

Marching for Mumia: a 12-day journey for justice

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 3, 2025



Activists will launch a 12-day March to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal on Nov. 28, walking from Philadelphia to SCI Mahanoy prison in Frackville, Pennsylvania. Their purpose is urgent: to demand medical care, dignity, and freedom for the world-renowned political prisoner.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, a former Black Panther and award-winning journalist, was framed for the 1981 killing of a Philadelphia police officer after a racist trial marked by falsified evidence, coerced witnesses, and judicial bias. For more than 40 years, he

has exposed the injustice of mass incarceration from behind bars, becoming one of the most important political voices of his generation.

International human-rights organizations, including Amnesty International, have long condemned his conviction as a travesty of justice. He was once sentenced to death, but his sentence was later reduced to life without parole — a living death behind prison walls.

Now 71 years old, Mumia faces serious health problems. After months of public pressure, he received cataract surgery on his left eye in September. But he still needs surgery on his right eye and treatment for diabetic retinopathy, a condition that can cause blindness if untreated. Supporters call the deliberate delay elder abuse — another form of state violence against a political prisoner.

The march's rallying cries — Free Mumia Abu-Jamal, End Medical Neglect, End Elder Abuse — connect one man's struggle to the broader crisis of medical neglect and elder abuse of prisoners throughout the United States.

Organizing the 12-day route requires food, housing, transportation, medical care, and legal, security, and media support. A hybrid organizing meeting earlier this month at Philadelphia's Ethical Society drew veteran Free Mumia activists and new participants alike, determined to carry the struggle forward.

"We will never stop fighting for Mumia because he has never stopped fighting for us," said Mama Pam, speaking at a 2023 rally in Philadelphia.

When marchers reach the gates of SCI Mahanoy on Dec. 9, they will be carrying more than one man's cause. They will be marching against a system that jails the poor, silences dissent, and treats human life as disposable — and for the right to justice and freedom.

How to support the march to free Mumia

You don't have to walk the full 12 days to be part of this struggle. Organizers are calling for broad solidarity to make the march possible.

Ways to help include:

- Volunteer for logistics — including driving, food preparation, housing coordination, security, medical, and media teams.
- Donate to help cover marchers' supplies, lodging, and other logistical costs.
- Share updates on social media and help spread the call to free Mumia.
- Organize local solidarity events and teach-ins about Mumia's case and the fight against mass incarceration.

The march is coordinated by Free Mumia Abu-Jamal activists and allies from across the country.

An organizing meeting was held on Nov. 3 at the Ethical Society, 1906 South Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, with ongoing coordination online.

For updates, volunteer sign-ups, and donations, visit freemumia.com or follow @BringMumiaHome on social media.

“Until Mumia is free, none of us are free.”

MARCH FOR MUMIA



UNITE TO FREE MUMIA & ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS

NOV 28TH - DEC 9TH
PHILADELPHIA TO FRACKVILLE, PA

- ▶ MARCH TO
END ELDER ABUSE
- ▶ MARCH TO
END MEDICAL NEGLECT
- ▶ MARCH TO
FREE MUMIA

URGENT

Mumia Abu-Jamal is in **imminent danger of permanent blindness**. He requires **urgent surgery and treatment for diabetic retinopathy**. Every day of delay increases the risk of irreversible damage. We cannot allow the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections to "slow-walk" Mumia into blindness.

JOIN THE MARCH TO DEMAND

- ▶ **JUSTICE FOR OUR ELDERS**
(and an end to medical neglect)
- ▶ **JUSTICE FOR ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS**
(Free them all NOW!!!)
- ▶ **JUSTICE FOR MUMIA ABU-JAMAL**
(Bring Him Home NOW!!!)



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Dialogue with a political prisoner of today, part 1

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 3, 2025

"We don't get how we are all tied to the prison industrial complex. Nobody's out." – Mariame Kaba, interviewed by Mahogany L. Browne, 2019

Having a conversation with a political prisoner would be rare under any circumstance, but considering Jay Burton has been wrongfully convicted for 36+ years, the dialogue facilitated by this article is a testament to modern ingenuity and revolutionary spirit. Be sure to follow Jay's freedom campaign on Instagram @Freedom4JayBurton and support his previously published books at the links provided.

The value of words is often misconstrued by the constant sensory blitz of the internet, television, cell phones, and social media algorithms.

However, to a political prisoner like Jay Burton, every word is a lifeline that carries

his freedom dreams. None is taken for granted.

Instead of your typical back and forth, the contents of this article have been stitched together from multiple discussions and correspondence between the authors.

So how best to frame the injustice that has stolen Jay Burton from his community, his loved ones, and challenged the fullness of his humanity?

Let him tell you himself.

Scott Scheffer: So Jay, you were framed up at 16 by L.A. County Sheriff's deputies that were a part of one of the many gangs in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (the Lynwood Vikings), can you tell us some of the details of how they cooked up evidence against you and the lack of a fair trial?

Jay Burton: There are many facts surrounding my 1989 arrest. On July 18, 1989, I was arrested for a burglary that I participated in with a couple of friends. They got away, but I was caught in the act of burglarizing a car. I was sent to Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall in Downey, California, where I remained until Sept. 28, 1989.

During the summer of 1989, as I was fighting the burglary case in juvenile court, I was subsequently bound over to adult court to face murder and five attempted murder charges. Never once had I been officially charged with the murder and attempted murder; however, I was convicted in June of 1990 of all counts, one murder and five attempted murders.

At my trial, there was an informant who testified that lead detectives Ronald Sale and Dale Christensen were members of the Lynwood Vikings, a L.A. County Sheriff's Department gang. The informant testified that he was on drugs, and he was trying to work a deal with the prosecution because he was fighting several cases while being held in the Los Angeles County Jail. Part of the informant's job was to testify that he saw me get out of a car that was allegedly used in a gang drive-by shooting.

However, during my 1990 trial, the informant recanted all of his previous testimony. Meaning he admitted the inaccuracy of everything he had previously testified to during my trial. He had admitted that he was only informing for the prosecution so he could get a lesser sentence and get out of his own trouble.

This made it clear in front of the jury that he was lying about ever telling the detectives that he saw me in the car after the shooting occurred.

The District Attorney came up with a story stating that the informant was scared to testify against me. Despite the shaky informant, their argument hinged on a piece of physical evidence they claim contains the fingerprint of my left ring finger, the grip of an AK-47.

My trial attorney never once asked for a copy of the photographic evidence the DA claimed. Never questioned its authenticity. Nothing.

So basically, the Lynwood Vikings made a false narrative that I was just another gang banger who shot at a rival gang, the DA manufactured false evidence that they claim shows my fingerprint on the alleged murder weapon, and it was never proven at trial that the gun they claim even did the crimes they convicted me of.

And, for the record, I am 100% sure that the fingerprint on the murder weapon does not belong to me. But I can only prove that if the L.A. Sheriff's Department or the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office turns over the fingerprint itself, which they have failed to do for over 36 years.

I continue to maintain my innocence despite the falsified features of my trials.

Scott: We've learned that during your long incarceration, you've studied law and become someone that other inmates rely on for legal help. Can you talk about that a little bit for our readers?

Jay: During the years of my incarceration, I have become an advocate for social justice. I have become what they call a “jailhouse lawyer” and have successfully filed post-conviction appeals for other prisoners. I’ve also settled civil lawsuits against the state for the housing conditions I am subjected to.

To put it plainly, I have become a threat to the establishment because I refuse to conform to the slavery I’ve been condemned to.

Scott: Can you give us some details about the punishment you’ve endured at the hands of the prison administration during the 36-plus years of your incarceration? Do you think your time has been impacted by your political awareness?

Jay: Because I took on the path to help prisoners and to fight against an unjust system, I have been treated like a target to be disposed of. I previously was forced to serve some 9 years in solitary confinement.

Yes, I have spent time in solitary for disciplinary reasons as well. I am probably what is considered a “program failure” in prison. Not that I am bragging about being a program failure, I refuse to conform to a system built on oppression.

Scott: As supporters spread the word about your case, what do you think is the most important message we need to tell people?

Jay: That no 16-year-old child should ever be sitting behind bars for decades, guilty or innocent. Do not allow this prison, a state-sanctioned killing factory, to continue this theft of my life, my freedom, and my humanity. I want to go home and be with my family. **HELP ME.** #FreeJayBurton Follow my campaign for freedom @Freedom4JayBurton



What to the Political Prisoner is the Fourth of July?

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 3, 2025

[Jay Burton is a political prisoner.](#) At just 16 years old, he was ensnared by the predatory neo-Nazi [Lynwood Vikings](#) deputy gang within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department — a white supremacist gang that federal courts have condemned as engaging in “terrorist-type tactics” and “racially motivated violence” against Black and Latine communities. For 36 years, Burton has been buried alive in California's prison system for a murder he did not commit. This commentary was first published by Struggle-La Lucha.

As we commemorate July 4th, a day traditionally associated with freedom and independence, I ask: What does this celebration truly mean for someone like me, Jay Burton, who has been incarcerated for 36 years, since the age of 16?

My case involves the KNOWN Los Angeles Sheriff's GANG, the Lynwood Vikings, and raises questions about what justice and accountability mean today. I am

seemingly condemned to a new form of slavery, AmeriKKKa's "New Jim Crow" as Professor Michelle Alexander called it.

As Sister Assata Shakur said: "(Prison in the United States) is a new form of Plantation."

I am living proof of the ills of today's criminal (In)justice system.

Meanwhile, we have (false, manufactured) leaders like President Donald Trump leading the AmeriKKKan Empire! He has been convicted of 34 felony counts yet remains free to actualize his most twisted fantasies! I have remained in chains for over 36 years for a crime I did not commit.

This highlights the complexity of freedom.

Frederick Douglass's powerful question, "What to the slave is the 4th of July?" resonates deeply in this context.

It prompts us to consider the multifaceted nature of freedom, including the mental and psychological barriers that exist in inner-city communities and the ongoing struggles for freedom and justice in various parts of the world, such as Palestine, Sudan, the Congo, and Ukraine.

While stuck in the belly of the beast, the celebration of freedom feels distant — the only fireworks here are the harsh realities of life, where sharpened metal often pierces the flesh of men in hopes of taking their lives.

Where sometimes relief comes at a terrible cost, and freedom is lost and in some cases given forever.

Behind the wall, business is business; there is no holiday from this violence. ...

For me, freedom is a simple yet profound desire: to be free of these chains and shout

#FreeJayBurton with my family and supporters, to show love without the interference of the state, and to enrich the next generation for the struggles to come.

I want #FreeJayBurton to be read as a demand and grassroots call to action so that it becomes a message of hope to The People!

Remember my name!!!

Jay Burton will be Free.

These Bars cannot restrain my Revolutionary Spirit.

Come be part of the solution and reach out to me through social media at: @freedom4jayburton. If you feel called to do so, please donate to my legal fees via Cash App at \$mayag8 or my [gofundme](#). Contact the [Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice](#) for more information and action steps. Be a part of the Revolutionary change we want to see in our communities, where youth won't be degraded and thrown away as urban waste.

#FreeJayBurton

#FreeJayBurton

#FreeJayBurton!!!



After 43 years in jail, Mumia Abu-Jamal is still innocent

written by Struggle - La Lucha

November 3, 2025

Philadelphia, July 5 — Over a hundred people demonstrated for Mumia Abu-Jamal's freedom here today. Forty-three years ago, on July 3, 1983, the Black revolutionary was convicted after being framed for killing a Philadelphia cop.

Abu-Jamal was sentenced to death and would be kept on death row until 2011. Pennsylvania authorities are still trying to kill him by medical neglect.

People rallied in West Philadelphia's Malcolm X Park on 52nd Street. Among the speakers were Ramona Africa and Mama Pam.

It was pointed out that the freeing of American Indian Movement leader Leonard Peltier after nearly 50 years in prison shows that the power of the people can free Mumia Abu-Jamal as well.

One of the streets adjoining Malcolm X Park is Osage Avenue, where, further west,

the FBI and police dropped a bomb on the MOVE organization's house on May 13, 1985. Six adults and five children were killed.

Ramona Africa was the only adult survivor. She was imprisoned for seven years while enduring extensive burns.

After the rally, people marched up 52nd Street, a center of West Philly's Black community. They were greeted by striking members of AFSCME DC 33 at the Lucien E. Blackwell library.

Despite over 40 years of lies being told about Mumia Abu-Jamal by the corporate media, there's widespread support for Mumia's freedom. Drivers passing by waved or honked their horns in support.

The workers at the library are part of the 9,000 city workers who have been on strike since July 1. Speakers at the Malcolm X Park rally declared their support for the striking workers.

#FreeMumiaAbuJamal



Always remember Shaka Sankofa

written by Struggle - La Lucha

November 3, 2025

Shaka Sankofa was executed 25 years ago on June 22, 2000. Texas governor and future president, George W. Bush, ordered the legal lynching in Huntsville.

Sankofa spent half his life on death row. He was only 17 years old when he arrived there in 1981. Then known as Gary Graham, he was framed for the murder of Bobby Lambert, a drug dealer and police informer.

Lambert was killed next to a Houston supermarket. Six thousand dollars was found on his body. Obviously, this was a contract killing, not a robbery.

So why did the cops and district attorney pin the rap on Sankofa, a convicted robber? Was it just convenient? Or was it part of a cover-up?

Six eyewitnesses said Sankofa wasn't the shooter. Four people who said they were with him at the time of Lambert's murder passed lie detector tests.

Two workers at the supermarket who got a good look at the killer said Sankofa

wasn't the shooter. These witnesses were never interviewed by Sankofa's court-appointed attorney. Nor were they called to testify.

Bernadine Skillern was the main witness to identify Shaka Sankofa as the shooter of Bobby Lambert. She claimed to have seen Sankofa's face for a few seconds through her car windshield at a distance of 30 to 40 feet.

That was enough for a jury to send the Black teenager to his death. Three of these jurors later signed affidavits saying they would have voted differently if they had known all the evidence.

Executed to get Bush elected

The hustler Malcolm Little entered Walpole State Prison in Massachusetts and left as Malcolm X. Gary Graham went to death row in Texas and died as the revolutionary Shaka Sankofa.

After changing his life and educating himself, Gary Graham took the name of the African military genius Shaka Zulu.

Even Pope John Paul II pleaded with Texas Gov. George W. Bush not to execute Sankofa. So did the Rev. Jesse Jackson and the Congressional Black Caucus.

Bush went ahead and murdered him. Sankofa's execution was part of Bush's election campaign for president.

This war criminal killed hundreds of thousands of people in Iraq and Afghanistan while he was in the White House.

The U.S. Supreme Court would later outlaw the execution of those who had been minors when they allegedly committed murder. The 2005 ruling came too late for Shaka Sankofa and 21 other inmates who had been sent to death row as teenagers

and executed between 1985 and 2003.

As he lay strapped to a gurney, with poison about to flow through his veins, Sankofa remained defiant. “They know I’m innocent,” he said. “Keep marching, Black people. They are killing me tonight. They are murdering me tonight.”

Around the world, millions of people are marching against the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza and the looming war against Iran. The fight against racism and police murders in the United States is part of the same struggle.

Among those moved by Shaka Sankofa’s courage was a white cheerleader from the prison town of Huntsville. This young woman joined the protest against the execution after finishing practice.

Texas is filled with poor and working people — Black, Indigenous, Latinx, Asian and white. They will avenge Shaka Sankofa.



Mumia embraces the LGBTQ+ movement

written by Struggle - La Lucha

November 3, 2025

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a brilliant and empathetic revolutionary journalist known as “the Voice of the Voiceless,” hailed as a leader of people working for peace and justice. He is a father, a grandfather, and a longtime ally of the lesbian, gay, bi, trans, queer plus (LGBTQ+) movement. He has been incarcerated for 43 years, since Dec. 9, 1981. Few political prisoners have been held behind bars for this staggering length of time.

At the time of his arrest, Mumia, a reporter for the Black Panther Party, was president of the Philadelphia chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists. By the age of 15, because of his news reports, the FBI had begun tracking the young writer through its draconian and illegal program known as COINTELPRO – not for violent behavior, but because of his “inclination to appear and speak at public gatherings.”

Reporting on police brutality and the MOVE siege

It is widely viewed that the racist Philadelphia Police Department targeted Mumia because of his courageous reporting on police brutality. Specifically, he was writing about the police attacks on the MOVE organization, which culminated in a year-long siege of the MOVE house. In 1978, nine members of MOVE were falsely charged with the murder of a police officer. In his coverage of the trial, Abu-Jamal pointed out that the officer was most likely killed in the barrage of police crossfire.

Decades of solitary confinement

Mumia, a U.S. political prisoner, served 29 years in solitary confinement on death row. Following a powerful international campaign demanding “Freedom for MUMIA,” his death sentence was ruled unconstitutional. Now he has a life-without-parole sentence. Mumia Abu-Jamal has said: “My only crime that night is that I survived.”

Countless due process violations began just moments after Abu-Jamal was found critically wounded, shot through the chest near the prone body of Officer Daniel Faulkner. From that moment on, members of the Philadelphia Police Department began to manufacture Abu-Jamal’s guilt, conceal his innocence, and charge him with murder.

From early on, it was established that Abu-Jamal’s trial was patently unjust. Philadelphia prosecutors excluded Black people from juries. In Abu-Jamal’s case, 11 out of the 15 peremptory strikes were made to bar Black people from his jury.

His conviction came in a trial that Amnesty International and numerous human rights groups said showed extensive evidence of prosecutorial, judicial, and police misconduct, and “effectively strip[ped] Mumia Abu-Jamal of any meaningful legal representation,” all seriously violating international legal standards.

A few years ago, it was officially disclosed that cartons full of evidence had been discovered, hidden in a Philadelphia City Hall closet 36 years earlier. Mumia’s legal defense team said this evidence would establish his innocence. Despite that, in 2023, Philadelphia Common Pleas Judge Lucretia Clemons ruled that it was too late for the evidence to be heard.

Support of the LGBTQ+ movement

In recent years, Mumia has become increasingly outspoken about queer and trans issues. In 2000, he wrote a commentary denouncing the brutal murders of three

white gay men: Matthew Shepard in Wyoming in 1998, Billy Jack Gaither in Alabama, and Eddie Northington in Virginia, both in 1999. He was responding to an LGBTQ+ campaign in support of his freedom, called Rainbow Flags for Mumia, that Leslie Feinberg initiated.

“The sickening attacks on gay people in cities across the nation recently are a reflection of the sickness that simmers at the core of the American soul. It is here that a truly perverse hatred is bred, and from here that all attacks are launched against all who are seen as Other.

“This violence, which seems psychosexual in nature, is an attack on the self that seeks to destroy a part of the self that threatens the self. From Matthew Shepard, to Alabama, to that bloody American ground that was once the seat of the Confederacy, Richmond, violence, spawned by the dark pit of hatred and fear, is unleashed by men who claim a false and twisted ‘purity.’

“More often than not, those who find themselves attacking gay folks violently are replaying a violence that they grew up with, or that they continue to act out of, against their family or children.

“Is it a coincidence that Richmond, the city where a Black man was burned to death and decapitated, is followed several months later with the decapitation and torture of a gay man? I think not.

“This cruel and savage violence must be stopped — but it won’t be the cops that stop it, for they are the agents of legalized state violence. The brutality that occurs in their own homes daily, the recent spate of cops who kill their wives and kids, more than proves it.

“The people are the solution! So, my thanks to the Rainbow! Ona Move! To Freedom!

In the 2012 book “The Classroom and the Cell: Conversations on Black Life in America,” Mumia said in a transcript that “Huey P. Newton spoke out, back in 1970, about gay liberation. He didn’t just mention it. He said, ‘We, the Black Panther Party, support gay liberation just as we support women’s liberation.’ He saw it as part of the struggle for human liberation. ... It was the most forward position of any radical and revolutionary movement of the period, and reflected Huey’s keen thinking on issues before his time.

Newton’s 1970 statement, made by a Black Panther Party (BPP) leader, came just a year after the Stonewall rebellion, giving ground-breaking support to the then-strong and growing movements for women’s and gay liberation. Newton called for building an alliance with both movements.”

Radio documentary: A revolutionary evolution

Mumia Abu-Jamal explained his decades-long evolution to open solidarity with queer and trans liberation in a radio documentary, “Mumia Abu-Jamal Embraces LGBTQ Liberation” produced by Bob Lederer, host of the program Out-FM on WBAI in New York. Out-FM is a weekly anti-racist program by and for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, gender non-conforming, intersex, queer, and questioning communities.

In his interview with Mumia, Lederer included an account of the prisoner’s evolution on queer issues by Noelle Hanrahan, a lesbian journalist who has recorded more than 3,000 of Abu-Jamal’s radio essays on prisonradio.org, which airs the voices of incarcerated people.

In the interview Mumia said: “When you think about what Huey said at the Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention about gay folks and lesbian and queer folks, I must be honest with you, it was not well received by members of the Party. We were shocked in some ways, confused in other ways. But as usual, this

was Huey at his finest. And he was a true revolutionary intellectual, who was usually ahead of his peers. ...

“And I thought about it in the same context as Dhoruba bin Wahad, who was one of the Panther 21, and he talked about gay liberation. So some of the most advanced sectors of the Black liberation movement began to think about it far more broadly and deeply than even when Huey made his call.”

In Mumia’s 2004 book, *We Want Freedom: A Life in the Black Panther Party*, he wrote about the Panthers’ 1970 Revolutionary People’s Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, which around 6,000 activists attended. He called it “a way of developing a revolutionary superstructure that would be the groundwork for a new society” and noted the wide array of groups – of students, socialists, Native peoples, women, and gay and lesbian groups – were invited to contribute. Workshops were held separately by gay men and lesbians, the former more multi-racial than the latter, and the gay men – but not the lesbians – were allowed to present to the larger convention.”

Mumia wrote: “The many diverse workshops provided the basis for one of the most progressive Constitutions in the history of humankind,” citing calls for Black and Third World representation in governing institutions, national self-determination, sexual self-determination for women and homosexuals,” and the universal rights to housing, health care and day care. ... Much of the movement was. ... deeply macho in orientation and treated women in many of these groups in a distinctly secondary and disrespectful fashion.”

But he also noted that “women were far more than mere appendages of male ego and power, they were valued and respected comrades. The women really were the glory of the Party. And I mean, they were the Party’s hardest workers, the most disciplined members and leaders.”

Mumia cited the emergence in the 2010s of the queer-led Black Lives Matter movement as a major spur for straight Black liberation leaders to embrace LGBTQ+ liberation:

Mumia also spoke movingly of the lessons he has learned from gay and trans prisoners in the institutions where he has been incarcerated: He gave an eyewitness account of the horrendous oppression of incarcerated gay men and trans women.

“Well, you know, being in many ways, a blockhead and a nerd, I used to think that for a gay or even a trans man in prison would be a touch of heaven. It’s quite the reverse. They catch hell from prisoners and staff alike. So think about the alienation in isolation that breathes in such a person. I’ve seen people – literally seen them – try to commit suicide by jumping off of a rail onto the floor. If you hit your head or your neck, you can kill yourself, and I’ve seen that several times, in several places, in several prisons. Prison, by its nature, breeds isolation in human beings and atomizes them to the extent that it further isolates and separates them. And for trans and gay men in prison, it’s a hell in a hell, you know? They get the worst of it.”

Confronting anti-trans violence

In 2019, [Mumia released a commentary](#) denouncing a wave of murders of Black trans women:

“In recent weeks, we have seen naked violence unleashed against trans women, directed against them by the state in the form of police beating and by rightist forces in this emerging fascist movement in America.

“What does this mean? Why now? I believe it comes now for a specific strategic purpose, for trans women stand on the periphery of the gay rights movement, not its nucleus. This means they are isolated and, as such, targeted by rightist forces to isolate them further.

“We must not forget that they are, after all, Black folks in the land and at an era where and when Black life remains cheap. Now add Black, gay, and transgender. See where the analysis goes? And if it’s Black trans women today, it’ll be Black straight women tomorrow and Black children soon thereafter.

“That’s the nature of the fascist beast: attack those who seem weak, isolate them, destroy them. Since Charlottesville, we’ve seen the emergence of rightist racist forces that are committed to destroying Black life and to proving that Black lives don’t matter.

“The lines of Black people are the literal foundation not just of America but all of us. We need to build a radical movement that protects all of us, for all of us can consign such racist violence to the trash heaps of history.

“From Imprisoned Nation, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.”

Noelle Hanrahan of Prison Radio wrote: “I ‘came out’ to Mumia on my second recording trip in 1992. Sitting across from him, I said you know the committee in San Francisco that is your defense committee has 10 women on it. Seven are lesbians. He was shocked, yet open. I told him Alice Walker was bi, Angela Davis was a lesbian, Bayard Rustin, James Baldwin were gay.

“He was profoundly curious. Warm. He asked, ‘Why?’ I said, ‘We’re deeply oppressed by this society and those of us who are revolutionaries see our liberation bound intrinsically with yours.’

“Mumia, while complicated, is one of the warmest persons I have ever met. Mumia Abu-Jamal’s instinctual curiosity and warm wonder, his lack of judgment or distance and harshness, kept me coming back. I see him 3-4 times a month, strategizing about his freedom, because when we love we win, when we survive we win, when we fight we win.”

Bob Lederer ended his interview by thanking “the amazing Mumia Abu-Jamal for the interviews. Special thanks to two dedicated Free Mumia activists, Dr. Suzanne Ross of International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia, Noelle Hanrahan of PrisonRadio.org, Johanna Fernandez of the Campaign to Bring Mumia Home, Pam Africa, Dawn Reel, and Betsy Mickel. Thanks to Nathaniel Moore and Claude Marks of the Freedom Archives for providing the audio of Dhoruba Bin Wahad. And thanks to my Out-FM colleague and husband John Riley for providing production support, as well as to my two collectives, Out-FM and Resistance in Brooklyn, for advice. And thanks to WBAI studio engineer Max Schmid. Our closing music will be ‘Never a Prisoner! Free Mumia,’ by Rebel Diaz.”



‘It has been a long 22 years’: wife of wrongfully imprisoned man speaks out

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 3, 2025

On May 30, Struggle-La Lucha sat down with Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly activist, Miss Van Green. She has been fighting to free her husband, [Duryea](#), who is currently serving an unjust prison sentence for a crime he did not commit. That interview is published below.

Lev Koufax: Can you tell us about your husband, Duryea Green?

Van Green: Duryea Green is my husband. He has been in prison here in Maryland since 2003. This has been quite the journey. Duryea was sentenced to 45 years in prison for two attempted murder charges. The sentence ended up being 20 years per attempted murder charge, and the other five came from some gun-related charges.

The evidence against my husband was essentially that he was a Black man who was around the O'Donnell Heights neighborhood when the shooting happened. The prosecutor and judge both made biased statements at the trial. I also had to deal with corrupt defense lawyers. I hired two different lawyers. Both took my money and did not meet their end of the bargain. One has been disbarred since.

LK: Could you talk about the experience you and your family went through when Duryea was arrested and put through trial?

VG: I remember the night of the shooting like it was yesterday. My husband and I were planning a night out with friends. As we were getting to leave, a police sergeant, James Lloyd, arrived at our home in East Baltimore and asked for a "Darrell Green." That isn't my husband's name.

Sergeant Lloyd would return to our home multiple times with the incorrect name or information about my husband. The next time he came to our home, he asked for Derek Green. Again, not my husband's name. Eventually, Lloyd and the cops returned with a warrant. The warrant still had an incorrect name.

The day they came with a warrant, it was early in the morning. Duryea was at work,

and I was getting ready to take my sons to school. Sergeant Lloyd ordered myself and my two sons handcuffed. I insisted I needed to take my sons to school, and the police had no right to act like this. They agreed to take my sons to school, but only if they were handcuffed in the back of a police cruiser. This was a humiliating experience for my two young boys.

We returned to the house where James Lloyd handcuffed me and searched the house. James Lloyd refused to discuss the charges with me. Later that day, they placed me in the back of their cruiser to go arrest my husband. This was all against my will. When they arrested my husband in front of my eyes, they did it under the wrong name and without informing him of the charges.

LK: And Duryea has been in jail or prison since?

VG: Yes. This nightmare has gone on for 22 years. We are going to keep fighting to free Duryea and all prisoners. But it has been a long 22 years.

LK: Can you talk about James Lloyd a bit?

VG: He is a notoriously violent and corrupt police sergeant. He harassed my family and traumatized my sons forever. A few years ago, he was fired from his job after he kidnapped a contractor at gunpoint. Before that, he was involved with the corrupt Gun Trace Task Force. He was also assigned to investigate the death of Sean Suiter – the police officer who was shot and killed the evening before he was set to testify about the GTTF to the FBI. Many in the community believe that the Baltimore police murdered Suiter to silence him. It's entirely possible Lloyd was involved. We informed the Baltimore police of his conduct during the investigation into my husband. They ignored us.

LK: Has Duryea been treated well in prison? If not, how so?

VG: Like most prisoners, Duryea has not been treated well in prison. My husband

has several serious medical conditions, including autoimmune disorders and cancer. Duryea rarely gets the treatment he needs. He is only taken to an outside hospital when he faces a life-threatening complication. There is no preventive care at all for any of the prisoners across the state. It's near impossible to consistently get the correct medication. The prison health care system is fundamentally broken. Prisons are just cages for the poor.

LK: When did you become involved with the Peoples Power Assembly about your husband's case?

VG: I became a member of PPA in 2020. We have worked since then to free my husband and all prisoners. We demonstrate. We canvass. We have been on multiple different local radio stations. I have also organized letter campaigns supporting Duryea. We struggle any way we can to bring light to the prisoners' struggle and to my husband's case.

LK: What would you like to see happen with your husband's case and all the prisoners of the racist U.S. prison system?

VG: Duryea needs to be freed now. We don't care if it comes from Governor Moore or State's Attorney Ivan Bates. Both have claimed to support addressing issues of racism in the justice system. Both have failed. My husband and many others, most of whom are Black, need to be unlocked from their cages and treated like **people**.

Myself and the PPA want to see an end to the racist U.S. police and prison system. We want people back in their communities with their families. We want people to have union jobs and health care – not prison sentences. We struggle to free my husband Duryea, but also to end the broader racist system.



Free Jay Burton: Fighting for justice against LA's neo-Nazi Sheriff's gangs

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 3, 2025



On Aug. 29, 1970, some 25,000 people gathered for the Chicano Moratorium in East Los Angeles to protest the brutal U.S. imperialist war against the Vietnamese people. Early in the historic protest, L.A. County Sheriff's Deputies attacked, beating people and firing tear-gas grenades.

By the time the assault was over, they had murdered four people. Ruben Salazar, a progressive Chicano journalist, was killed after going into the nearby Silver Dollar Café to gather himself. Los Angeles County deputies fired a tear gas canister into the cafe, striking him directly in the head.

In the aftermath, the Coroner's Inquest revealed that an organized, violent gang within the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department were the shock troops in the assault and were responsible for the four deaths. No Sheriffs, Deputy Sheriffs or commanders took responsibility or were punished.

The gang was called the Little Devils. The revelation of their existence was the first

exposé of a decades-long series of murders, beatings, raids on people's homes at gunpoint, frameups of innocent people, organized violence and murders of inmates carried out by the fascist, racist County Sheriff's gangs in the department, which continue to this day. A recent study found that there are currently at least 24 named gangs in the L.A. County Sheriff's Department (LASD).

After the Little Devils faded, an even more notorious and avowed white supremacist gang came to be known as the Lynnwood Vikings.

At a Black History Month forum at the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Aye Jay, a Los Angeles-based attorney and community organizer, spoke about the case of Jay Burton, one of the victims of the Lynnwood Vikings. He said:

"Jay Burton is a political prisoner of today who was ensnared by the neo-Nazi LASD gang known as the Lynnwood Vikings when he was just 16 years old. People need to grapple with what that means for today's society and the function of 'law enforcement.' Think about knowing someone in your own backyard being wrongfully convicted and imprisoned for 36-plus years for a crime they didn't commit. Doing nothing would be insanely callous, right? That's why we are organizing around the call to FREE JAY BURTON!"

Police agencies in the U.S. are in place to guard the wealth of the capitalists and protect their monopolist profits from the demands of the working class, particularly to keep communities of color in their place.

The LASD is comprised of 18,000 well-armed cops; it's slightly larger than the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Between the LASD and the LAPD, their helicopter fleet is second only to the U.S. Air Force. It's the largest Sheriff's department in the U.S., and L.A. has the largest county jail system with a daily count of 12,987 inmates as of the second quarter of 2022.

Parallel to the already violent and racist role of the police, there is a collection of violent Sheriff's Deputies organized in up to two dozen gangs who operate as a shadow government within LASD. They hunt for Black and Brown victims on the street, openly flash their gang signs, and wear gang tattoos on their legs. Deputies are honored in barroom celebrations after beating or shooting a victim, and their tattoos are enhanced to indicate their new status within the gang. They exclude and threaten Sheriff's Deputies who are African-American or women. But their real targets are youth of color._

[An extensive report by Cerise Castle published by KNOCK LA](#) quotes David Lynn, a private investigator, "If you are Black or Brown and walking down your street, it's fair game." Lynn uncovered through his work that regular activities for the fascist gangs include murder, armed assaults, raids on private homes and torture. County jail inmates are among the most vulnerable targets.

Over the years, investigations by the ACLU, a Civilian Oversight Commission, the aforementioned Coroners' Inquest, an FBI "investigation," and even numerous well-meaning progressive journalists' exposes haven't yielded an eradication of this fascist phenomenon. What is often described in the press as a problem that "plagues" the Sheriff's department is actually just the foremost example of the racist violence that is baked into the carceral system under capitalism.

Officially, the prison guards in L.A.'s sprawling county jail system are also part of the LASD. The gang called the 3000 Boys dominates the force of guards at the downtown Men's Central Jail. The 3000 Boys earn tattoos when beating an inmate results in a hospitalization. The Wayside Whities run the Peter J. Pritchess Detention Center.

One former inmate sued the department after he was beaten by them for fighting with a white inmate. They yelled racial slurs as they beat his legs repeatedly with batons until he heard a bone snap and blood gushed from the wound. His suit is only

one of many over Sheriff's gang violence that have been settled by the County. They add up to well over \$100 million over the last 30 years.

The two openly white supremacist groups, the Lynwood Vikings and the Compton Executioners, both get their tattoos supplemented with "998," to indicate that they've shot someone.

The way to root out fascist police gangs, in L.A., Chicago, New York City and across the country, is to abolish the police and the capitalist system they exist to protect.



Honoring Mumia Abu-Jamal on his 71st birthday

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 3, 2025

"Know this: throughout it all. I have never felt alone. To the eye, I was alone in solitary confinement, on death row, but the eye cannot really see all that is, for behind brick and steel, I felt your love, sometimes like a wave, sometimes like a whisper, but always there, ever present." - Mumia Abu-Jamal, Prison Radio

On April 24, 2025, the International Mobilization for Mumia organized events in various cities worldwide to honor Long Distance Revolutionary Mumia Abu-Jamal on his 71st birthday.

Mobilizing for Mumia held an online seminar entitled “Laws, Mumia, Universities, and Palestine.”

Mumia joined the panel of student activists and community organizers on the online seminar over the phone from prison. He spoke about the “waves of repression” in the world today. He referenced the brave and courageous students who stood against the slaughter in Palestine. Authorities arrested thousands of students and activists for political protests. Mumia experienced a temporary interruption due to technical difficulties while discussing laws that adhere to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

When he returned, he spoke with a strong, enthusiastic voice: “The only thing that can meet that kind of force is a counter force. ... ‘waves of resistance.’... Any people who can ignore the Constitution for over one hundred years when it comes to Africans are capable of anything. ... Where there is repression, there must be



resistance.” (Listen to the online seminar on YouTube, Twisted Laws: Mumia, Universities & Palestine.)

Mumia was referring to the thousands of students at more than 130 colleges and

universities across the U.S. rallying in opposition to the war in Gaza with protests and encampments. More than 2,000 students were held in custody.

Who is Mumia Abu-Jamal?

Internationally known U.S. political prisoner Abu-Jamal is an award-winning journalist and author of 12 books and thousands of written essays, as well as audio commentaries from prison. His writings are detailed, factual examinations of racism and political bias in the U.S. judicial system.

His pursuit of justice and resolve has remained steadfast, even after decades of incarceration. He is one of our most courageous revolutionary intellectuals, who says what is on his mind without fear of consequences. The book “Live from Death Row,” authored by him, has been translated into seven languages.

It is clear to the movement that he remains in prison for telling the truth about capitalism, imperialism, the prison-industrial complex, and the entire U.S. criminal justice system.

Mumia Abu-Jamal, sentenced to death in 1982, was on Pennsylvania’s death row for 30 years. The state signed his death warrant twice. He came dangerously close to execution on Aug. 17, 1995, and again on Dec. 2, 1999. It was the mobilization of a mass international movement that saved his life.

In 2011, his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Mumia long had a target on his back. At 15 years old, he became a member of the Black Panther Party. The FBI started a file on the revolutionary teenager. Super racist Mayor Frank Rizzo threatened him at a news conference.

The U.S. government claims there are no political prisoners in the United States.

When, in fact, political prisoners make up the majority of the over 2 million people locked up in prisons, jails and ICE detention centers throughout the U.S., because prisons are concentration camps for the poor.

Noel Hanrahan, a lawyer who works on Mumia's medical cases and visits three to four times a month, gave an update on April 25, 2025:

"Mumia has exhausted his direct appeals before the Pennsylvania Supreme Court. ... We all need to understand that he has been in prison now four decades and has never received a fair trial. It's up to us, those around the world, those in the United States, those in Philadelphia, to create the context, to create the power, to build the grass roots momentum that will force our courts to address his long standing issues, including evidence of innocence, including evidence of police and prosecutorial misconduct. It is those actions that we take that will build the context."

Noel Hanrahan's full statement is transcribed on Prison Radio ([Noelle Hanrahan, Esq. Statement for Mexico City Event - Prison Radio](#)).

Mumia is a victim of racist police, judicial, and prosecutorial misconduct. The International & National Mobilization for Mumia and All Political Prisoners is demanding Justice.

Release Mumia! Free all political prisoners!

Send revolutionary greetings to Mumia

Smart Communications / PA DOC Abu-Jamal, Mumia #AM 8335 SCI-Mahanoy, P.O. Box 33028 St. Petersburg, FL 33733 United States

Mumia is jailed in Pennsylvania, and his mail is digitized in Florida. The prison prints the scanned image and delivers it to Mumia.



New York State prison guards ‘strike’ for brutality and solitary confinement

written by Struggle - La Lucha
November 3, 2025

Prison guards and cops are not workers

Thousands of prison guards have staged a so-called strike since Feb. 17 in over 30 New York State prisons. All these hellholes are concentration camps for the poor.

The trigger for these goons was the imminent charging of prison guards who beat Robert Brooks to death. The Black inmate at the Marcy Correctional Facility near Utica, New York, was viciously assaulted by a gang of guards on Dec. 9, 2024, while he was handcuffed. Brooks died the next day.

The murder of Brooks, the father of a son, was recorded on video and has been seen

by millions. Yet it took over two months before six of the thugs who killed him were charged on Feb. 20.

Another “grievance” of these prison guards was the Human Alternatives to Long-Term Solitary Confinement (HALT) Act. Passed in 2021, it puts some limits on solitary confinement. Nils Melzer, a United Nations Special Rapporteur on torture, described prolonged solitary confinement as [psychological torture](#).

Kalief Browder hanged himself in 2015, two years after being released from New York City’s Rikers Island jail. The Black youth — arrested when he was 16 years old — was kept in solitary for two years. Kalief Browder was never even brought to trial, and his family couldn’t afford to bail him out.

Layleen Polanco Xtravaganza died alone in solitary confinement at Rikers in 2019 while experiencing a seizure. The transgender Afro-Latina woman was thrown into the hole despite prison officials knowing that she had epilepsy.

While the [HALT act](#) is limited, it could have saved Xtravaganza’s life. The law prohibits people with disabilities, anyone under 21 or over 5, or those who are pregnant from being kept in solitary.

It says volumes about the uniformed thugs “on strike” that they want to get rid of a law that stops the most vulnerable from being kept in a tiny cage 22 or more hours a day.

Thugs and torturers are not workers

The walkout by prison guards has meant even more misery for 32,000 incarcerated poor people. They are barely being fed while not being allowed to visit with families and other loved ones.

State Corrections Commissioner Daniel Martuscello suspended the HALT Act on

Feb. 20, giving officials the right to throw any inmate into solitary confinement. This violation of human rights is an incentive to brutalize and a gift to the guards who have demanded abolishing the act.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul has [called up](#) 4,500 members of the National Guard to patrol the prisons. Among those facilities is Attica prison, where state police under orders of billionaire Gov. Nelson Rockefeller, killed 30 inmates in 1971.

Compare Hochul's kid glove treatment of the guards with how New York City transit workers were treated when they went on strike in 2005. Transit Workers Local 100 President Roger Toussaint was sent to jail.

Super=rich Mayor [Michael Bloomberg](#) — whose fortune is currently estimated at \$104.7 billion — called the strikers “thugs.”

Later, during the pandemic, at least 177 TWU members — who were originally ordered not to wear masks — [died of COVID](#) while keeping the Big Apple moving.

Prison guards are not workers. Neither are any cops, FBI agents, or members of the ICE deportation gestapo. All of them are mercenaries for the wealthy and powerful and are enemies of the working class.

The so-called representatives of these goons need to be thrown out of local labor councils. Cops who help break strikes have no place in the union movement.

It was disgraceful that the Attica prison guards were members of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees and more shameful that AFSCME President Jerry Wurf defended them.

Unions should reach out to prisoners, the poorest members of the working class. The labor movement needs to demand “Jobs, Not Jails!”

Gov. Hochul wants prisoners to be exploited by [private corporations](#). They should be paid union wages instead.

Solidarity Forever includes solidarity with the incarcerated. It's Musk and Trump who need to be locked up.

