

the  
MUMIA NEWS  
BULLETIN

No Place for Old Men

BY MUMIA ABU-JAMAL

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NO PLACE FOR OLD MEN  
by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Quite recently during the hight of the ravaging Covid-19 crisis an American health care agency announced a series of projects and programs designed to ease human suffering and indeed to advocate for the abolition of the systems of massincarceration. The American Public Health Association, known as APHA, watching the harrowing number of deaths in prisons, is determined that the age of abolition has come and has called for the release of the engaged elderly. One of the vagaries of mass incarceration is the explosion of the elderly as part of the prison population. Today, men in their seventies and eighties roll around here

in wheelchairs or hobble on walkers or even stroll with the help of canes. They have a host of health problems from diabetes which is quite prevalent, the COPD from heart attacks, and ailments to cancer.

The APHA has advanced the novel idea that the elderly in prisons have been subjected to “elder abuse” by the state in all the ways they have been mistreated and maltreated, for they are subjected to solitary confinement, to aching joints, to the natural frailties of old age. And APHA, the American Public Health Association, has urged that elderly prisoners be made free of “elder abuse” by release from confinement. They have urged this upon state, county, federal and territorial prisons, jails, and institutions of detention.

(This is taken from Mumia Abu-Jamal’s speech on Prison Radio)  
<https://www.prisonradio.org/?s=No+Place+for+Old+Men>

Letter from  
Dr. Michael Schiffmann

I am writing to you on behalf of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the well-known African American journalist who has been in prison for more than 43 years. In February 2000, Amnesty International published a report on his case in which it pointed out many flaws in the police investigation preceding Abu-Jamal’s 1982 murder trial, the trial itself, and the ensuing appeals process, as well as in the treatment of Abu-Jamal in prison. At the time Amnesty concluded “that

justice would be best served by granting Abu-Jamal a new trial,” and that he must be treated in a way that respects his basic human rights.

We are now writing in 2025 and we see that justice has still not been served through a new trial for Abu-Jamal, neither is he being treated appropriately in prison, where he is currently serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole.

This would be the right time for Amnesty to publish, both on-line and in print, a second edition of its report, which may be amended by a critical evaluation of the events in this case since the original publication.[1]

At the end of 2023, a small group of people of which I am one had formed around the idea of suggesting this move to the International Secretariat of AI in London in the spring or summer of 2024.

Since then, we have already garnered the support of a number of local AI groups in France, Germany, the UK, and the US as well as of a number of nationally and internationally known personalities. Now we are asking you for yours. It would be most helpful if you could give your approval by signing the statement reproduced below (the signature can be given just by inserting your name [plus other info you deem relevant, like affiliation, title etc.]) or just responding to this email affirmatively.

(see text of Call to Action petition to continue on page 4)

Death By Incarceration  
Bret Grote, Esquire  
Mumia Abu-Jamal’s Lawyer

The signatory organizations respectfully submit this letter alleging that the United States’ extreme prison sentencing policies and practices of life without parole (LWOP), life with parole (LWP), “virtual life,”<sup>1</sup> and other term-of-years sentences that exceed life expectancy and thus effectively condemn individuals to death by incarceration (DBI), violate the prohibition against racial individuals’ right to life; violate

Parole Elder Abuse Concerns  
Everyone (P.E.A.C.E.)  
By Dr. Ricardo Alvarez

P.E.A.C.E. is a coalition of individuals and organizations dedicated to addressing the economic and moral injustices of incarcerating elderly individuals who pose no threat to public safety.

Its mission is to liberate elders by reporting Parole Elder Abuse to diverse sectors of society that have professional and ethical reporting responsibilities. There is compelling data that elderly prisoners age out of crime and pose a substantial financial burden on taxpayers for inadequate care in prisons. They can be compassionately cared for in their communities at a much lower cost. Their stories of resilient love lift the voices of the primary actors- prisoners, families, and communities- through their creative expression while supported by the language of data, policy papers, legal briefs, position papers, and other professional literature. Freedom is the Only Treatment. <https://paroleelderabuse.org>

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THE ABOLISIONIST  
LAW CENTER

Death by Incarceration

Pennsylvania law dictates mandatory sentences of life without the possibility of parole for people sentenced under charges of first-degree murder or second-degree murder (aka “felony murder”). These sentences are, in effect, death by incarceration.

There is no allowance for the circumstances of the individual’s actions in determining the sentencing if convicted of these charges. There is no leeway to adjust the sentence based on whether or not a person actually took a life, or intended to take a

life; or due to defendants’ detrimental lived experiences such as being abused or neglected; or the youthfulness of defendants (most people sentenced to DBI are under 25 at the time.) The potential to change, grow, and transform into a person firmly committed to repairing harm does not matter. The law assumes people do not change, and anyone deemed a danger to society will remain so for the rest of their lives. Yet our communities are home to people proving the opposite every day.

<https://abolitionistlawcenter.org/>

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Justice

# HANDS OFF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RAPP  
(RELEASING AGED PEOPLE IN PRISON)**  
**JOSE SALDANA'S STORY**  
(PART 1)  
Interviewed by Jacqueline Wade

Okay. I'm Jose Hamza Saldana. I was born in Spanish Harlem. We used to call it El Barrio. Actually, we still call it El Barrio. It's where Puerto Rican, the largest wave of Puerto Ricans, they migrated to New York. And this is where they settled. And it became known as El Barrio, actually, after what we used to call the ghettos in Puerto Rico. My childhood in Spanish Harlem was, perhaps it's typical.

I'm a first-generation Puerto Rican. I was raised with first-generation Puerto Ricans. Basically, a lot of the people that I grew up with were first-generation Puerto Rican. And it was really just, everybody was poor. And we didn't even kind of knew we was poor, but everybody was poor. My parents, my father worked as a truck driver.

Later on in life, he stopped working because he took to drinking too much. My mother was a housewife. And I have five brothers and six sisters. That was a lot of people to care for. She was on public assistance for just about my entire childhood. We used to just go out and play stickball, which was the game most of us first-generation Puerto Ricans took to, handball.

I went to a Catholic school. Somehow, I don't know how, somehow my parents was able to get me into

a Catholic school, where I spent my first seven years in Catholic school before I went to a junior high school, which is a public junior high school. So everything was cool, as cool as it can be for somebody that was just accustomed to poverty.

Spanish Harlem at the time was really a drug haven. It was infested with drugs. And right across from where we live, not diagonally to the other block, but across was a brothel.

And somehow I took to running errands for some of the girls there, women and girls. And one girl in particular was a Puerto Rican. Now she could have not been more than 16, 17 years old, maybe older, but she just looked that way. She had real long black hair. She just took to me. She used to call me, you know, she used to hear my mother call me from the roof, from the top floor, the sixth floor where we lived, Tony, Tony, because of my name.

I was born Jose Antonio. So Tony, but in English. And my mom, when she couldn't see me, she'd scream, Tony, Tony.

And people would say, yeah, your mom's calling you. So one day I hear a strange voice calling me Tony. And I looked up.

She wasn't from my family. She kept saying Tony. I turned around and looked. I said, oh man, who's this? But she just asked me to do her a favor and go to the store and buy some cigarettes and something to eat. So that's how we developed a relation-

ship. I was her errand boy.

And one day I went, you know, she called me. She dropped the money down with the note, what she wanted. I went to the local bodega, but I didn't go there right away.

I got tied up with some talking to some people. And then it hit me. I said, oh man, I got to go to the store for Maria. So by the time I got there, the cops was all over the place. They raided the place, the building. And I'm going inside the building with her groceries in my hand. And I see cops dragging her with her long hair, just dragging her down the stairs. She lives on the second floor, so it wasn't really as bad as it would have been if she lives on the sixth floor. Her face was bloody.

She opened her eyes and she seen me. I'm nine years old. I didn't know what to do. I froze. I literally froze. They had their guns out. And that was the last time I saw Maria. And that was my introduction to what policing is like in Spanish Harlem.

After that experience, I had a lot of time to reflect. And I realized that that experience ended my childhood. At that point, I wasn't an innocent little Black Puerto Rican kid just running around.

I knew that I was in a dangerous environment.

I started selling drugs, dope. That's what I was doing. Me and my homies, all first generations, four of us, all first generation Puerto Ricans, we

decided, man, that that's what we're going to do.

We had to save us some money and bought some dope. And we started selling around the corner, looking out for each other, make sure we don't get robbed, make sure the cops don't come. So for 13, 14, 15, 16, even up to about 18 years old, that's how I was doing, just selling drugs and buying clothes, buying jewelry.

And something happened when I was, I think I was 18 years old. There's a church right around the corner from where we live. It's a Spanish church. I went there a few times, quite a few times, in fact, when I was young. My sisters went there. My mom, dad didn't go there too often, but that was the local Puerto Rican church where most of us went to.

And in 1969, I was selling drugs. And my oldest sister come running, yelling out, don't leave, don't leave. And I said, what's going on? She says, cops all over. I said, I know them. You see cops, I mean, the cars is just going, just going by us. Cops coming from everywhere, all directions. So we stashed our little dope, stashed our weapons that we had, and just waited to see what was happening. She's telling me somebody took over the church. I said, who the hell is going to take over the church? There's no money in the church.

(Part 2 To Be Continued in the next issue)

Jose Saldana is Executive Director of RAPP. He served 38 years in prison.

## 11 FACTS ABOUT MUMIA ABU-JAMAL WE ARE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

by Julia Wright

- 1- In Mumia's 1982 trial, Judge Albert Sabo, known as the "hanging judge" because he proudly displayed a record of death penalty sentences -- 31 over 14 years, 29 of which were people of color -- said to another Judge during Mumia's trial, in front of the court stenographer: "I will help the prosecution fry the n.....". Today under Trump's executive order on "disparate impact" restricting the legal ability to prove racist intent - the exception is if the n..... word has been explicitly pronounced.
- 2 - At least one third of the 35 police officers who testified against Mumia for the prosecution were later charged by the FBI for corruption -- money laundering, bribe taking etc... The jury that found Mumia guilty did not know they were hearing testimony from officers already in the cross hairs of the FBI.
- 3 - Mumia was barred from choosing to be represented by John Africa - the leader of MOVE.
- 5 - After he received a bullet in the lung and was rammed into a lamp-post, Mumia was left without medical attention in the police van and on the hospital cement floor.

**"My only crime is that I survived."**

- 6 - The jury selected for Mumia's 1982 trial - the one that sentenced him to death - was chosen along the lines of the McMahon jury selection playbook. Assistant prosecutor Jack Mc-



# for Mumia



SETH TOBOCAM, CARTOONIST

ENOUGH  
IS  
ENOUGH!!!

FREE

MUMIA  
ABU-JAMAL

NOW

Mahon had infamously established racist criteria for the jury selection in Philadelphia such as steering clear of Black women because he claimed, “they are angry”.  
7 - Mumia’s Cointelpro files show there was clear intent to target him. “Mumia is intelligent, has no criminal record but it is the nature of his writings that justifies our placing him on the national security index”.  
8 - Consistently and repeatedly whenever a state law would have had an exonerating effect on Mumia’s case, it was not applied - leading to the phrase : “The Mumia Exception”.

9 - Most cases granted wrongful conviction status by Larry Krasner’s Conviction Integrity Unit have been won on the same basis as Mumia’s strong exculpatory claims: dissimulation of exculpatory evidence and tampering with jury selection. So why not Mumia?  
10 - The six boxes of evidence withheld from Mumia’s lawyers at the DA’s office for 36 years contained two vital categories of Brady and Batson exculpatory evidence rejected on appeal by Judge Lucretia Clemons -- but was the chain of custody of the boxes we are told were locked in a storage

for over three decades ever broken and if so when and to what cruel and inhumane effect to Mumia?  
And last but not least a bonus point paying tribute to the historical international mobilization for Mumia:  
11- The late South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu, after having read the Amnesty International Report on Mumia’s case published in 2000, went to visit Mumia on death row and called for his immediate release. Desmond Tutu is remembered worldwide for presiding over the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa - which inspired Larry Krasner-

to set up his Conviction Integrity Unit. So why not Mumia?

## The late Desmond Tutu called for the Release of Mumia

The late Tutu who joined Amnesty International and many others in calling for Mumia Abu-Jamal’s release recorded this.

In the case of US journalist and former Black Panther Mumia Abu-Jamal on October the 11th 2011, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld a lower court decision that Mumia who had been on death row in Pennsylvania for 30 years should never have been sentenced to death for three decades.

**Mumia has been held in a windowless, bathroom size cell and denied any physical contact with his family or with members of his community.**

This is in violation of the US’s own Constitution: Juan Mendes, the United Nation Special Rapporteur on torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment recently presented a written report on solitary confinement to the United Nations General assembly’s human rights committee in which he confirmed what many of us have long believed that any regime where an inmate is held in isolation from others for anything beyond 15 days must be defined as having engaged in torture. In addition, Amnesty International in a 2000 report noted that Mumia’s original trial did not meet the minimal stand-

ards of international law. Mumia’s guilty verdict must be considered more than flawed: it is unacceptable that he has been denied the right to a new trial based on racial and judicial bias in jury selection, has faced years of prosecutorial and police misconduct. Now that it is clear that Mumia should never have been on death row, justice will not be served by relegating him to prison for the rest of his life-yet another form of death sentence not even based on a minimal following of international human rights standards.

## Mumia should be released.

therefore ask others to enjoin the the District Attorney to rise to the challenge of reconciliation, human rights and justice dropping the case now and allowing Mumia Abu-Jamal to be released immediately with full time served according to the biblical call of Isaiah to set free those who are bound.

I wish you all peace God bless you.

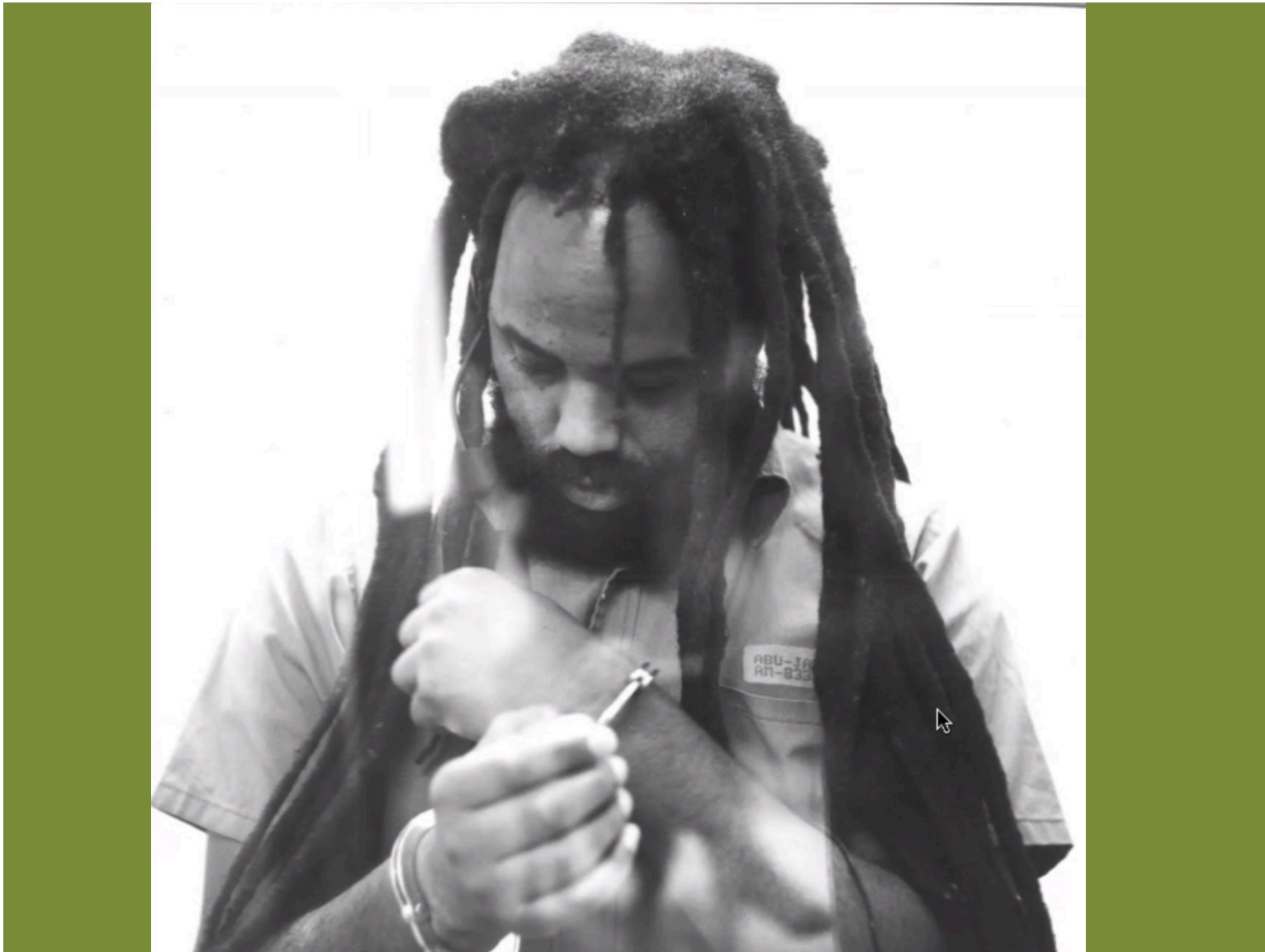
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=di5xZ-8hgwU&t=53s>

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# FREE MUMIA ABU-JAMAL!!!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. POLITICANS MAKING CAREERS OFF OF MUMIA ABU-JAMAL’S CASE



ago, and we see that justice has still not been served through a new trial for Abu-Jamal, nor is he being treated appropriately in prison, where he is currently serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole. Since 2000, much evidence has come to light that completely demolishes Abu-Jamal’s murder conviction and that shows that Abu-Jamal was framed by the police, unfairly convicted by a racist trial court and then again and again unjustly denied judicial relief. Both these facts and the treatment Abu-Jamal has had to suffer in prison demand that he be immediately released. This would be the right time for Amnesty to publish, both on-line and in print, a second edition of its report, which should be amended by a critical evaluation of the many important events in this case since the original publication, including crucial evidence for Abu-Jamal’s innocence. Michael Schiffmann

Support for a Reissued Amnesty Report on Mumia Abu-Jamal

Along with prominent researchers of this case such as Dave Lindorff, J. Patrick O’Connor, Dr. Michael Schiffmann, Professor Linn Washington, and many others who also support this, we, the undersigned, say: The case of Mumia Abu-Jamal, to which Amnesty International devoted a report in February 2000, remains an important one. We support the idea of republishing the original report together with crucial amendments covering the more than 25 years since the original report. It is urgent that justice be done in this case after more than 43 years. As Abu-Jamal’s late literary agent Frances Goldin already said a number of years ago: “A much maligned man needs to be freed.” A new Amnesty report can contribute much to that worthy goal.



**BREAKING NEWS:  
A FORMER ARKANSAS  
SITTING JUDGE WRITES TO  
MUMIA  
JUDGE WENDELL GRIFFEN**

Brother Mumia, this is Wendell Griffen in Little Rock Arkansas. Today’s date is Tuesday, the 17th of June and I am recording this video to express my solidarity with you and to thank you for your continued brilliance.

I just now read your recent interview with **The Nation that was published in Rolling Stone**. Dave Zirin wrote the article and brother, [http://rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/mumia-abu-jamal-trump-fascism-due-process-1235365746/?utm\\_source=edit-vip](http://rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/mumia-abu-jamal-trump-fascism-due-process-1235365746/?utm_source=edit-vip)

you spoke the, as we say back home down here in Arkansas, “the forevermore, sure enough, truth”. You broke it down right about the punishment bureaucracy that I call the Prison Industrial Complex. The intersection of capitalism and the carceral state, and you said the truth about the fact that this is the consequence of “Clintonism”. Yeah, I am from Arkansas, yeah, I know Bill Clinton personally, yeah.

You spoke the truth. And I’m so glad that you said it the way that you said it. I’m glad that you continue to read, continue to speak, continue to write, and I am looking forward to the news of you being awarded your PhD. That is significant because, quite frankly, I want you to become a scholar for all of us, for future generations, with a doctorate already earned in life but

going to be granted to you, awarded to you, bestowed upon you because of your academic excellence.

You know well the situation this country is in, you know well the situation this country has put this world in. I should say, you know well the situation this empire, this capitalist gangster empire has put this society in. And I am just glad to know that you continue to speak prophetically to it.

I would also like to thank you for encouraging the young people by your wonderful example of rigor, intellectual rigor, and your continued reaching out and encouragement to them.

Thank you for that. Finally, because I’m now at 2 minutes 59 seconds, 3 minutes, I don’t want to bore you with this long oration, I just want to thank you for what you are showing us about what’s called “the persistence of the spirit”. You have refused to allow incarceration to define your spirit. It does confine your body, but it cannot confine your spirit. You are more free than many people who are physically able to walk around, but whose minds remain colonized. Just like Steve Biko said, “The strongest weapon, the most potent weapon in the hands of oppressors, is the mind of the oppressed.” And your mind is free, your weapon, your weapon, is a, your mind is a weapon for freedom, for liberation, for justice, for truth, and I’m thankful for it. Carry on, brother. I will try to be more faithful and rigorous in getting messages to you. Let me say thanks to Julia Wright for making this opportunity possible. Sister Julia, you’re the best, thank you very much Queen Mother. Love you, love you much. And Mama Pam Africa, thank you too. God bless you all. As the saying goes, “God be with you, til we meet again.” I’m out of here. Wendell L. Griffen, is well-known as a lawyer, jurist, legal educator, religious leader, and public speaker. He

serves as pastor of New Millennium Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, and also served as Circuit Judge for the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Arkansas. Dr. Griffen is the founder and CEO of Griffen Strategic Consulting which planning and development, public policy and government relations, legal affairs, and litigation management. He is a member of the Board of Directors for The Christian Ethics Today Foundation and serves as a trustee of the Samuel Dewitt Proctor Conference. Dr. Griffen is the author of two blogs: Wendell Griffen on Cultural Competency and Justice is a Verb! blogs.

**(CONTINUED FROM BRET GROTE, ESQUIRE, DEATH BY INCARCERATION FROM PAGE 1)** the prohibition against racial discrimination; violate individuals’ right to life; violate the prohibition against torture, and cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment; and are an arbitrary deprivation of liberty.

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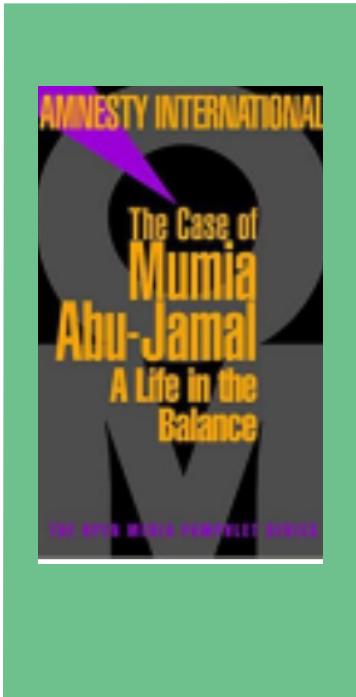
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**CALL TO ACTION:**

**Amnesty International and Mumia Abu-Jamal (Petition continued from page 1)**

In February 2000, Amnesty International published a report on the case Mumia Abu-Jamal, the well-known African American journalist who has been in prison since December 1981, in which it pointed out many flaws in the police investigation preceding Abu-Jamal’s 1982 murder trial, the trial itself, and the ensuing appeals process, as well as in the treatment of Abu-Jamal in prison. At the time Amnesty concluded “that justice would be best served by granting Abu-Jamal a new trial,” and that he must be treated in a way that respects his basic human rights. This was more than a quarter of a century



**Signature**

An 8-page description of these events and a 1-page executive summary of that overview can be found, along with much other material, on the website **HYPERLINK “<https://www.dropthecaseagainstmumiaabujamal.com/>”** **<https://www.dropthecaseagainstmumiaabujamal.com/>**.

**MUMIA SPEAKS The Betrayal of Gaza**

It was by any measure a stunning moment. An American president essentially offering to gentrify the Gaza Strip, suggesting that should they resist, they be forced to leave their historical homeland by the Armed Forces of the United States of America. “They’re living in hell,” Trump said, as he sat a few feet away from the man who bombed it to hell and ordered that destruction. That’s Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Trump said these coastal lands could be made as lovely as the Riviera. “It’ll be beautiful,” he said. Netanyahu beamed at every word and while Trump saw it as a grand real estate deal, Netanyahu saw it as the ultimate Zionist dream. Palestinians saw it as the ultimate nightmare for they have lived for the better part of a century with political betrayals since Israel’s founding in 1948. For over 70 years they have lived under an occupation that the United Nations has called illegal, but has never done anything about it. Now the US is touting an illegal removal of millions of Palestinians from their own homeland. Is this the gentrification of Gaza? Probably not. But who can really say? Who indeed? We can only hope that Palestinians have the last word. With love, not phear, this is Mumia Abu-Jamal.

**<https://www.prisonradio.org/commentary/the-betrayal-of-gaza/>**