

Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

Mumia Abu-Jamal has been in prison for 18 years, most of it on death row. He was convicted of killing a Philadelphia police officer in a trial before a biased judge marked by prosecutorial misconduct, racially biased jury selection, perjured police testimony, coercion of witnesses, and an inadequate defense.

As the battle to free Mumia from a prosecution motivated by his prominence as a local voice for justice in Philadelphia has grown to national and international proportions, the significance of his case has likewise grown. His case has come to represent not only the fight against political and racial oppression, but also the fight against the continuing dismantling of any semblance of justice in the so-called criminal justice system, the continuing growth of the prison-industrial complex, and the death penalty.



Fight the *injustice* of the “justice system.”

The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal is unusual because he was a locally prominent and eloquent spokesperson for justice before his arrest; this contributed to the degree and extent of the frame-up. In short, it is unusual because he is a *political* prisoner in *every* sense of that term. ***But police frame-ups of the innocent are everyday events!*** Currently in the news is the so-called “Rampart scandal.” Police in the Los Angeles Police Department’s Rampart Division systematically planted evidence on their victims, lied in their reports about what they had seen and heard, and repeated those lies under oath from the witness stand at trials and hearings. So far, over 80 people have been released from prison because investigation has shown their convictions were based on police perjury and planted evidence. Investigation continues as to hundreds more. But this sordid affair came to light only when a Rampart Division cop was busted for selling drugs and he started talking as part of a plea bargain. Meanwhile, a similar cabal of cops has been exposed in Oakland, California. Thousands of other victims of police perjury remain imprisoned throughout California and the nation with little hope that such a chance event will bring forth the truth which would set them free.

The reality of *injustice* of the justice system is yet another reason we must fight to abolish the death penalty. We regularly see news accounts of persons who have spent years in prison, even on death rows near execution, who have been proven by new evidence, such as DNA analysis, to be innocent. However, in spite of the rescue of some from imprisonment and execution, the courts offer scant protection to the innocent. Indeed, the U.S. Supreme Court has held that, once a person has been “fairly” convicted, later proof of his innocence is not grounds for halting his execution.

Register Peace and Freedom Party

How do we end the perversion of justice which pervades our system? Too many people accept police crime because they see no other means of dealing with the violence which the media has taught them to fear. Yet we live in a capitalist society, one which by its very nature glorifies greed, property and privilege. Capitalist society relies on institutionalized violence to protect the tiny minority which owns and controls society’s wealth, leading naturally to individual violence in response to it.

We can do away with both individual violence and institutionalized repression only by building a different kind of society, based on democracy, cooperation and sharing. Such a socialist society might not be “paradise on earth,” but it would be an enormous improvement over the hell of capitalism.

For 32 years the Peace and Freedom Party has fought the injustices of our present society while working to build a movement for a new and better world. We need to raise our voter registration to 86,212 in order to requalify for the California ballot. If you are against repression, police violence and the death penalty and for true justice and equality, ***it’s time to register now in the Peace and Freedom Party.***

You can register today if you are a California resident, a U.S. citizen, will be 18 years old by the date of the next election, and are not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony. If your registration form doesn’t have a box to check for Peace & Freedom, check “Other” and write “Peace & Freedom” on the line.



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