

United-Front Protest

Mumia Abu-Jamal is Innocent! Free Mumia Now! Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!



COC Productions

**Wednesday, 23 April, 5:30 p.m.
Sydney, outside U.S. Consulate
corner Martin Place & Castlereagh St.**

Partial list of endorsers as of 21 April 2008:

Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 241, Chicago, IL, U.S.
Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 308, Chicago, IL, U.S.
Australia Asia Worker Links, Melbourne
Black Rose Anarchist Library & Books, Sydney
Kevin Bracken, Secretary, Maritime Union of Australia, Victorian Branch, West Melbourne
Chris Cain, State Secretary, Western Australia Branch, Maritime Union of Australia*
Canadian Union of Postal Workers—Syndicat des Travailleurs et Travailleuses des Postes, Ottawa, ON, Canada
CGT Dockers Union Marseille, Marseille, France
Coalition of Black Trade Unionists (CBTU) New York City Chapter, New York, NY, U.S.
Communication Workers Union Eastern Region, London, England
Communist Left, Sydney
Community Radio 3 CR, Melbourne
Congress of South African Trade Unions—Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa
Monique Code, spokesperson for Jamal Hart, New York, NY, U.S.
L. Cooper, Secretary, Communications Union CEPU,* Melbourne
Jim Donovan, Ex-Secretary, Maritime Union of Australia, Sydney Branch*
Gay Liberation Network, Chicago, IL, U.S.

Goldii, daughter of Mumia Abu-Jamal, Philadelphia, PA, U.S.
Fred Hampton Jr., Chairman, Prisoners of Conscience Committee, Chicago, IL, U.S.
Trevor Hanson, General Secretary, Maritime Union of New Zealand,* Wellington, New Zealand
Jack Heyman, Executive Board member, ILWU Local 10,* Oakland, CA; member Labor Action Committee to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, San Francisco, CA, U.S.
David Hilliard, Dr. Huey P. Newton Foundation, Oakland, CA, U.S.
Indigenous Social Justice Association, Sydney
International Longshoremen's Association Local 1422, Charleston, SC, U.S.
Justice Action, New South Wales
Jenny Munro, Wiradjuri Aboriginal Nation,* Sydney
Leonard Peltier Support Group Melbourne
Maritime, Energy and Transport Union of Timor Leste, East Timor
Maritime Union of Australia, Victorian Branch, West Melbourne
Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group
National Union of Mine Workers, Johannesburg, South Africa
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers Finsbury Park Branch, Hertfordshire, England
Darryl "Mike D." Payne, President,

International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 1526,* Fort Lauderdale, FL, U.S.
Kenneth Riley, President, International Longshoremen's Association (ILA) Local 1422, Charleston, SC, U.S.
South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU), Johannesburg, South Africa
Spartacist League/Australia Spartacus Youth Club, Sydney
SSEU Local 371, New York, NY, U.S.
Bernhard Stietz-Leipnitz, member of the Hamburg Executive Board, ver.di (Public Service Workers Union),* Hamburg, Germany
SUD Railworkers Union of Paris Left Bank, Paris, France
Timor Leste Trade Union Confederation, East Timor
UAW Local 3212, Chicago, IL, U.S.
Sam Watson, Brisbane Murri man, Queensland
Maree Woods, Delegate, W.A. Women's Liaison, Maritime Union of Australia,* Western Australia
Workers Radio Sydney, Australia
YEKMAL (Association of Parents from Kurdistan), Berlin, Germany
** Organisational affiliation listed for identification purposes only.*

We want to make it very clear that the endorsers of the 23 April demonstration do not necessarily agree in any particular with the call by the PDC printed on the reverse side of this flyer.

Initiated by the Partisan Defence Committee

For more information call the PDC: Sydney (02) 9281 2181 Melbourne (03) 9654 4315
Fax: (02) 9281 2185, e-mail: pdc.sydney@exemail.com.au, visit our Web site at www.partisandefense.org
or write to: PDC, P.O. Box Q217, QVB, Sydney NSW 1230

The PDC 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.

All Out to Free Mumia Now!

America's racist rulers want to silence the powerful voice of Mumia Abu-Jamal. The U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals decision on 27 March upholding the frame-up conviction of black political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal for the 1981 killing of Police Officer Daniel Faulkner is an outrage! It proves, once 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 for life. **We must not let this happen! Mumia must be freed now! Join the united-front mobilisation initiated by the Partisan Defence Committee. All out on 23 April to demand Mumia Abu-Jamal is Innocent! Free Mumia Now! 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. Both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton support the death penalty. It is also no coincidence that the court's decision comes just before the parole hearing scheduled for April for the eight surviving members of the MOVE 9, who have spent 30 years in prison. **Free the MOVE prisoners now!**

It is all the more urgent today to revitalise mass protest to free Mumia on the basis that he is innocent, the victim of a racist and political frame-up, and to link his fight to the struggle to abolish the racist death penalty. Mumia's struggle is an *international* fight against the injustices inherent in capitalism: poverty, racist oppression, war. The fight for Mumia is the fight for black rights, for workers' rights, for the rights of all the oppressed. The rulers' vendetta against him is a vendetta against all who challenge cop repression, trade unionists who defend their picket lines, those who protest imperialist depredations from Iraq, to Afghanistan to East Timor and the South Pacific. After more than 25 years on death row, Mumia still stands defiant, writing commentaries in defence of the rights of black people, immigrants, unions. Workers, blacks, immigrants and all opponents of racist oppression must mobilise *now* for Mumia's freedom.

The fight for Mumia's freedom has everything to do with the fight against "war on terror" capitalist repression. As the cases of the Barwon 13, Mamdouh Habib, David Hicks show, the bogus "war on terror"—which has been prosecuted by Liberal and Labor governments alike—has led to a massive increase in state surveillance and repressive measures especially targeting Muslims, Middle Eastern and South Asian immigrants and other Asian peoples. It has incited racist reaction on the streets and provided justification for shredding democratic rights and for massively strengthening state repression targeting all opponents of capitalism, the left and organised labour movement.

It was only in 1985 that the last legal vestiges of the death penalty were removed federally in Australia. This followed considerable social struggle, particularly in the 1960s, including militant protests by waterside workers in Victoria. However, ongoing Aboriginal deaths at the hands of cops and prison screws—from TJ Hickey to Mulrunji Doomadgee—show that a *de facto* death penalty applies to Aborigines. The current cop/military takeover of Aboriginal lands in the Northern Territory has meant more Aborigines in prison and more deaths in custody. As with the whitewash trial of Queensland policeman, Chris Hurley, for the killing of Mulrunji Doomadgee on Palm Island in 2004 and the ongoing racist state persecution of

Aboriginal community activist, Lex Wotton, for protesting this brutal killing, Mumia's case demonstrates that workers and the oppressed face a system of capitalist injustice. **Drop the charges against Lex Wotton now!**

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. This perspective stands in sharp contrast to those groups internationally 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 Black Panthers under COINTELPRO, that massacred eleven black people in the 1985 firebombing of MOVE's Osage Avenue home in Philadelphia, that imprisons nearly a million black men and women in the U.S. today, was going to give Mumia justice! Such reformist illusions are pushed in this country by those like Socialist Alliance who promote government inquiries such as the 1987 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which whitewashed the crimes of the state endorsing police and coroner verdicts in *all* 99 Aboriginal deaths it reviewed—i.e., not one cop was ever prosecuted.

Behind the call for a "new trial" is a political program 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 the working class.

What is necessary is *class-struggle defence* based on the understanding that capitalist society is fundamentally divided between two hostile classes—and that the capitalist state and its courts are organs of repression against the 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 that Mumia is innocent. Starting over 15 years ago, PDC counsel Rachel Wolkenstein and Jonathon Piper, who served on Mumia's legal defence 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.

Combating every manifestation of racist capitalist oppression, we underline that full equality for the oppressed masses requires that the working class rip the economy out of the hands of the capitalist rulers and reorganise it on a socialist basis. Only then will it be possible to eliminate the material roots of racist oppression and build an egalitarian socialist society based on a collectivised economy with quality jobs, housing, health care and education for all. The fight to free Mumia is the fight for black liberation, part of the broader fight for socialist revolution and therefore for the liberation of us all.

The multiracial international working class has every interest in fighting for Mumia. Mass united-front mobilisations are urgently needed internationally to free Mumia and to send a message to the racist capitalist rulers and their courts: **We will not let Mumia die or rot another day in prison! Free Mumia Now! All out on 23 April!**

—Partisan Defence Committee, 6 April 2008