



Berlin Coalition to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal

im Haus der Demokratie und Menschenrechte

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Berlin, April 23, 2012

For immediate release:

Demonstration Free Mumia Abu-Jamal!

On April 21, yet another demonstration was held in Berlin for former death row prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal. On the occasion of his 58th birthday, the participants demanded Abu-Jamal's freedom and an end to mass incarceration in the US and the worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

The demonstration was led by a chain gang of "prisoners" clad in bright orange prison overalls and chained to each other. 250 people marched from the Rosa Luxemburg Square to the Berlin US Embassy. In addition to the above, they also demanded freedom for all political prisoners.

Just two weeks ago at the Berlin Easter March for Peace, the US Embassy had already been symbolically wrapped into a 2200 ft long banner with similar demands.

US linguist and political activist Noam Chomsky sent a message, pointing out the parallels between slavery and today's prison labor of millions of disenfranchised, mostly black prisoners in the US, insisting on the political character of many cases of imprisonment (e.g. Abu-Jamal and Bradley Manning), and characterizing the prison conditions of many inmates as torture.

Various contributions of the organizers and a large number of leaflets educated about the death penalty, mass incarceration, political imprisonment, and the incarceration of innocent people.

The highpoint was the final speech of US citizen Harold Wilson who was found innocent in 2005 after 17 years in prison (and 15 on death row) and had to be released. Wilson had been in the same prison as Mumia Abu-Jamal for a long time, and he closed his moving speech with the call to all those present not to relent until Abu-Jamal is also free.

Similar protests were taking place in London and Amsterdam and, of course will continue tomorrow in Washington DC in front of the Department of Justice. The numerous demonstrations for Abu-Jamal in the course of the years and the current worldwide manifestations for him today show that the message falls on fertile soil: As the various speeches repeatedly stressed, this is about much more than Mumia Abu-Jamal alone; it is also about the struggle against the death penalty, political imprisonment, and mass incarceration.

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