

TELECOPIE

Comité de défense sociale
Paris

Téléphone: (1) 42 08 01 49
Télécopie: (1) 48 03 47 21

Date: 18 août 1995
Heure: 15h07

A/TO: MRAP
De/From: CDDS

Urgent!

A l'attention de/To the attention of:
Mouloud Aounit et pierre Mairat

Nombre de pages, page de couverture comprise:
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Commentaires/Notes:

Chers amis,

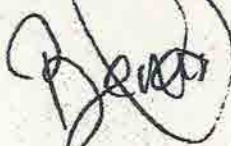
Ci-joint, vous trouverez le dernier communiqué de presse du Partisan Defense Committee -- notre organisation aux Etats-Unis -- concernant Mumia Abu-Jamal. La traduction en français de ce communiqué vous sera envoyée le plus rapidement possible.

Comme vous pouvez le constater, le communiqué insiste sur le fait que pour sauver Mumia, il faut continuer et intensifier les mobilisations internationales, basées notamment sur la puissance de la classe ouvrière.

Malgré plusieurs essais, je n'ai pas réussi à contacter le PCF (Je viens de leur envoyer un fax avec le communiqué). Il est probable que la demande pour un nouveau procès soit refusée le 11 septembre. Des actions d'envergure sont nécessaires. Nous aimerions en discuter les termes avec vous. Pouvez-vous nous téléphoner rapidement?

Salutations fraternelles,

Pour le CDDS,
Myriam Benoît



on: Partisan Defense Committee at ☐ (212) 406-2210
 To: St-France (paris) at ☐ 011,33-14-883-4721

☎ 08-17-95 09:44 pm
 ☐ 001 of 004

Partisan Defense Committee

P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station, New York, NY 10013

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 August 17, 1995

PRESS CONTACT
 Janet John (212) 406-4252

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal! Defense Notes No. 3, 17 August 1995 **Hearing in Sabo's Court Recessed Until September 11**

Report from the Courtroom

After three weeks of testimony, on August 15, the Post Conviction Relief hearing for a new trial for death row political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal was recessed. Judge Sabo set September 11 for attorneys to present "findings of fact" and oral arguments preceding his ruling on the PCRA.

In the week since he issued an indefinite stay of Jamal's execution, Sabo continued his attacks on Jamal and his defense team. On August 11, Mumia's lead attorney, Leonard Weinglass, was cited for contempt and fined \$1,000 for taking "too long" to hand over autopsy slides demanded by Sabo. On August 15, as the hearing was ending, Sabo again threatened Jamal's co-counsel, Rachel Wolkenstein, with a \$1,000 fine and jail when she argued to have admitted as evidence a sworn statement by a Corrections Department official that privileged correspondence between Jamal and his attorneys had been confiscated, copied and turned over to the governor of Pennsylvania's general counsel.

While the prosecution pushed to have the defense rest its case, Jamal's attorneys argued that the hearing not be closed as potential witnesses continue to come forward. As Wolkenstein told a reporter outside the courtroom, witnesses are coming forward now because they see a legal team that is fighting for Mumia and they feel some protection for themselves, as opposed to the orchestrated frame-up "trial" of Jamal in 1982.

On August 11, William Singletary took the stand and testified that on the night of 9 December 1981 he saw another man shoot police officer Faulkner and flee from the scene. Singletary said he saw Jamal then walk up to Faulkner and ask if there was anything he could do to help. Seconds later, he testified, Faulkner's gun discharged, sending a bullet into Mumia's chest.

Singletary also testified to the intimidation he was subjected to by the Philly cops, describing hours spent at the Police Administration Building as the cops repeatedly "tore up" or "balled up and threw in the trash" statements he gave them. Singletary said that a Detective Green told him "to write what he wanted me to write [or] they would take me in the elevator and beat me up." Singletary testified that after five hours of being threatened by the cops, he finally wrote a statement that was "dictated" by Green which he signed "because I wanted to get out of there." This false statement was what was turned over to the defense at the 1982 trial. Singletary's testimony to the PCRA hearing was critical to demonstrating that the prosecution had suppressed evidence of Jamal's innocence.

MORE MORE MORE

The PDC is a class-struggle, non-sectarian legal and social defense organization 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.

From: Partisan Defense Committee at ☐ (212) 496-2218
 To: SL-France (paris) at ☐ 811,33-14-803-4721

☐ 88-17-95 09:45 pm
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One day earlier, William Harmon, a Pennsylvania prison inmate who had just newly come forward, testified that he saw two men shoot Faulkner and that neither of them was Jamal. Pointing to Harmon's criminal record, the press and prosecution dismissed his testimony with sneering hostility. Yet three out of four witnesses for the prosecution in the 1982 trial had criminal records. The chief prosecution witness in 1982, Cynthia White, a prostitute, had 38 arrests against her. She was provided with police protection on the streets for giving testimony that echoed the cops' frame-up story. In contrast, Harmon, a black man, had nothing to gain from his testimony and, in fact, risks spending more time in jail.

On the last day of the PCRA hearing before the recess, Robert Chobert, another of the prosecution's witnesses from the 1982 trial, took the stand. Chobert originally made a statement saying the shooter of Faulkner ran away. This was later changed to a statement where he said that Jamal was the shooter. Chobert, a cab driver at the time, was driving without a license. At the PCRA hearing, he admitted that in 1982 Assistant District Attorney McGill had said he would look into getting Chobert's driver's license back for him. Although this never happened, Chobert continued to drive a cab for 10 years without a license and was never charged.

The hearing will reconvene on September 11. Anybody who has sat through or read about the proceedings in the court known as Sabo-land expects him to deny Jamal's petition, ushering in a process of appeals to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and federal courts if necessary.

The cost of carrying on this legal struggle is enormous. Funds are urgently needed! To help mount the best possible legal defense for Mumia Abu-Jamal, send a contribution today to: Bill of Rights Foundation (earmarked "Mumia Abu-Jamal Legal Defense") and mail it to: Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, 163 Amsterdam Ave., No. 115, New York, NY 10023-5001.

**The Fight Continues Worldwide:
 Free Mumia! Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!**

In his column, "The Stay," written on August 11, Mumia Abu-Jamal sent the following message:

"Although many radicals and progressives expressed joy at news of the stay, other political analysts saw it as a clever move by a clever judge, who did what higher courts would've done and, in so doing, attempted to blunt the edge off of a growing and militant anti-death penalty movement, in Philadelphia and beyond, thereby stymieing a series of planned demonstrations.

"Whatever the reasoning, let us utilize this precious time to build a stronger and broader movement, to not 'stay' one execution, but to halt them all! *Down with the racist U.S. death penalty!*

"In an age when South Africa, once the pariah of the international community, has abolished *all* executions as an affront to the inherent right to life, our task can not be to merely stay (or slow down) one man's execution. No! It must be to echo the world—the European Community, Australia, South Africa, *et al.*—in total abolition of this racist vestige of the lynching tree, all forms of state murder."

M O R E M O R E M O R E

From: Partisan Defense Committee at ☐ (212) 466-2218
 To: SL-France (paris) at ☐ 811,33-14-883-4721

☐ 88-17-95 03:46 pm
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On August 9, at a fundraiser for Jamal at the health and hospital workers union Local 1199C hall in Philadelphia, Pam Africa read a letter from Nelson Mandela, president of South Africa, to Governor Ridge. Mandela appealed, "I urge you to use your power as Governor of the State of Pennsylvania to commute the death sentence imposed upon Mumia Abu-Jamal."

The same day in Volta Redonda, Brazil, over 200 workers and youth rallied for Jamal. In front of the memorial to Zumbi—leader of a heroic slave revolt who was murdered by the slavocracy in Brazil 300 years ago—they demanded: "Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Down with the Racist Death Penalty!" Initiated by Luta Metalurgica (Metalworkers Struggle) and the Municipal Workers Union, the rally drew participation from the Unified Black Movement and several other black and leftist organizations. The mayor, city council and also the bishop of Volta Redonda issued statements in defense of Jamal. There have also been demonstrations for Jamal in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

In Paris on August 9, banners demanding "Vie sauve pour Mumia Abu-Jamal" flew over a more than 1,000-strong protest called by the French Communist Party and the CGT labor federation. In Chicago on August 10, a labor-centered rally initiated by the Partisan Defense Committee included speakers representing the powerful transit workers unions in the city as well as the president of United Auto Workers Local 477 and Cook County Commissioner Danny Davis.

On August 11, a PDC-initiated rally was held at the union hall of SEIU Local 399 in Los Angeles, the militant, largely Hispanic "Justice for Janitors" union. Coming out of extensive work by SEIU locals in California on Jamal's behalf, on July 29 the Western Regional Conference of the SEIU had passed a resolution demanding a stay of execution and a new trial "so that Abu-Jamal's lawyers can present new, formerly suppressed evidence."

One of the keynote speakers at the L.A. rally was Local 399 first vice president Doris Boyd Snyder, who was instrumental in mobilizing her union in a demonstration demanding freedom for Geronimo ji Jaga (Pratt) last year. Like Jamal, Geronimo, a former leader of the Black Panther Party, was framed up for a crime he did not and could not have committed. He has been in jail for almost a quarter of a century! Freedom Now for Geronimo!

Richard Price, chairman of the SEIU Western Regional Affirmative Action caucus, reminded those present that the L.A. rally for Jamal was taking place on the 30th anniversary of the Watts riots and the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, where thousands were murdered "for racism and vengeance."

Thousands from Philadelphia and around the country came out for an emergency rally—initiated by the National People's Campaign and the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal—in Philly on August 12 calling to "Stop the Execution! Save Mumia Abu-Jamal!" Organizers estimate that at its height the crowd was some 10,000 strong. The same day, protests for Jamal were held in Germany, France and Britain. On the other side of the globe, rallies initiated by the PDC were held in Sydney and Melbourne, Australia. Australian prime minister Robert Hawke recently sent a letter to Ridge asking for a review of Jamal's conviction and sentence.

MORE MORE MORE

From: Partisan Defense Committee at ☐ (212) 466-2218
 To: SL-France (paris) at ☐ 011,33-14-893-4721

☐ 08-17-95 09:47 pm
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The vice president of the Vancouver local of the Canadian Union of Postal Workers as well as a representative of the New Democratic Youth joined the PDC in leading a protest rally for Jamal in Vancouver on August 14. The same day in Toronto, despite a torrential downpour, some 250 protesters marched outside the U.S. consulate as representatives of the PDC and Anti-Racist Action led chants of "Mumia, Mumia Must Go Free!"

The cause of fighting to save Mumia Abu-Jamal has been taken up by many and diverse organizations and individuals. The urgent task of building the broadest and most powerful united defense of this courageous fighter requires upholding the right of all those who have come together in Jamal's defense to raise their own particular views in their own name.

Unfortunately, speakers from the PDC and Refuse and Resist, who have long been involved in championing Jamal's defense, were both excluded from speaking at the August 12 Philly rally. As the vice president of the Vancouver postal workers union wrote in response to the exclusion of the PDC from a rally called by the "Coalition to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal" in that city: "Political exclusionism is not the way to achieve victory in this case. Especially at a time when we need the broadest base of forces dedicated to Mumia's defense."

In L.A., New York and other places, defenders of Jamal have been assaulted and then arrested by the cops. We demand that all the charges be dropped against these protesters!

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal has become the international symbol of the struggle to abolish the racist death penalty. Turkish mine workers in Zonguldak have been circulating a petition declaring: "No matter what my political opinion, I am against the death penalty and I consider it a crime by the state.... I am for saving the life of Abu-Jamal and the death sentence against this journalist should be canceled."

Irish "Republican Socialist Prisoners of War" in Long Kesh prison wrote to Ridge: "As a nation who has witnessed thousands of State murders, we understand only too well the suffering inflicted upon oppressed peoples, and we are only too well aware of State frame-ups. Stop this killing of our brother." A letter from the "Independent Self-Managed Union of the Information, Science & Culture Workers" in Moscow demanded that "Abu-Jamal not be executed" and compared his case to that of Sacco and Vanzetti, two anarchist workers leaders who were executed for their political beliefs in 1927.

Here in the U.S., the South Bay AFL-CIO Labor Council representing 120 labor unions in Santa Clara and San Benito counties in California wrote to Ridge of Jamal's case: "This miscarriage of justice is an attempt to strip working people of all hues of a future free from racism and inhumanity by our U.S. criminal justice system." Joining journalists unions from Germany, Britain and South Africa, on August 5 delegates from the National Writers Union, organized by the UAW, voted to make Jamal an honorary member "in recognition of his life of achievement as an eloquent journalist and writer."

This international campaign of protest has temporarily stayed the executioner's hand. But as we wrote in the last issue of these defense notes: "The efforts to win freedom for Jamal must be doubled and redoubled, bringing to bear particularly the power of the multiracial working class around the globe!"

FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL! ABOLISH THE RACIST DEATH PENALTY!