The Struggle of the People Forces a Stay of Execution

Mumia Must Have a New Trial

Coverage starts page 3

Mumia Must Be FREE!

In Memory of Jerry Garcia
Communism: Imagine... In Living Color
As of August 13, 1995 Chairman Gonzalo (Abimael Guzmán) has been held in isolation for...

2 Years 306 Days

In October 1992, Chairman Gonzalo—leader of the Maoist Communist Party of Peru—was sentenced to life imprisonment by hooded military judges of the U.S.-backed regime in Peru. The fascist regime in Peru is holding this revolutionary leader of the Peruvian people under very brutal conditions in an underground concrete dungeon at a naval base. He is being denied visits by lawyers, doctors and relatives and deprived of proper medical care and reading materials. Peru’s President Fujimori has publicly threatened to execute Chairman Gonzalo and boasted of applying psychological torture on him. And a new Constitution, made official last year, reinstates the death penalty which could be used against Chairman Gonzalo and other revolutionary prisoners. The Peruvian regime must be prevented from killing Chairman Gonzalo through the death penalty or by other means.

Fujimori has repeatedly claimed that Chairman Gonzalo has made a call for negotiations from prison. In this situation, what possible excuse can Fujimori now offer for continuing to deny Comrade Gonzalo independent contact with lawyers, doctors and friendly and neutral visitors from outside the prison? This is a clear violation of basic international standards for treatment of political prisoners and prisoners of war. It is of vital importance for people in Peru and around the world to hear what Chairman Gonzalo’s views are from Chairman Gonzalo himself—directly and unimpeded. This heightens the urgency of the fight to create an international political climate which compels the Peruvian government to grant access to Comrade Gonzalo by his legal representatives and other friends who can meet and talk directly with him.

Support the People’s War in Peru! Support the Communist Party of Peru! Defend the Life of Chairman Gonzalo, Fight to Break the Isolation!

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Three Main Points

by Bob Avakian
Chairman of the RCP, USA

What do we do in the Revolutionary Communist Party to help people to learn from all that is exposed and against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will not only end exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

2) Many different groups will protest and rebel against things this system does, and these protests and rebellions should be supported and strengthened. Yet it is only those with nothing to lose but their chains who can be the backbone of a struggle to actually overthrow this system and create a new system that will not only end exploitation and help pave the way to a whole new world.

3) Such a revolutionary struggle is possible. There is a political Party that can lead such a struggle—a political Party that speaks and acts for those with nothing to lose but their chains: The Revolutionary Communist Party, USA.

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This Party has the vision, the program, the leadership, and the organizational principles to unite those who must be united and enable them to do what must be done. There is a challenge for all those who would like to see such a revolution: those with a burning desire to see a drastic change for the better, all those who dare to dream and to act to bring about a completely new and better world. Support this Party, join this Party, spread its message and its organized strength, and prepare the ground for a revolutionary rising that has a solid basis and a real chance of winning!
Mumia Must Have a New Trial
Mumia Must Be Free!

On Monday, August 7, hanging judge Albert Sabo signed a stay of execution for Mumia Abu-Jamal. The State of Pennsylvania had been going full steam ahead to have Mumia executed on August 19, but the determined struggle of the people forced them to temporarily back off. This is a real victory in the struggle to free Mumia! But this battle is far from over. This is just a beginning, partial victory. And the enemy is sure to strike back, in perhaps more vicious and sneaky ways.

Through work and struggle, the people must now transform this into a full victory. Mumia still sits on death row. There is still no new trial. He is still not free. Mumia said, "I am now not under an active death warrant, although I remain under an active death sentence, thus I still exist in hell." It was the power of the people's struggle that forced the system to grant a stay of execution. But Mumia still faces a death sentence. The people must now build on this initial victory, win a new trial for Mumia and free him altogether.

Powerful forces had been mobilized to help push through with a quick legal lynching of Mumia. The broadsheet media tried to create public opinion for the execution—with everyone from Dan Rather on CBS to the Philadelphia Inquirer trying to portray Mumia as a criminal who deserves to die. The government was moving full steam ahead to have Mumia executed on August 17. Then, with only 10 days to go, the power structure decided to grant a stay of execution. What forced them to do this?

Tens of thousands of people, all around the world, had fought to expose the political nature of this frame-up. And support for Mumia was growing by the day. Last month Revenue Commissioner Kevin C.P. pointed out that: "The rulers will only decide to back down on this if they are pressured by the people's struggle. Such struggle has to be broad, diverse and determined." This is what the people mobilized to do. This is what forced the system to grant a stay of execution at this point.

The work of prominent cultural figures, religious activists and other justice-minded people from the middle class to publicize the case. The dedicated efforts of Mumia's lawyers who fought hard in the legal arena. The marshaling of many different forces in the Black community behind Mumia's cause. The determination of the movement to free Mumia and the growing protest to his execution in cities across the U.S. The way in which this has begun to strike a chord with proletariat—the class on the bottom with nothing to lose and no reason to hold back—and the threat from police brutality in cities everywhere. The force support for Mumia in the prisons across America. And—extremely important—the way in which Mumia himself has stood strong and defiant in the very jaws of death.

A Blow to the System's Whole Punishing Agenda

We should realize that this victory is a blow not just for Mumia's freedom, but against the whole "death-row, lock 'em up, and kill with impunity" agenda. They all agree on using the death penalty as a weapon against the people, to brutalize and kill with impunity. They do not view it as a weapon against the whole agenda of attacks coming down on the working people—"three strikes you're out" to anti-immigrant laws like SB 1070, to heartless cutbacks and the scapegoating and punishment of people in welfare. The movement to free Mumia must go still more broadly, still more deeply—to the millions whose true interests lie against this whole program and against the capitalist class.

The stakes of this battle remain very high. The government wants to execute Mumia in order to send out a deadly message. They want to murder Mumia and silence his voice forever. And by doing this, they hope to eliminate all who dare resist their system. They want to set a precedent by executing a political prisoner. They want to demonstrate the people with the message that "it's useless to fight"—the system has the power of life and death and can do whatever it wants.

The people must stop them from delivering this deadly message. We must build on our gains and strengthen our unity. We should take advantage of the stay to consolidate organization to carry on this fight more broadly and fiercely through to victory. And, very importantly, we should build organizations that can bring this battle to other fronts and struggles of the people.

This struggle has had a profound influence of groups like Refuse & Resist! which are organized around fighting the system's whole agenda of repression. New groups have been formed to fight this battle. And organizations of many different cultural, political, religious and social trends have united in this cause. This united front spirit of cooperation and working together needs to be strengthened and built in order to wage what is bound to be a fierce battle to get a new trial and free Mumia.

The Enemy is Vicious—The People Must Be Vigilant

The people need to be vigilant. Imperialism is vicious—sometimes particularly vicious when the people win a victory, even a partial one.

After the ruling, one Philadelphia cop said, "Maybe we should have executed [Mumia] at 13th and Locust—then we could have avoided having to do what the cops shot and arrested Mumia in 1981. That should be taken as a threat. We should remember George Jackson, the great revolutionary prisoner, writer, and activist of the last generation. In 1971, the day before his execution was set to take place, the authorities set him up and murdered him in prison. We must fight for Mumia's access to the world outside of prison. We must continue to combat and expose their lies and slander and the ways to "let Mumia speak" to the people. And we must expose every underhanded move they make on him. We should not be caught off guard. Governor Ridge has had a new death warrant until Mumia has exhausted all legal appeals. But legal precedent does not present the system moving to have Mumia executed on August 17. And bromide promises are certainly no in-

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The Struggle of the People Forces a Stay of Execution

On Alert

The people have won a stay of execution for Mumia. But as we go to press, the death warrant for Mumia is still "valid" through August 19. This means that it is legally possible for Sabo to reverse himself before August 19 and sign a new death warrant.

This means the people must keep their guard up! We are locked in an intense back-and-forth battle with the enemy. The people have won a beginning victory, but the other side is sure to strike back. The people must be vigilant every single step of the way—until Mumia is free. There is no guarantee that Sabo will sign a new warrant. Governor Ridge has not told us all his secrets—he will sign a new death warrant and put Mumia on the top of the list of prisoners to be executed.

When Mumia's appeal hearing is over, Sabo will most likely rule against a new trial and Mumia's lawyers will appeal to the state and then federal courts. It is unclear exactly how long this process will take. But it is extremely important that the people keep the heat on the enemy throughout this whole process and be ready to expose and combat any moves against Mumia—in the courtroom or in prison.

The People Must Stop the Execution of Mumia! Only the people can save Mumia's life!
Continued from page 3

Philadelphia, August 12: There was a spirit of celebration and determination in the streets of Philadelphia as 5,000 to 6,000 people of many different nationalities gathered to march for Mumia Abu-Jamal. This was the week when Mumia was granted a stay of execution. And his support in the streets understood that they—and thousands more like them all over the world—had forced the executioner to back off...for now.

Along with this spirit of celebration—there was also a fierce determination to fight this fight all the way through until Mumia is free.

People came from all over the country for this march and many different kinds of people and groups participated, including Mumia’s family, ACT-UP, MOVIE Internationals Concerned Family and Friends, Refuse & Resist!, Academics for Mumia Abu-Jamal, National Peoples Coalition, the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade, Committee to Support the Revolution in Watts and Los Angeles: On August 4, 500 people including youth from the projects of Watts, Black and Chicano nationalists, revolutionary communists, students, lawyers and political activists of many kinds—gathered in L.A.’s historic Central LA theatre. The protesters unfurled banners and a new trial—I want Mumia free!” After the rally, a hardcore of about 75 protesters went in and blocked escalators in the ABC lobby. Some protesters came disguised as TV reporters carrying fake makes. Others dressed in Hanif Qadir’s Nightmobile theater. The protesters unfurled banners and blocked escalators in the ABC lobby. When ABC rescinded their order, the protesters refused and presented a list of demands. The list included demands that Mumia be interviewed on national television, that ABC cover Mumia’s case, that ABC make public its files on Mumia, that Mumia be granted a new trial, and that ABC commit its massive resources and influence to save Mumia’s life.

After the rally, a hardcore of about 75 people took it to the streets. For a couple of hours, they faced off dozens of cops in riot gear, as they boldly marched up and down the streets, not just in the new day coming, it’s here right now... We’re making history today. Stay in the streets. Power to the People! Free Mumia!

Other Actions

The Berkeley-based Prison Activist Resource Center recently estimated on the internet that actions have taken place for Mumia in over 200 U.S. cities.

Los Angeles: On August 4, 450 people— including youth from the projects of Watts, Black and Chicano nationalists, revolutionary communists, students, lawyers and political activists of many kinds—gathered in L.A.’s historic Central LA theatre. The protesters unfurled banners and a new trial—I want Mumia free!” After the rally, a hardcore of about 75 people took it to the streets. For a couple of hours, they faced off dozens of cops in riot gear, as they boldly marched up and down the streets, not just in the new day coming, it’s here right now... We’re making history today. Stay in the streets. Power to the People! Free Mumia!

Refuse & Resist!, the youth group of the NAACP, activists in the struggle for Puerto Rican independence, many community groups, the broadest of religious communities and many different reformist-left organizations.

As an opening rally, the march went down Pennsylvania’s mall shopping and tennis store, destroying baseballs in an attempt to destroy the system. The march went down Pennsylvania’s whole system of its so-called “Liberty Bell.” A large rally was held with many speakers. Poetry-inspired musicians created a beautiful, unified backdrop with their poems.

This is a city that has been on clampdown—not just recently, but for years. It was being combated by more people here to see such a powerful expression of support from the people who sympathizes everything the Philadelphia power structure hates.

Fresh, powerful chants rocked downtown: “No Justice No Peace, No Justice No Peace.” “Power to the People, Free Mumia!” “Stop the Execution, Start the Revolution!”

From the sidewalks, fists shot in the air, shoppers joined the chants and some joined in the march.

For many participants, the power of this march and the recent stay have generated a new feeling of strength and optimism—not just for the struggle to free Mumia but for the whole struggle against this system.

Reverend Cecil Grey remarked, “As long as we stay in the streets and on the streets, not only is the new day coming, it’s here right now... We’re making history today. Stay in the streets. Power to the People! Free Mumia!”

Mumia Must Have a New Trial

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Surrounding new threats to Mumia’s life, continued the struggle of the people who will keep Mumia alive.

Also, new legislation against death row prisoners could be most against Mumia. For example, the government’s new anti-terrorism bill includes death penalty provisions which will penalize all appeals and the grounds upon which death row prisoners can file appeals. This means that Mumia—who has filed his federal habeas corpus appeal and can’t do this until it goes through state appeals courts—could be said to be the victim of the anti-terrorism bill passes and gets signed into law before Mumia makes his final filing in federal court, this new law could apply to him.

The key demand right now is for a new trial. Already all kinds of new information has come out in Mumia’s appeal hearing—evidence and testimony that further point to Mumia’s innocence and show concretely how the police and other city authorities conspired to carry out a political frame-up.

Still, Mumia has a new trial, even more is sure to come out and there are undoubtedly powerful forces who don’t want Mumia to get a new trial because it will be so exposing. It will be a real struggle by the people to get a new trial for Mumia.

For the people should undoubtedly mark this first victory—as showing a spirit of vigilance and determination to see this struggle all the way through until Mumia is free.

March on Crenshaw Boulevard in Los Angeles, August 6.

March on Crenshaw Boulevard in Los Angeles, August 6.

At the LaJolla Civic concert in Camden, New Jersey, early August.

Stop the Execution, Start the Revolution!

Frederick Douglass once said that “Power procures nothing without a demand. It never did and it never will. Man may not get all he pays for in this world, but he must certainly pay for all he gets. If we ever get free from the oppressions and wrongs heaped upon us, we will pay for them by our labor, by suffering, by sacrifice, and if need be, by our lives and the lives of others.”

Some protesters came disguised as TV reporters carrying fake makes. Others dressed in Hanif Qadir’s Nightmobile theater. The protesters unfurled banners and blocked escalators in the ABC lobby. When ABC rescinded their order, the protesters refused and presented a list of demands. The list included demands that Mumia be interviewed on national television, that ABC cover Mumia’s case, that ABC make public its files on Mumia, that Mumia be granted a new trial, and that ABC commit its massive resources and influence to save Mumia’s life.

While the battle to save Mumia is not in itself a revolution, it is a battle where we hammer out the very shape of our future. The choices we make today means everything about tomorrow.

If you’re serious about revolution, get down with the Revolutionary Communist Party.
New Evidence Exposes Frame-Up

On Monday, August 7 Judge Sabo suddenly announced he was granting a stay of execution. The court room erupted into complete uproar. This stay means that the execution of Mumia is postponed for now. Sabo noted that neither "national or international pressure" had anything to do with his decision. This is obviously not true.

This was something Sabo had to do—some people in the courtroom noted: He had to back on his words.

Sabo is a hanging judge who has been known to craft his opinions on the bench. Sabo has never before granted a stay of execution. Up until August 6, Sabo had been using every bit of his power in a single-minded push for Mumia's execution.

The stay was forced by the struggle of the people. It is an important—if partial—victory!

Evidence of Frame-Up, Cover-Up and Terrorizing of Witnesses

The rest of the week, more testimony and evidence came out pointing to Mumia's innocence. And Sabo and the prosecution have been put on the defensive.

For 14 years, the police have claimed this was an open-and-shut case from the beginning, that Mumia shot and killed Philby cop Daniel Faulkner. The cops deny they varied their stories through lie detector tests, gurnyweather tests and lies. In fact they deny there were other suspects.

But testimony reveals that the cops knew there were other people on the scene who might have shot Faulkner. They knew that Mumia's brother, Billy Cook, was not alone in the VW that Faulkner stopped that night.

So why did they lie? And when the police say, "we have no one else to blame," what kind of "innocent" people are we supposed to believe?

Despite all this evidence, Sabo refused to allow Mumia's lawyers to present witnesses who could expose the frame-up. Arnold Howard's driver's license was suspended for 13 years. Sabo refused to allow Howard to testify about this harassment.

There is even evidence that the police tried to intimidate witnesses who could expose the frame-up. Assistant District Attorney Ariene Fisk claimed the prosecution's witnesses were facing charges and had possibly made deals in exchange for helping to frame Mumia. A key government witness in the original trial had been convicted of throwing a Molotov cocktail into a school yard for money!

Dr. Hoyt, the assistant medical examiner who conducted the Faulkner autopsy, also testified. Dr. Hoyt's work was so stupidly bad that he found a second exit wound on Faulkner's neck after his autopsy was finished at 3 a.m. He didn't even know where the bullet had hit! And he reviewed photographic slides on the witness stand, during the original trial. Mumia's lawyer Leonard Weinglass said that this medical examiner's report was so incomprehensible that it amounted to "evidence of premeditated misconduct."

Though Hoyt tried to worm his way in to this hearing, his testimony confirmed Weinglass' remarks. Hoyt claimed that he did not remember much about the case, that he did not maintain a diary of autopsies and that he routinely erased his taped recordings. He also could not recall if the bullet or fragments had been preserved. His original report had said that the bullet was 24 caliber. Mumia's gun was a 38. Now, Dr. Hoyt claimed, this was only about 44 caliber. He is also a preliminary one that "does not necessarily represent my findings."

The widespread national and international support for Mumia has begun to change the political atmosphere. Witnesses now refuse to perjure themselves. They're not just to the struggle of the people, they have more freedom, more backing, more courage to do this. The frame-up is starting to lose force. Thanks to the movement to stop the execution of Mumia, the struggle being waged to free Mumia she has begun to change. More backing, more courage to do this. The people must continue to fight for Mumia!
Los Angeles: Lincoln Heights Rebels Demand Justice for Tony Gutierrez

Family, friends and neighbors of Tony Gutierrez at the memorial marking the place where he was shot by an LAPD cop.

Los Angeles, Aug. 12—Two weeks after a killer cop murdered 14-year-old Tony Gutierrez, over 100 people marched from the Lincoln Heights neighborhood in East L.A. to Parker Center, the downtown police headquarters. The police mobilized a heavy presence against the march. But the people, mainly Latino/a youth, were determined and defiant. The signs they carried made clear the message they wanted to deliver: "Fuck the pigs"; "LA Pig Nazis Out Bastards"; "Abajo con fascismo.

The signs and the presence of large numbers of people catalyzed the march. The people took to the streets immediately after the cop shot Tony Gutierrez in Lincoln Heights. The police are stopping in the streets against the police in Lincoln Heights. Meanwhile, the authorities are saying "communication" with the police and the early identification and resolution of problems. According to Tony's friends, "The LA Times said the Lincoln Heights gang unit that gathers information and keeps files on thousands of youth in East L.A. and other areas. Falvo had made death threats to Tony days before he killed him, according to Tony's friends.

Tony Gutierrez was buried August 9. Four hundred people attended the memorial. They were there to mourn for Tony, but they also made it clear they wanted justice. Many of the mourners wore T-shirts that said, "In living memory of Travieso [Tony's nickname]." Rest in peace.

Los Angeles, Aug. 12—Two weeks after a killer cop murdered 14-year-old Tony Gutierrez in Lincoln Heights, a neighborhood of mostly Chicano/a and Mexican people. The neighborhood is being policed by the people of Lincoln Heights against the police. The police showed once again how the L.A. system's armed enforcers. But the actions of the people in Lincoln Heights also put fear into the hearts of the ruling class—just in L.A. but up to the top levels of the U.S. government.

The LA Times said the Lincoln Heights rebellion "stands as a vivid reminder of the potential volatility of numerous neighborhoods in the city." And just 36 hours after Tony was killed, U.S. Justice Department officials showed up at a community meeting in Lincoln Heights. Shortly afterward, the FBI announced that it was launching its "investigation" into the killing, separate from the one announced by the LAPD.

The FBI investigation is not about seeking justice for Tony. An article in the Chicago Tribune (Aug. 13) made clear what the real concern of the country's top political police agency is: "The FBI's 30th anniversary underscored the clean sheet that federal officials have kept on Los Angeles over the last few years—until last month and the political importance of keeping the nation's second largest city calm." And it's not just L.A. that the rulers are worried about. The Tribune article quotes a "federal law enforcement official" who says, "It's not just L.A. It's across the country. Look at Miami right now." As the RW reported last week, youth in Miami and Indianapolis have also been out in the streets against the police in recent weeks.

Police Clampdown

Nearly two weeks after the killing, large numbers of cops continue to patrol through Lincoln Heights. The police are stopping youth on the street, questioning them, checking for warrants. They're trying to break up the march; they're trying to make the cops look good.

Meanwhile, the authorities are saying what Lincoln Heights needs is more cops, and more police intrusion into the life of the community. They are especially pushing "community-based policing." L.A. Mayor Riordan said, "One of the first real needs is to get a substation in Lincoln Heights and get more cops into the neighborhood as quickly as possible." L.A. City Council Member Mike Hernandez said the problem was "community involvement" with the police and said the solution is community-based policing.

The LA Times says this means "clone cooperation between police and residents and the early identification and resolution of problems." But they want to organize groups of snitches in the neighborhood to act as eyes and ears for the police. And they want to organize a pro-police section of the people in order to chill people out in a situation like the police killing of Tony Gutierrez.

One of the things that scared the powers about the Lincoln Heights rebellion is the way many of the older residents actively supported the youth when they fought the police. The authorities are trying to counter this in various ways—including by trying to divide people around the questions of gangs. The police and the mainstream media are trying to justify the murder of Tony by saying he was a gang member. There have been numerous stories quoting "unwanted residents" of Lincoln Heights who say the "biggest problem" they face is the gangs. L.A. newspapers and TV news recently ran a story about a "drive-by shooting" in Lincoln Heights. It turns out the shooting happened outside the neighborhood and had nothing to do with people in Lincoln Heights.

A series of revelations about the shooting has contributed to continuing anger at the police. Police said Tony had a gun, but was pointing it at the cops when one of them opened fire. But this cover-up story quickly fell apart. A pistol was found 20 feet away from Tony's body, on the other side of a chest-high wall. Tony's fingerprints were on it. There's no way he could have dropped it there after being shot to death. Then, at the end of the week following the killing, a coroner's report showed that Tony had been shot four times in the back—just like people who saw the shooting had said.

Information also came out about Michael Falvo, the shooter. He had been identified in 1991 as one of 44 "problem officers" with a large number of brutality complaints. The list was compiled by the Christopher Commission, set up to investigate the LAPD after the beating of Rodney King. And after the Commission's report, Falvo faced internal LAPD charges for riding through the East L.A. Ramona Gardens projects and flipping off residents after one of their neighbors, Smokey Javerson, had been killed by Sheriff's deputies. But rather than being fired, Falvo was assigned to the CRASH unit, an "elite," so-called anti-gang unit that gathers information and keeps files on thousands of youth in East L.A. and other areas. Falvo had made death threats to Tony days before he killed him, according to Tony's friends.

Tony Gutierrez was buried August 9. Four hundred people attended the memorial. They were there to mourn for Tony, but they also made it clear they wanted justice. Many of the mourners wore T-shirts that said, "In living memory of Travieso [Tony's nickname]." Rest in peace.
The Revolutionary Communist Party, Chicago Branch, has put out this program of struggle against the attacks on people in the projects:

**We Will Not Be Driven Out, We Will Stay and Fight!**

**Defeat the War on People in Public Housing!**

**RCP Program of Struggle**

...Continued on page 12...
"The attack on affirmative action is a deliberate move to strengthen the system by inflaming divisions among the people. It is no less an idea of a phony injustice—of racial purity—to reinforce and intensify while supremacy and male supremacy. The attack on affirmative action is an attempt to 'clean the book' on social reforms aimed at correcting inequality and injustice based on national oppression and male domination throughout society."

From "Turning the Clock Back on Affirmative Action," IWV 812

On July 20 the Regents of the University of California voted to end affirmative action programs in both hiring and student admissions throughout the UC system. California is currently the focal point of the nationwide move to attack affirmative action, and the UC Regents' decision was a key part of this assault—along with the 1996 California ballot initiative to eliminate affirmative action. The presence of California Governor Pete Wilson, representatives of the U.S. Justice Department, Jesse Jackson, and other political figures showed that the Regents' vote was seen by the power structure as a very big deal.

The event was timed so that students were on summer break, to avoid significant protest at the meeting. But about 1,000 people, mostly students, many in their first political demonstration, came from all over California to protest on the day of the meeting, and at least 300 students and others guarded the event, and according to the Oakland Tribune, 400 National Guard were also put on standby.

The University of California is seen as a trendsetter. It is the largest university in the nation and is a bastion of rebellion in the '60s and, along with San Francisco State, is known as the birthplace of ethnic studies and "multiculturalism." It is also the most prestigious public university system in the country. Thousands more are turned away than are accepted, and the students who attend are considered the cream of the cream. California is the largest state and it is very mixed in terms of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Opponents of affirmative action in the UC system lays the ground for further attacks nationwide.

An Argument Based on Power and Lies

Who are the UC Regents? They are given a glimpse of what university education in America is really about and what it interests it serves.

The UC Regents are the governing body over the UC system, setting policies on hiring and admissions, deciding where the money goes, how it is invested, and who benefits. The members of this board concentrate money and power and the chosen few for their own education but for their political ideas and ideology. There are also corporations, others are politicians or former state government officials and high-level businessmen. The longest serving member is Glenn Campbell, a 71-year-old economist looked up with the infamous McKinley Hoover Institution; Howard Leach, 65, is an agronomist and one of California Governor Pete Wilson's biggest campaign donors; and Meredith Khatchatrian is the wife of a senior advisor to Wilson's presidential campaign.

The Regents were very conscious of stepping to the front of a social battle line. They set out to reassure the identity of UC as an ivory tower, white, elitist center of higher learning—all this as one key part of reinforcing those same oppressive values and standards in society overall. And the arrogance of their decision—to turn over the heads of the students, the masses, and many faculty and staff—officials—described that at the heart of this issue is the question: what kind of society do people want to live in.

At UC Berkeley, Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien has defended affirmative action. "People like to say that affirmative action is kind of a way to redress past wrongs; I don't see it that way," Chang told the New York Times. "Especially in a university, it's about creating the best educational atmosphere for all students. Affirmative action isn't for underrepresented minorities. It's the best for the entire society."

Pete Wilson led the charge at the Regents' meeting—focusing his attack on policies which aid students based on other criteria besides test scores. Wilson said, "What if affirmative action says: simply stated, is that if you are of the right ethnic group then they won't even bother to read your essay. You are automatically admitted, even if you are high income, even if you have a lower test score than someone who is Asian or Caucasian who is a resident of the state, who has a higher test score."

In actual fact, there is nothing like this absurd claim of "automatic admission" to UC schools for people from oppressed minorities. And contrary to claims by Wilson and others that such policies lower academic standards, university admissions officials point out that during the last 10 years the overall standards on test scores have actually risen for every ethnic group.

Troy Duster, a Berkeley sociologist who has studied affirmative action for years, told the New York Times: "You've got 3,000 kids with 4.0 averages competing for 3,000 places. Now, obviously, they can't all fit. But every one of them who gets turned away believes they got turned away because of affirmative action. There's an arrogance in the idea that you can put people on an ordinal ranking system. I'm not opposed to people getting straight As. But I don't want society to see that as the only thing worth talking about."

The truth is that under the current affirmative action policies, the percentage of Black and Latino students at UC Berkeley is far below that of the general population. Among undergraduates, Latinos are one quarter of the population, but only 13.5 percent of UC's; 7 percent of the population, are only 15.5 percent of UC students. And in recent years the number of Black and Latino students at Berkeley has dropped. In 1989 there were 1,647 Black students—7.7 percent of the undergraduates. Today Black students are 6.9 percent. Latino enrollment peaked at 15.1 percent of undergraduates and today it is only 13.3 percent.

"What they call affirmative action is the basis for a place in the school based upon individual merit." Wilson's argument this way: "Instead of treating every American as an individual, it puts group against group, race against race, instead of moving us toward a colorblind society, it is holding us back."

Wilson also argued, "The parents of children of all races who play by the rules, who work hard and pay their taxes, should be entitled to expect that their child should win a place in the school based upon individual merit."

This talk of a "colorblind America" is complete nonsense. And it is even more ridiculous to say that wiping out affirmative action will result in hiring or promotion based on "individual merit."

The talk of a "colorblind America" the New York Times' view of the notion of a "colorblind America" and reveals how the current economic and political status quo perpetuates white supremacy by encouraging the students who make it to the elite level of UC Berkeley, the study noted sharp differences in the education, income level of the parents of students of different nationalities. Whites had a clear advantage in educational background. Asian or Caucasian students tend to score much higher, and can come from professional backgrounds. The Regents' decision was a key part of this assault—along with the 1996 California ballot initiative to eliminate affirmative action. The Regents' vote was seen by the power structure as a very big deal.

Outside the UC Regents meeting in San Francisco, July 20.

"Colorblind" in a White Supremacist Culture

Wilson's attack hinges on showing that Black people constitute an oppressed nation within the larger U.S. society and that various oppressed national minorities—Chicanos, Asian-Americans, Puerto Ricans, Native Americans, and others—face systematic discrimination. Tom Wood, an author of California's anti-affirmative action ballot initiative, openly argues that there is no "wide-spread, systematic, institutional discrimination" in the U.S. In a May 31 letter to Californians on affirmative action, Wilson put the argument this way: "Instead of treating every American as an individual, it pits group against group, race against race, instead of moving us toward a colorblind society, it is holding us back."

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A study by the San Jose Mercury News of the family backgrounds of UC Berkeley freshmen entering in 1994 shows the absurdity of the notion of a "colorblind America" and reveals how the current economic and political status quo perpetuates white supremacy by encouraging the students who make it to the elite level of UC Berkeley, the study noted sharp differences in the education, income level of the parents of students of different nationalities.
The median income for white students' parents was $50,000 and for Asians it was $58,000. However, there is a wide disparity in income levels. For Southeast Asians it was $32,000, Chinese $41,000, and Koreans it was $45,000. Blacks and Hispanics had an income of $35,000.

"Even the Clinton White House cited statistics which prove that national oppression and male supremacy are still a reality in America while males currently hold 95 percent of senior management positions in the nation's largest companies. A white man with a high school diploma still makes more than a Latina woman with a college degree. Women only make 72 percent as much as men for the same job. And African Americans are twice as likely to be unemployed as whites."

The Hypocrisy Over "Class"

Regent Ward Connerly, the author of the proposal to end "preferences" is one of three Blacks on the Board of Regents. Connerly has consistently said in public that he would help poorer students by admitting "more Latinos" to UC and that his new proposal is one of economic status. But in fact, Connerly's proposal to end "preferences" is one of extreme and increasing. And, in fact, doing away with affirmative action will actually help poorer students by admitting some students based on their socio-economic status. But in fact, Connerly's new proposal is one of an extreme and increasing. And, in fact, doing away with affirmative action will actually help poorer students by admitting some students based on their socio-economic status.

The Night before the Regents' Meeting

The night before the Regents' meeting, hundreds of students entered large video rooms to make their voices heard. There were people speaking inside the hall and holding up signs outside. This was the first time that the Regents had been called to the streets of San Francisco. It was a rude awakening for some. The decision of the Regents has sent shockwaves throughout the country and raised the flag of a new wave of resistance. The next day, hundreds of students engaged in a sit-in at the University of California at Los Angeles. The students were protesting the Regents' decision by sitting in the open. This was the first time that the Regents had been called to the streets of San Francisco.

"I am doing this for my own children," said one mother who had her children with her. "I am doing this for my own children," said one mother who had her children with her. "I am doing this for my own children," said one mother who had her children with her. "I am doing this for my own children," said one mother who had her children with her.

One of the major ways the students are fighting back is by using the example of Asian American students in the UC system. Asian American students love to cite statistics that say that letting Blacks and Latinas in keeps out Asians with higher grades and test scores; and to argue that Asians have a huge stake in doing away with affirmative action, and in keeping Blacks and Latinas out of the university. This appeal to the cut-throat, me-first values of the system has, in fact, worked in the past.

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This points to some important questions about education. Powerful forces in the ruling class are going for a cold, dead, dog-eat-dog campus atmosphere, where a student's worth is measured by grades and test scores, and the "best" decide their way to the top societally. And this is running for a future where the majority of people on the planet. The students who fought fierce battles in the 1960s for ethnic studies and open up the campuses to more minority students are fighting back against this idea. It is a very different vision of what education should be and what society should be. There was a surge of momentum to struggle against the idea of going from the universities to the communities that hold points to what schools could and should be about—where students would be "empowered" to understand the interests of the oppressed and to cooperate and work together, break down the separation and barriers of class (getting to be a trend) in the world overall.

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In Memory of Jerry Garcia

From Captain Trips in the Haight Ashbury Summer of Love to Panther benefits in the early '70s to the free-wheeling collective music experience for alternative youth of the '80s—what a long strange trip it's been.

Sadly, on Wednesday August 9, 1995 Jerry Garcia "the man who made a community with his music" died. Singer/guitarist, leader of the Grateful Dead, Jerry Garcia left a musical legacy marked by the free-wheeling communal spirit of the ‘60s counterculture.

Jerry Garcia was shaped by a time when rebellious youth turned their backs on a system of war, racism, and greed—hoping for a different way of life based on cooperation, sharing and mutual respect. And he shaped a musical experience that carried those hopes forward to a new generation.

Jerry Garcia was not a revolutionary communist, but there was a touch of the communist spirit in his work and in the positive vibes at the Grateful Dead concerts. Where many came not just for the music (though they loved the music) but to dance barefoot, hair flying, tie-dye flowing, searching in their way for a community where kindness chased away the dog-eat-dog.

His passing recalls another '60s poet, John Lennon, and in his memory we reprint here this piece by Bob Avakian which first appeared in the RW in 1991.

Communism:
Imagine...
in Living Color

by Bob Avakian

Not long ago I received a bunch of video tapes, and one of them included the "TV show "In Living Color." Besides finding this show interesting in general, I kept running the tape back to the home song, a rap by Heavy D and the Boyz. I couldn't help but wonder if some of the lines in this rap were really getting at something. Check it out:

And how would ya feel knowing prejudice was obsolete and all mankind danced to the exact beat and at night it was safe to walk down the street...Everybody here is equally kind. What's mine is yours, and what's yours is mine.

I'm pretty sure Heavy D didn't think of it exactly this way, but the fact is that these lines have much to do with the answer to that big question: What is communism—what will communist society be like? A lot of what it will be like has a lot to do with things talked about in these lines in "In Living Color."

And this got me to thinking back to another song, "Imagine," which was written and recorded by John Lennon, the former Beatle who was assassinated at the beginning of the '80s. I was never really into the Beatles or John Lennon, but when this John Lennon song "Imagine" came out, about 20 years ago, a friend of mine who knew I was a communist told me you ought to check out this song. "Imagine," it's John Lennon's attempt to give his vision of a communist world. I had my doubts, but when I looked into it I had to admit that there was something to this. And reading over the words of this song today, it still strikes me that way:

Imagine there's no heaven.
It's easy if you try.
No hell below us, above us only sky.
Imagine all the people, living for today.
Ah, imagine there's no countries.
It isn't hard to do.
Nothing to kill or die for and no religion too.
Imagine all the people, living in peace.

You, you may say I'm a dreamer. But I'm not the only one. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. Maybe some day you'll join us and the world will be as one.

Imagine no possessions.
I wonder if you can.
No need for greed or hunger a brotherhood of man.
Imagine all the people, sharing all the world.

You may say I'm a dreamer. But I'm not the only one. Imagine if you lived in a world where nobody slaves for anybody else. Imagine if there were no countries—no

Imagine if art and culture were not something used to dull and debase the people but instead something that uplifted them, fired their imaginations, helped them to see the true history of the world and its future generations. Imagine if education and work were both productive and creative and helped people develop in an all-around way, physically as well as mentally. Imagine if art and culture were not restricted to a small number of professionals but the masses of people took part in creating as well as appreciating art and culture.

Imagine if there were no countries—no borders and border guards. Imagine if people did not live just in one area or part of the world their whole lives but were able to live in many different parts of the world during their lifetime. Imagine if you lived in a world where there were no rich or poor, or those who are educated and those who are denied education. Imagine if education really taught people about the true history of the world and in people and really helped people learn about how nature and society actually work and how people can interact with nature and each other in the interests of humanity as a whole, not just for the present but for future generations. Imagine if education and work were both productive and creative and helped people develop in an all-around way, physically as well as mentally. Imagine if art and culture were not something used to dull and debase the people but instead something that uplifted them, fired their imaginations, helped them to see the true history of the world and its future generations. Imagine if education and work were both productive and creative and helped people develop in an all-around way, physically as well as mentally. Imagine if art and culture were not restricted to a small number of professionals but the masses of people took part in creating as well as appreciating art and culture.

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Imagine if women no less than men could walk anywhere they wanted, at any time, without any fear of being attacked. Imagine a world where such things as sexual abuse, rape and everything like that were unknown. A world where the words “men” and “women” did not raise any ridiculous notions of one being strong and the other weak, one made to run things and the other made merely to support him. A world without domination, discrimination, inequality, oppression, and degradation for women at the hands of men and a male-supremacist society. A world where these things no longer existed.

Imagine a situation where, when people get sick, those responsible for caring really do treat them with caring and respect. A world where science and technology are developed and applied according to the principle of serving the people—and where the people, collectively and cooperatively, take responsibility for science and technology, along with everything else in society.

Imagine a world without hunger. Without superstition. Without war, without armies and weapons that people use against other people. A world where the fate of humanity was not in the grasp of a handful of reactionary and murderous oppressors but was in the hands of the world’s people, striving and struggling with each other to serve the highest interests of humanity.

Yes, imagine! But the most important and most powerful thing is not that we can imagine a world like this. The most powerful, the most liberating thing is that a world like this can actually be brought into being.

Marxism-Leninism-Maoism makes it possible for us to go beyond just imagining, dreaming and hoping for a better world, someday—it shows the road to this future and the means and methods of fighting for it. It shows that the first step in moving toward this future is for the masses to rise up and overthrow the system of imperialism that rules over us—to smash the armed power of the imperialists and replace it with the revolutionary power of the masses, the dictatorship of the proletariat. This is already a great change, and it opens the door to even greater changes.

The next great step is for the masses to continue carrying forward the revolution under this proletariat dictatorship, to use their power to radically change the relations between people in every part of society and to revolutionize people’s way of thinking, breaking free of “reaction’s chains” and moving fully into the future of humanity.

We who are alive today will not see the final victory of communism worldwide. Yet we can make a big contribution toward that goal, and we will certainly see big changes in the world. Especially the youth may well live to see—in fact they must play a great part in helping to bring about—new great leaps forward, including the overthrow of imperialism and the seizure of power by our people, the proletariat and oppressed people, in different parts of the world. And this could include steps in the “belly of the beast”—in what is now that fool monstrosity calling itself the U.S. of A.

It is true that we face many powerful obstacles and real difficulties in reaching our goal. But we also have the all-important weapon in dealing with these obstacles and difficulties—we have the ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism. And because we have Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, we have the crucial lessons from the previous experience of our class—the great achievements as well as mistakes and setbacks—to build on and learn from in carrying out and carrying forward this great world-revolutionizing revolution.

When this revolution has been carried through, worldwide, humanity will enter the era of communism, and what today we can only imagine will then become reality in living color.

A footnote: There is something rather rare in John Lennon’s “Imagine.” Something that does show that he was dreaming not just of a different world but of a radically changed world. That something is that Lennon openly “imagines” a world without religious superstition. He even starts the song with this: “Imagine there’s no heaven. It’s easy if you try. No hell below us, above us only sky.” And then later he comes back to this: “Nothing to kill or die for and no religion too.”

This is definitely something important—something that should be united with—and something that we, with the outlook of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, can get into even more deeply. It’s something I have written and spoken about before, and something we have to keep coming back to—because without breaking off the shackles of religion, and all superstition, it is not possible to even fully imagine, let alone actually bring about, a really radically changed world, with radically changed people.
"Standing My Ground"

Continued from page 7

Standing My Ground

CHA people search residents at a housing project near Cabrini Green, where developers want to replace with a shopping center.

Carson Field, near Cabrini Green, where developers want to replace with a shopping center on Carson Field right across from 1150-1160, where the African American Youth Baseball League plays their games.

The field is one of the few recreational areas for Cabrini kids. But MCL's cold-blooded owners say, "We think that there's a more appropriate place for it."

A few years ago 1150-1160 was virtually full. Now it's around 40 percent vacant, and more and more people are being forced out.

As Frank puts it, "Anything you can think of to disaggregate in out—they're gonna try. One of those things is the virtual absence of any maintenance—sewage backing up through pipes, uncollected garbage piling in the chimneys, broken elevators and only one janitor for two 19-story buildings.

TheCHA is basically letting the building rot. "Housing'slet everything deteriorate over here. We got a rat problem, cockroach problem, roaches backing up. Lights go out and they take them three or four weeks to fix it—and then the only way they fix it is we have to go down there and make them do it. People paying their rent every month but then we don't get no kind of treatment.

Frank says people have tried to manage as best they can—taking care of floods from changing toilets, bringing fans and ice to seniors during the recent heat wave, or from clogging toilets, bringing fans and ice piled in the chutes, broken elevators and asthma. She told them she couldn't stay in the building, but they took them three or four weeks to fix it and then the only way they fix it is we have to go down there and make them do it.

In another incident, residents were shocked when a man fell to the ground from an apartment window in 1150-1160. Plainclothes cops had dragged him over to a room for questioning. People quickly learned the nature of the "questioning." Frank explained, "They heard him screaming over there. First they were beating him. He must have told them what they wanted to hear so they threw him out the window. Then they gonna say that he run away and try to jump out the window." Frank said that in the ambulance came, the man just kept repeating, "They trying to kill me. Trying to kill me."

Nothing to Lose

Frank feels that the police harassment, the lack of maintenance and the looming threat of evictions have all taken their toll on some residents. Some people have responded by leaving and some have become resigned to the situation. But others remain "hard-core." He has his own conflicting feelings. Sometimes I think we're in a losing battle, but then again, we need a little space. If you put people a certain time, a certain way, they ain't gonna allow that too much. People not going to take that. You move people where they don't want to go. Talk about a riot or gangbanging jumping off, it's really gonna be a war around here. Not with each other. Against the police.

Frank is determined to fight it through. "We are resisting our own. Even if you're gonna cause, you always in proving a point. Stand your ground. Look, we are at the bottom already, so what we are gonna to do us."

"Standing My Ground" Faced the Brutal Cops

Vicious police repression is another way that the authorities try to make life unbearable for the people. The cops claim they're after gangs and criminals. But as Frank says, it's not about crime-stopping but criminalizing the whole community. "It's intimidation. They remind me of the SS. Remember Hitler's SS? That's the same way they come in, saying we're gangbangers. They just make them spread eagles—old women, old men, young men—everybody. They humiliate you. People even show them their own ID. They said, 'That don't mean nothing.'

Frank emphasized that it wasn't just the youth who were treated this way by the cops. "Our seniors say, 'What are you doing?' 'Get out of the building'—that's how they talk to them. Like they're nothing, like they're a piece of trash. One lady, she had arthritis. She told them she couldn't step in a closed-in place. They told her to shut the fuck up. They had all people stacked, lined against the wall, some of them sitting on the floor."

With the 1150-1160 building slated for demolition, Frank expects that police brutality will get worse. Recently, in front of a crowd of people at the building, the cops beat a 14-year-old. "I'll tell you, man, this guy was already handicapped and they're gonna try to kill him. He's already lying down. So some other guys tried to stop it, and they handcuffed them and beat them, too."

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The Police M.O.

As the authorities move ahead with their people-removal plans at Cabrini Green, the police are carrying out a brutal clampdown on the people. A close observer of the situation at Cabrini described four basic "M.O.'s" of the cops.

Raids: At any time of the day or night, police cars zip up to the front, side or back of a building—with tires screeching as part of their intimidation tactics. The raiders are made up of COP cops, Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) cops or a combination of the two. They can be either uniformed or detectives. The detectives sometimes carry baseball bats. The cops jump out of the cars, screaming insults, and chase all the young men they find "on the street." Sometimes they go after everyone—men, women and children. At some buildings the raids are taking place every couple of days.

At one building, people described a recent raid where the police just beat on kids they caught in front of dozens of outraged residents. They also planted drugs on a 17-year-old who didn't run because he wasn't in a sheet organization, had never been in trouble and thought the cops would leave him alone because he "hadn't done anything. These raiders make cops have also been known to snitch young women.

The white van: Residents report that a white van goes around picking up kids off the streets. The van has an extended body and is unmarked. Cops jump out of this van and grab men and women who are on the sidewalks. They are thrown into the van and charged with trespassing.

"Fails" The cops sometimes walk right into an apartment if residents have the door open for any reason, like getting fresh air. If people don't immediately tell the cops that they have to leave if they don't have a warrant, the cops will just wander around searching the place. The cops have been known to reach through a hole in the screen door to open it and walk in. The cops also try to get people talking. Sometimes they just stand in the doorway trying to be "chatty" while their eyes roam around the living room.

Sweeps: A massive force of police descends on a building and goes almost door-to-door through it, tearing up people's things and arresting people whose names are not on the leases.
Cal Students Fight for Equality

Continued from page 9

Students link hands in front of a barricade blocking the driveway leading to the Regents meeting. July 20.

tribulism" and an author of the ballot measure attacking affirmative action referred to it as "criminalible." Overhead a plane flew by with a huge banner that read "End Racism and Gender Based Preferences." It's like they have to reinforce their lies with more and more MONEY. As Maria Savo said, "They live a different kind of life than you or I which predisposes them to believing the lies they're selling you and themselves.'

I talked to a Black woman who was chanting, "They're afraid of me because I want a degree." A graduate of Howard University, she saw this decision as affecting all Black youth. She said she was afraid of her son having to fight in a 'civil war' but that now it was looking like it. She said she had problems with revolution because she doesn't like bloodshed, but she did admit that "There is war on Black youth all the time." And she stopped by the Revolution Books table.

I talked to a group of Latino high school seniors who were part of a summer work project for youth from S.F. Mission district. They had finished painting for the day when their supervisor took them in the demo to "show them that not all white people are racists.'

References in the bourgeois press about the vote being "historic" prompted one student to write a letter to the editor:

"I thought we should really deal a blow to all the illusion and myths of what the U.S. is—especially this idea of a 'meritocracy.' They just say it is a meritocracy—they have worked at brutally oppressing other people and stealing land and wealth and that is the only hard work I have seen from them. They have a superiority complex that we really have to puncture and blow away."

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Keith Watson
Speaks Out for Mumia

At a rally for Mumia in the Carnahan District of L.A., Keith Watson, one of the L.A., talked to the RWW about why he had helped collect the battle to save Mumia’s life. The following are excerpts from this conversation:

Keith: I’m broke to be here today. I ran across someone who was able to tell me about Mumia’s plight. Otherwise I wouldn’t have known about this rally here today. I just came here to be the brother that I know that I was aware and I’m supporting him. I was caught up during my trials and I know that I’m being in a hurry and I’m not doing justice. Fortunately—or unfortunately—I didn’t make it to time, why this brother is, but it’s wrong. I read the circumstances around this whole ordeal and a lot of individual commitments were made every time to somehow stop this. It’s sort of like a conspiracy set up for this, and I want to do something so we can end race for the entire rebellion. They tried to help and responsible for everybody’s actions.

Now, everyone is speaking on peace and all this other things. April 29th was a no peace. I wasn’t out there speaking now by myself. I had other people from all walks of life, from everywhere in the city, speaking up as well as myself. The government wishes to change that by doing something. Perhaps it never even occurred, like what took place on April 29th was just a mistake. But so feel that as long as I’m alive, they gonna have to deal with it, they gonna have to explain to them. I was doing. The government was doing and what was Daddy’s role, so on and so forth. I will take their power and I will call on them to explain for the particular day. As I stand up against the system, they will have their full rights, but all their Ballard’s that they’ve be placed upon our shoulders over the years is no longer gonna be accepted. That’s April 29th was a spontaneous reaction. It wasn’t nothing that was planned or organized or organized, it was just something that happened. It was in reaction to someone else’s actions. I feel 110 percent behind it. I don’t have no regrets about what I’ve done.

And my life has changed forever. And my life has changed forever. And my life has changed forever. And my life has changed forever.

The Rock-String Against the Machine had also decided to present a Philadelphia club gift for “A Political Gesture.” On the face of the posters, with their message, the Philadelphia Daily News reports on the internet, the Tri-State, a Washington, D.C., report, by Markowitz, the group’s spokesperson, said, “They found young people with respect to those local concerts. For some reason, or others, nobody wants to support the show. Meanwhile the FOP has been also being waged a counter-power against the hundreds of “Free Mumia” posters that have gone up all over Philadelphia. The cops are defacing the posters with stickers that read “Free Mumia.” And some cops have been sticking the posters when they come Mumia’s appeal hearing.

The Philadelphia Tribune has also been joined by French, Danish-Mexican, and Puerto Rican, and U.S. prisoners. A statement called “U.S. Political Prisoners Solidarity for Mumia” has been created through telephone. It says, “As it is such a political prisoners and war-soldiers—men and women—who have been imprisoned as a result of our political activities, we feel it is imperative for people of conscience to come together to stop the execution of Mumia Abu-Jamal...” There is a need for curtailment of the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal. Among the signatories are: Ida Abdul Mumia, Hamid Shabazz, Keith Watson, Sigrid Rodríguez, Aftab Shabazz, Shake, Bina Abi-Mansour, Aquarium, Laura Whiteman, Marilyn Buck, Aida McRae, Linda Evans, Carmen Valentina, Ray Nelson, Donna Wilmont, Lisa Rosa, and Lorenzo Stone-Bey.

In the Press and Multi-Media

The September edition of THE SOURCE, a popular hip-hop magazine, ran an article on Mumia, which noted that, “A host of rappers, actors, politicians and political activists have taken up the call for the defense of Abu-Jamal.”

Common Courage Press has announced that it is publishing a 272-page book of the research compiled by Mumia’s legal team documenting the government’s role in the trial. The book will contain an introduction by noted author E.-
L. Doctorow, a publisher of computer CD-ROMs, has just published a new multimedia CD-ROM called Mumia Abu-Jamal From Death Row. This CD-ROM includes videotaped interviews with Mumia Abu-Jamal, the complete text of his book Live from Death Row (with many of the essays read by Jamal), and Voice of the Voiceless, an additional 200 essays written in prison between 1989 and 1995.

Also on the CD-ROM are documents from the FBI files on Mumia, the text of his appeal, and a videotaped statement from his lawyer, Leonard Weinglass.

Support Statements

Two New York organizations have written open letters to the people of the Asian community calling on them to join the struggle to save Mumia. Part of this statement by the David Wong Support Committee and the Yu Kikumura Support Committee says: "Mumia Abu-Jamal is known to the people of Philadelphia as the 'voice of the voiceless' in the Asian community. The movement for Mumia has been active in Denmark, with activities conducted worldwide at the U.S. embassies. Recently they sang a song based on the famous 'Eagle speech' by Mumia's imprisonment activist leader Charles Gourd - the song was sung in four languages: Spanish, English, Danish, and Farsi.

The National Union of Journalists (NJU) in Great Britain has written to Pennsylvania Governor Rendell proposing plans to execute Mumia. The NJU has also adopted Mumia as an honorary member. This is the first time this has happened in the union's 87-year history.

The same week, the Racial Minority Writers' Committee of The Writers' Union of Canada formally proposed the death sentence of Mumia Abu-Jamal in a letter sent by its two co-chairs:

On August 4, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel sent statements to Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, U.S. Secretary of State Christopher and the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons expressing concern about ahalt in the execution of Mumia. According to an internet posting, Governor Ridge responded with a hull: "I won't take your directions from a foreign power!"

The following Monday, the same day a full-page ad in the Copenhagen Post, The Nation, Frank Moretti, associate head of Media Studies, Pomona College; Nadine Strossen, president, American Civil Liberties Union; Todd Selassie, director; Nancy Spero, artist; Alice Walker, author; Frederick Marx, producer, Hoop Inc.; Maya Lin, artist; Norman Mailer, man and CEO, Essence Communications, Inc.; Alan Dershowitz, author; American Bar Association; Bobby McFerrin, TV producer and writer; John Edgar Wideman, author; Diana Ross, director, Center for Constitutional Rights; Shana Alexander, author; Laurie Anderson, artist; Laurie Anderson, poet; Paul Auster, author; Tony Kushner, playwright; John Landis, filmmaker; Baron Jones, actor; Jonathan Kozol, author; Russell Banks, author; Diana Ross, director, Center for Constitutional Rights; Aaron Rosner, president, Public Humanities, Harvard University; Terry Gilliam, animator; Mike Parrell, producer, actor;

On August 2, five activists seized the city hall tower in the heart of Denmark's capital Copenhagen. They unfurled a 30-foot banner demanding freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. As they let off fireworks, they threw thousands of leaflets down into the crowds in the city's central plaza. After an hour-long occupation, police arrested them. This action was national news in this small, imperialist Scandinavian country.

The campaign for Mumia has been active in Denmark, with activists conducting weekly demonstrations at the U.S. embassies. Recently they sang a song based on the famous 'Eagle speech' by Mumia's imprisonment activist leader Charles Gourd - the song was sung in four languages: Spanish, English, Danish, and Farsi. The National Union of Journalists (NJU) in Great Britain has written to Pennsylvania Governor Rendell proposing plans to execute Mumia. The NJU has also adopted Mumia as an honorary member. This is the first time this has happened in the union's 87-year history.

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Information As Weaponry in the Fight to Save the Life of Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a hero of the people—a conscious uncompromising voice who refuses to make peace with the system. He was framed up, jailed and sentenced to death because of his work as a revolutionary journalist. On June 2 the governor of Pennsylvania signed a death warrant setting August 17, 1995 as the date for his execution.

The power structure wants to set a precedent by using the death penalty against a political prisoner. They want to deliver the message that extreme measures will be used to silence anyone who dares to speak out. If Mumia is executed it would be a big and intolerable crime with serious consequences for the people.

The clock is ticking, the situation is urgent. The struggle must spread. People need to get information about this struggle out broadly in society. The Revolutionary Worker is a crucial weapon in this fight to save the life of Mumia.

If you’re not a regular subscriber and reader of the Revolutionary Worker, you’re missing out on unique and important articles about this important battle:

- Interview with Mumia from Fall 1994—Mumia talks about why he is being persecuted, his teenage days in the Black Panther Party, his work as a revolutionary journalist, how the police tried to kill him, his railroad trial, conditions on death row and more
- On the Line with Mumia: Transcript of a phone interview with Mumia only minutes after he received his death warrant
- Mumia commentaries and essays from death row... exposing prison officials trying to censor and isolate him... speaking out about current world events... Mumia continues to get his revolutionary writing out to the people
- News about the growing struggle to stop the execution of Mumia: Statements and reports from demonstrations around the country
- Ongoing coverage of the legal arguments by Mumia’s team of lawyers; in depth exposure of the 1982 railroad trial
- Exposure of government and police attacks on the Black radical organization MOVE

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