty.... Another year of struggle, another year of fighting, not for life in a cage, but for freedom."

Mumia was framed up because of his lifelong struggle against racist oppression and police terror — first as a Black Panther Party spokesman, then as a MOVE supporter and an outspoken journalist renowned as the "voice of the voiceless". The cops, prosecutors and courts — with the support of capitalist politicians, Democrats and Republicans — see in Mumia the spectre of black revolt, a voice of defiant opposition to the oppression of black people that is a cornerstone of American capitalism. It is notable that the 27 March decision comes just before the Pennsylvania Democratic Party primary, in which both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton support the death penalty. A key supporter of Clinton is Democratic governor Ed Rendell, who was the Philadelphia district attorney during Mumia's 1982 trial and who has vowed to sign a death warrant if the death sentence is reinstated. It is hardly a coincidence that the court's decision comes just before the parole hearing scheduled for this month for the eight surviving members of the MOVE 9, who have spent 30 years in prison. *Free the MOVE prisoners now!*

It is particularly crucial to fight for Mumia in Britain, given the alliance between the Labour government and the US rulers. The combined military might of US/British imperialism makes them the most powerful terrorist force on the planet, as seen in the barbaric occupations of Iraq and Afghanistan. There is no official death penalty in Britain, but there is death meted out by the state, as seen in the cold-blooded police killing of Jean Charles de Menezes on a London Tube train in 2005. This was "shoot-to-kill" — long part of the British state's arsenal of repression against Catholics in Northern Ireland — brought to the streets of London in the service of the racist "war on terror". In Britain, as in the US, the "war on terror" is simply a pretext for strengthening the repressive powers of the capitalist state, today primarily targeting the oppressed Muslim population, ultimately aimed at the workers movement.

Workers, minorities, immigrants and all opponents of racist oppression must mobilise now for Mumia's freedom, on the basis that he is innocent, the victim of a racist and political frame-up, and link his fight to the struggle to abolish the racist US death penalty. Mumia is the victim not of one rogue cop, "overzealous" prosecutor or racist judge, but of the entire capitalist injustice system. His freedom will not be won through reliance on the capitalist courts or politicians, but through the independent mobilisation of the social power of the working class. It was international protest, involving the labour movement worldwide, that won Mumia a stay of execution when a death warrant was signed in 1995. But a movement of millions was demobilised by so-called "socialists" and liberals who subordinated the fight for Mumia's freedom to the call for a "new trial", promoting the lie that

Mumia could get a fair hearing from the courts that have kept him behind bars and rejected appeal after appeal.

To the millions of activists who saw in Mumia's struggle their own struggles, the reformists' message was not to fight but instead to look to the "next court". According to the reformists, the same capitalist state that killed 38 Panthers, that massacred eleven black people in the 1985 firebombing of MOVE's Osage Avenue home in Philadelphia, that has incarcerated nearly a million black men and women, was going to give Mumia justice! Behind the call for a "new trial" is a political programme directly counterposed to a mobilisation of working-class power for Mumia's freedom. *The 27 March decision should be a wake-up call to any activists who bought into the reformists' lies about the "fairness" of the courts*. We emphasise that while every legal avenue must be pursued in the fight to free Mumia, the pressure that can make the courts yield is that of mass international protest, crucially based on the power of labour.

What is necessary is *class-struggle defence* based on the understanding that capitalist society is fundamentally divided between two hostile classes — the capitalist exploiters and the working class — and that the capitalist state and its courts are organs of repression against working people and the oppressed. We fight for genuine united-front defence: mobilising in action organisations representing different political viewpoints based on agreed-upon slogans with full freedom of criticism, where the contending strategies in the fight for Mumia's freedom can be debated out in the open.

The rulers know Mumia is innocent. Starting over 15 years ago, PDC counsel Rachel Wolkenstein and Jonathan Piper, who served on Mumia's legal defence team from 1995 to 1999, uncovered additional massive evidence of his innocence. This included witness William Singletary who said Mumia was not the shooter; witnesses Veronica Jones and Pamela Jenkins who testified that prosecution witnesses were coerced into lying; forensic evidence that proved that the prosecution's story of the shooting was fabricated; the sworn confession of Arnold Beverly that he, not Mumia, shot officer Faulkner. But time and again, the courts have rejected or refused to even hear this evidence.

The fight for Mumia's freedom cuts to the core of racist US capitalism and its state. Our comrades in the US fight for Mumia's freedom as part of the broader struggle for black liberation based on the programme of *revolutionary integrationism*. We underline that full equality for the black masses requires that the working class rip the economy out of the hands of the racist capitalist rulers and reorganise it on a socialist basis. Only then will it be possible to eliminate the material roots of black oppression through the full integration of black people into an egalitarian socialist society based on a collectivised economy with quality jobs, housing, healthcare and education for all. *For black liberation through socialist revolution!*

In Britain, contrary to the reformist refrain pressuring British imperialism to "break with Bush", what is necessary is not a change of foreign policy — "independence" from the US bourgeoisie — but the revolutionary overthrow of British imperialism. Mumia's struggle is the struggle against the injustices inherent in capitalism: poverty, racist oppression, war. The multiethnic British proletariat — which has the social power to shut down production, transport and communications — must be mobilised in defence of all the oppressed in a fight for workers revolution, establishing a *socialist federation of the British Isles*.

The international working class has every interest in fighting for Mumia. Mass united-front mobilisations are urgently needed to free him and to send a message to the racist US capitalist rulers and their courts: *We will not let Mumia die or rot another day in prison! Free Mumia now! All out on 19 April!*