

# United-Front Protest

# FREE MUMIA NOW!



## Mumia Abu-Jamal Is Innocent! Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!

### 1 p.m. Saturday, April 19

Across the street from the U.S. Consulate, 360 University Avenue  
between Dundas (St. Patrick Station) and Queen (Osgoode Station)

#### Partial list of endorsers as of 13 April 2008:

**Aberdeen Trades Union Council**, Aberdeen, Scotland  
**Bruce Allen**, Angola 3 Support Committee,\* St. Catharines, ON  
**Always Question**, Toronto, ON  
**Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241**, Chicago, IL  
**Amalgamated Transit Union Local 308**, Chicago, IL  
**Asian Communities Council of Canada**, Toronto, ON  
**Black Action Defense Committee Inc.**, Toronto, ON  
**Dave Bleakney**, National Union Representative, Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW), Ottawa, ON  
**Murphy Browne**, President, Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students,\* University of Toronto,\* Toronto, ON  
**Canadian Union of Postal Workers – Syndicat des Travailleurs et Travailleuses des Postes**, Ottawa, ON  
**CHRY 105.5 fm Community Radio**, Toronto, ON  
**Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) New York City Chapter**, New York, NY  
**Congress of South African Trade Unions – Western Cape**, Cape Town, South Africa  
**Vilma Filici**, President, Canadian Hispanic Congress,\* Toronto, ON  
**Goldii**, daughter of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Philadelphia, PA  
**Rosario Ibarra**, National Coordinator, iEureka!,

Mexico City, Mexico  
**International Longshoremens' Association Local 1422**, Charleston, SC  
**Angela Kerr**, Production Associate/Human Rights Board, Canadian Auto Workers Local 88,\* Tillsonburg, ON  
**Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal**, Oakland, CA  
**Leonard Peltier Defense Committee Canada**, Toronto, ON  
**Frederick Loft**, member, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)\*; member, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory,\* Hamilton, ON  
**Jane Marsh**, President, CUPW Toronto Local,\* Toronto, ON  
**Derrick McEwan**, Shop Steward, CUPW Toronto Local,\* Toronto, ON  
**Ovide Mercredi**, Chief, Mispawistik Cree Nation,\* Grand Rapids, MB  
**Ken Mooney**, President, CUPW Local 846,\* Vancouver, BC  
**National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Finsbury Park Branch**, Hertfordshire, England  
**Winnie Ng**, Toronto, ON  
**Ontario Coalition Against Poverty**, Toronto, ON  
**Gilles Perrault**, writer, France

**Judy Rebick**, Gindin Chair in Social Justice, Ryerson University,\* Toronto, ON  
**Christina Rousseau**, Steward, CUPE 3903,\* Toronto, ON  
**Ryerson Students' Union**, Toronto, ON  
**San Francisco Bay View National Black Newspaper**, San Francisco, CA  
**Macdonald Scott**, member, No One Is Illegal\* and Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, Toronto, ON  
**Kevin Shimmin**, National Representative, UFCW Canada,\* Toronto, ON  
**Spartacus Youth Club**, Toronto, ON  
**Boni Stafford**, member, Women's Committee, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 113,\* Toronto, ON  
**SUD Rail Workers Union of Paris Left Bank**, Paris, France  
**Toronto Forum on Cuba**, Toronto, ON  
**Eric Touloumis**, Shop Steward, CUPW, Toronto, ON  
**Trotskyist League/Ligue trotskyste**  
**York University Black Students Alliance**, Toronto, ON  
 \* Organizational affiliation listed for identification purposes only.

*We want to make it very clear that endorsers and speakers at this protest 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.*

Initiated by the April 19th United Front for Mumia. Endorsed by the Partisan Defense Committee.

For more information, contact the Partisan Defense Committee at (416) 593-4138; write to Box 314, Station B, Toronto ON M5T 2W1; or email [pdctoronto@bellnet.ca](mailto:pdctoronto@bellnet.ca) Website: [www.partisandefense.org](http://www.partisandefense.org)

*The Partisan Defense Committee 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 Trotskyist League.*

# All Out to Free Mumia Now!

America's racist rulers want to silence the powerful voice of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The March 27 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 across from the U.S. Consulate on April 19! Join the united-front protest initiated by the April 19<sup>th</sup> United Front for Mumia and endorsed by the Partisan Defense Committee. 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 March 27 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 here in Canada—Washington's junior partner and ally in meting out repression around the world, as shown in the Canadian army's role in enforcing the barbaric neocolonial occupation of Afghanistan. In Canada as in the U.S., the "war on terror" has been wielded as a pretext for strengthening the repressive powers of the capitalist state, today primarily targeting the oppressed Muslim population, ultimately aimed at the multiethnic workers movement. We call to defend all victims of this racist state repression, from Omar Khadr to the "Toronto 18" Muslim youth.

The rulers' vendetta against Mumia is a vendetta against all who challenge cop repression, trade unionists who defend their picket lines, those who protest imperialist depredations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. After more than 25 years on death row, Mumia still stands defiant, writing commentaries in defense of the rights of black people, immigrants, unions. Workers, minorities, immigrants and all opponents of racist oppression must mobilize 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 U.S. 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 mobilization 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 demobilized by reformist left groups—including Socialist Action and the International Socialists in Canada—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. Others, for instance the Bolshevik Tendency, give these groups a left cover by treating the call for a "new trial" as just another tactic among the "friends of Mumia."

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 program directly counterposed to a mobilization of working-class power for Mumia's freedom. ***The March 27 decision should be a wake-up call to any activists who bought into the reformists' lies about the "fairness" of the courts.*** We emphasize 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 defense 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 defense: mobilizing in action organizations 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 defense 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 U.S. capitalism and its state. Our comrades in the U.S. fight for Mumia's freedom as part of the broader struggle for black liberation based on the program of ***revolutionary integrationism***. Full equality for the black masses requires that the working class rip the economy out of the hands of the racist capitalist rulers and reorganize 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 collectivized economy with quality jobs, housing, healthcare and education for all. ***For black liberation through socialist revolution!***

Here in Canada, the struggle for Mumia's freedom must be linked to a fight against the attacks by our own ruling class—from the racist deportations of immigrants to assaults on Native protesters; from Anglo-chauvinist Quebec-bashing to the "anti-crime" hysteria targeting black and South Asian youth that has been backed by the pro-capitalist NDP social democrats. The multiethnic working class of this country—which has the social power to shut down production, transport and communications—must be mobilized in defense of all the oppressed as part of a perspective of sweeping away the entire system of racist capitalism.

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

— Partisan Defense Committee, 6 April 2008