

# EMERGENCY DEMONSTRATION!

Governor Ridge threatens to sign a death warrant for Mumia Abu-Jamal at any time. Join the mass demonstration in Oakland to deliver the urgent message:  
**MUMIA ABU-JAMAL MUST NOT DIE!**



Jennifer Beach

## All Out to **Save Mumia Abu-Jamal!**

Death Row Political Prisoner  
Black Journalist  
"Voice of the Voiceless"  
Former Black Panther  
MOVE Supporter

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***BE THERE!***

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**The Day After the Death Warrant is Signed  
4:30-6:30 p.m., 14th and Broadway, Oakland**

(On Monday if the warrant is signed on a weekend)

**Abolish the Racist Death Penalty!**

Initiated by the Partisan Defense Committee.  
Get on the phone tree, for more information call: (510) 839-0852

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# Save Mumia Abu-Jamal!

We are in a race against time to save Mumia Abu-Jamal, a courageous black journalist, fighter for social justice, and a political prisoner on death row in Pennsylvania. The new governor of Pennsylvania, Republican Tom Ridge, took office on January 17. Ridge won the state house on a pro-death penalty platform and has already signed five death warrants. Foremost among the over 170 men and women on Pennsylvania's death row is Mumia Abu-Jamal, who was framed up in 1982 on charges of killing a Philadelphia police officer.

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a death row political prisoner. A former Black Panther Party spokesman, outspoken MOVE supporter, and a journalist called "the voice of the voiceless" for his championing the rights of the oppressed, Jamal has been in the cross hairs of Philadelphia's racist killer cops for 26 years. From the depths of Pennsylvania's death row, Jamal's columns about the homeless, racist terror, brutality of American prisons, and hypocrisy of America's leaders appear regularly in newspapers around the country. It is that pen and that voice the U.S.' racist rulers are determined to still for good:

- At the age of 13, Jamal was beaten and arrested for protesting a rally for Alabama governor George "Segregation Forever" Wallace, held in the white racist bastion of police commissioner Frank Rizzo's South Philadelphia.

- In 1968 at age 14, Jamal was co-founder and Minister of Information of the Philadelphia chapter of the Black Panther Party. Jamal wrote for the *Black Panther* newspaper.

- A widely acclaimed journalist since 1970, Jamal was broadcast on national radio networks. Jamal was elected president of the Philadelphia chapter of the Association of Black Journalists in 1980 and named by *Philadelphia Magazine* as one of its 81 "people to watch" in 1981.

- Jamal became a supporter of the Philadelphia MOVE organization in the aftermath of the murderous 1978 siege on

their Powelton Village home by more than 600 heavily armed cops. In 1985, this cop vendetta culminated in Mayor Wilson Goode's hideous bombing of MOVE, which left eleven, including five children, dead. On 9 December 1981 these same Philadelphia cops tried to kill Jamal in the streets, but failed. After taking a near-fatal bullet in the stomach, Jamal was beaten, kicked, rammed into a pole and dumped on a hospital floor by police, where he was beaten again, and arrested on charges of killing a cop.

Jamal's trial was a classic racist frame-up—denied the lawyer of his choice and resources to prepare a defense; of the prospective black jurors all but two were excluded from the jury of twelve because of their race while admittedly prejudiced white jurors were chosen to decide Jamal's fate. Jamal was convicted of murder by this hand-picked panel. On 3 July 1982, the prosecutor secured the death sentence with the argument that Jamal should be condemned to death simply for his political history and beliefs, claiming that his membership in the Black Panther Party and use of the slogan "power to the people" 12 years ago proved he was a committed cop-killer!

In March 1989 the Pennsylvania Supreme Court denied Jamal's petition. In 1991 the U.S. Supreme Court twice turned down Jamal's petition for review. Jamal and his attorneys, led by Leonard Weinglass, are preparing a new legal challenge in the Pennsylvania courts to expose the frame-up conviction and sentence of death. Recently, the Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal was established to raise funds for the legal defense. Chairmen are actors Ossie Davis and Mike Farrell. Among the advisors are Harry Belafonte, author E.L. Doctorow, Whoopi Goldberg, noted civil rights attorney Conrad Lynn and Pennsylvania state representative David Richardson.

Over 40,000 people and organizations around the world have expressed their support to Jamal's fight against this racist "legal" lynching. Among them are California Congressman Ronald Dellums; Senator Carol Moseley-Braun; South African poet Dennis Brutus; former Attorney General Ramsey Clark; Region VI of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists; Operation PUSH, Chicago; and the French Commission of Justice and Peace. From the CGT, France's mass trade union federation, to the 180,000-strong Toronto Labour Council, unions representing millions more have taken up the fight to save Jamal: ILA Local 1414, Savannah, GA; AFSCME Local 1644 Committee Against Apartheid in South Africa, Atlanta, GA; ILWU Local 6, San Francisco; Chicago's ATU Local 308; CWA Local 4309, Cleveland; National Union of Journalists, London; Canadian Union of Public Employees, Metropolitan Vancouver District Council.

While availing ourselves of every legal resource at our disposal to save Jamal's life, death penalty abolitionists cannot expect justice through the capitalist courts. We must rely on and organize the tremendous power of social protest to save Mumia Abu-Jamal and put an end to the U.S.' assembly line of "legal" murder. America's death rows hold over 2,800—mostly blacks and Hispanics, and almost all very poor. The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is what the death penalty is all about. It exposes not only the barbarity and arbitrary cruelty of this ultimate form of state terror, but the inherent racism in its application. The fight to save Jamal is the fight against racist state murder around the world. Save Mumia Abu-Jamal! Abolish the Death Penalty!

—Partisan Defense Committee

We want to make it very clear that other endorsers of the emergency demonstration do not necessarily agree in any particular with the view expressed here by the PDC.

## Join the Campaign

Save Jamal! Organize protest! The name of Mumia Abu-Jamal is today a rallying cry in the fight against the racist and barbaric death penalty. Bring the force of labor, minorities, death penalty abolitionists, human rights organizations into the struggle to save his life.

- Pass motions in your unions, campus, church and community organizations. Publicize his case in your union or organization's newsletter.

- Send letters of protest to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, Main Capitol Building, Room 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120.

- Contact the PDC for speakers, to arrange showings of the PDC video, "From Death Row, This is Mumia Abu-Jamal," tapes of Jamal speaking, petitions, posters, bundles of the campaign issue of *Class-Struggle Defense Notes*.

- Contribute to the legal defense. Make tax-deductible contributions payable to the Bill of Rights Foundation, earmarked "Mumia Abu-Jamal Legal Defense," and send to the Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, 163 Amsterdam Avenue, No. 115, New York, NY 10023-5001.

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 Spartacist League.